

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
8550 NEW HOPE ROAD
GRANTS PASS, OR 97527

BOARD MEETING

REGULAR SESSION

January 11, 2010

Page 1

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, December 14, 2009 at the Three Rivers District Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Jim Weaver, Chairperson of the Board, Zone II
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III PRESENT
Dave Strahan, Member of the Board, Zone IV
Ron Lengwin, Member of the Board, Zone V
Robert Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education
John George, Director of Secondary Education

ABSENT: Doug Ely, Director of Student Services

Also Present: Dave Bracken/Aramark, Elly Lengwin, Colleen McGinnis, Steve Jones, Jeri Cowger, Kali Henderson, Devon Dorn, Bonnie Cameron, Kitti Keitgs, Roger Dice, Wayne Brown, Jason McGinnis, Patti Richter/Daily Courier, Michael Morris/Sodexo, Lisa Van Brunt/Madrona Principal, JoAnn Bethany.Illinois Valley High School Principal and Shelly Berry/Recording Secretary. ABSENT
ALSO PRESENT

Chairperson Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. CALL TO ORDER

Madrona Elementary Principal Lise Van Brunt introduced the students that were nominated for Madrona Elementary Rotary Student of the Year and their families: Kali Henderson, Bailey McGinnis and Gabe McLaughlin. She then introduced Ashley Pearson and her family. Ashley was selected as the Rotary Student of the Year for Madrona. MADRONA STUDENT OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

Superintendent Huber-Kantola announced that he is still meeting with Site Councils and will have met with all schools by the end of next week. The purpose of meeting with the Site Councils was to provide information on Measures 66 & 67 as well as get feedback on: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Week of Thanksgiving off—Response was 100% favorable. Even if the calendar was to be fully restored they would like to work to schedule it off next year, even if it meant adding a day at the end of the school year.
- Early start (before Labor Day) - about 80% okay with parents and staff. This year was a little more difficult because it was the first year we started early.
- Secondary level would like electronic access to students progress and grades in middle school and high school.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that he met with the Legislators in our area last Thursday and part of the discussion related to the topics expected to come up at the February legislative meeting which include:

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (CON'T)

- Transportation issue; the possibility of reducing transportation funding by 10% so that the district would only be reimbursed 60% as opposed to the current rate of 70%. There was unanimous support from the superintendents not to reintroduce at this legislative session. Representative Buckley and Dennis Richardson, Ways and Means co-chair were in attendance and accepted that message.
- Religious dress; a bill is likely to be introduced that will allow staff to wear to wear religious clothing. This bill is likely to pass.
- Teaching Chinese culture and language; The possibility exists through grants for an exchange program for teachers.
- Increased high school diploma standards; possibly delay the implementation due to the recession and increased cost to implement.
- Measures 66 & 67; very little was discussed until they find out whether or not they pass. If they fail that would become the major topic for the February legislative session.
- Additional meetings were requested. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2010. The two topics the legislators want to talk to the superintendents about are how to support volunteers in schools and homeless high school students. Oregon has the highest homeless high school rate in the nation.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then announced that within the next week or two the district will have an online survey available for parents to take School Climate surveys. The five areas that we will ask them to address include:

- Building appearance
- Front office staff responsiveness
- School administrative responsiveness
- Teacher and other staff responsiveness
- Extracurricular activities

The survey will be advertised via conferences.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Board Chair Weaver asked if there were any community comments at this time. Fruitdale parent Kitti Keitges read a prepared letter to the Board expressing the removal of Fruitdale employees Susie Bellenbaum, Trish Marsh and Jolie Kern with no notice to the families of the children who attend the school. She requested "counseling services be provided to all families and children who have a great emotional attachment to them and are hurting at their removal". She also requested their return for the remainder of the school year and answers as to why this was done without notice. Ms. Keitges stated that she was acting as a parent representative for 45 parents who would also like to see these things done.

Board Chair Weaver stated that the Board was notified that there was some rearrangement of personnel, but did not know the details.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that due to the fact that this is a personnel issue, confidentiality is required. He presented a hypothetical situation in which if a complaint were to be registered at a school, the district would be obligated to investigate the complaint. If at the end of investigation, if it was found that some changes needed to be made, the changes would be made, but because personnel issues are confidential, they would not be able to tell the community why those things happened. At Fruitdale specifically, there was an investigation in to some things and some changes were made.

Ms. Keitges requested that the building be made available to hold a farewell event to enable those who wish to say good-bye to the Fruitdale employees that were moved.

CUMMUNIT
COMMENTS (CON'T)

Superintendent Huber-Kantola requested Ms. Keitges leave her phone number to get back to her. He needs to speak to Fruitdale Principal, Kelly Christensen before any type of commitment is made.

Member Meier stated that she felt that was a reasonable request, and could help with some closure.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that every year we are required by the state to revisit Division 22 in the OAR's that cover how school's are supposed to operate and be governed. Following is a summary of how we are doing:

DIVISION 22
STANDARDS
2009-2010
ASSURANCE FORMS

- Implementing Statewide Assessments—Full compliance.
- Assessment of Essential Skills—Full compliance. The district currently utilizes OAKS, PSAT, SAT and ACT which are approved. Directors John George and Peter Maluk are going to look at whether it is cost and time effective to add PLAN, Work Keys, Compass and ASSET, which are other standardized tests that student could use to demonstrate proficiency.
- School and District Performance Report Criteria—Full compliance. We either hand out or mail state school report cards to all parents in our district.
- Diploma Requirements—Currently in full compliance. For any student that graduates between now and 2014 our standards and graduation requirements are where they should be. In 2015 the math standards will go up. Instead of having three requirements at the Algebra level, there will be three requirements and two of them must be beyond the Algebra level.
- Credit Options—Full compliance. However, the district must determine whether or not to offer credit by proficiency. This is a decision the Board would have to make as to whether or not we would allow it to take place. This topic will be brought before the Board at a later time.
- Extended Diploma—This is a new type of diploma the state just enacted, which is a twelve credit diploma. We do not currently have this type of diploma. The District will present a draft policy for the first reading at the February 2010 Board meeting and a second reading in March.
- Modified Diploma—Full compliance in practice. It is suggested we make some minor changes to reflect the fifth grade information language.
- Alternative Certificate—Full compliance. OAR refers to an Alternative Certificate; our AR refers to it as a Certificate of Completion. Intended for students that are working on life skills.
- Equal Educational Opportunities—Full compliance. The new addition is that we address cyber-bullying. All of our *Students Rights and Responsibilities* handbooks include our policy prohibiting cyberbullying.
- Literacy Instruction—Full compliance.
- Identification of Academically Talented and Intellectually Gifted Students—Full compliance.
- Human Sexuality Education—Full compliance. We had a representative committee established to review and devise a comprehensive program.
- Instructional Materials Adoption—Full Compliance. Suggests we update policy IIA to include specific language regarding NIMAC (company that insures things are printed in Braille). A revised draft policy will be presented at the February meeting.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that the Federal government has put out the ability for states to apply for 'Race to the Top' grants. The state has to write a plan, and the plan from Oregon covers that we would advance proficiency based practice; a plan for community engagement; a commitment for low-performing schools; a focus on teacher and

RACE TO THE TOP
MOU

RACE TO THE TOP
MOU

principal effectiveness; we build on the technology strengths within the state and a statewide commitment to a preschool to grade twenty articulation. Each state will submit a grant application that has those or similar elements to it. The Governor has asked districts to distinguish whether or not they are willing to participate in the *Race to the Top* grant application process. If we do participate and Oregon gets it, there will be a ninety day planning period. We can back out at that time if we don't like the direction it is headed. It has been run by our Union leadership, as their signatures are encouraged as well. Their stance at this time is that they will not sign off on the MOU because it is vague as to what exactly it will mean to teachers, specifically the focus on teacher effectiveness. But they are willing, if Oregon gets the grant, to see what exactly is written and bring a proposal to the membership for support. It also means that if the state were to get the grant, there would be about \$175 million that would come to the state of Oregon that would be passed on to districts that are willing to participate through the Title I process.

APPROVED

Member Litak moved to approve submitting an MOU to participate in the grant application. Member Strahan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CHARTER SCHOOLS
UPDATE

Federal Programs Director Peter Maluk stated there are two interested parties to create charter schools in our area. Wolf Creek/Sunny Valley Charter School Committee received a \$50,000 incentive grant. The district received a request from them for an extension to February 28th. Superintendent Huber-Kantola tentatively gave them approval. In preparation for them completing the grant we had a meeting last week with five members of the Charter School committee and four of their consultants from a group called "Charter Starters". This group has been working in the state for five years, and have consulted on about thirty charter school projects, and have been successful in helping small, rural communities get schools up and running.

The meeting started out by discussing the \$50,000 that will come to the district and be given to the charter project as they need it as part of the incentive grant. They were very interested in wanting to know what the district's mindset was towards the concept of a charter school in Wolf Creek and Director Maluk shared that he and Superintendent Huber-Kantola were supportive of the concept. The group inquired as to what specific concerns the district has and they were discussed. Items such as: curriculum, curriculum alignment (how it matches with our expectations), transitioning students from one program to another, their ability to deal with Special Education and facilities. They want to use Wolf Creek school, but there are many infrastructure issues. They were asked what number of students they need to be successful, and they do not know that yet. They are projecting a K-8 with 75 students. If they finish the extension on February 28th, our administrative staff would have ten days to review their proposal and see if it is complete. The Board would have a hearing within sixty days, then thirty days to render a decision.

Director Maluk also reported a group in Williams is pursuing an incentive grant at this time with a deadline of December 15th. They are interested in the Waldorf model which are all over and internationally accepted schools. They are highly integrated with arts and nature. There is currently one in Medford and Ashland. Their major issue is location. They expressed an interest in being a part of Williams or Applegate schools, but neither of them have room, so they are looking for other locations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that, as was pointed out by member Litak, the Revenues do not completely add up. When adding the column it comes to \$43.3 million not \$4.32 million; This is due to fact that they are mostly eight-digit numbers that get rounded.

The bottom line ending fund balance is \$1.92 million. This is down last month from \$2.18 million. The January ending fund balance changes were due to:

FINANCIAL REPORT
(CON'T)

- Two long-term substitutes extended to the end of the year.
- Cold December—creating high electricity bills.
- Closure of Jump Off Joe road added a route which costs approximately \$50,000. This is expected to be a temporary closure.
- Switches purchased for computers and SAN servers.
- Overall substitute costs are up (last month the substitute cost for one month alone were \$100,000). This is over what was budgeted, and over what they were last year.

Board Chair Weaver asked what was behind the increase in sub cost? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that it is simply due to more people being absent.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then reported that in future news:

- The declining enrollment in continuing this year. By the end of the year we have dropped as many as 200 students. This will have an impact on next year's budget, because we are paid by the state on the previous year's amount of students. This is approximately fifty students more than was originally projected.
- If Measures 66 & 67 were to pass, based on enrollment projections (loss of enrollment) and all costs remaining flat, we would still have a shortage of approximately \$970,000.
- PERS rates to go up 6 to 9% in the next biennium.
- Three Rivers enrollment is projected to stabilize in 2011-2012 at approximately 5000 students for the next five or six years. The period of declining enrollment should end.

Board Chair Weaver asked why our electricity consumption goes up when it's cold when the majority of our schools do not run heat on electricity? Dave Bracken responded that there are some buildings and portables that run heat pumps, which will increase dramatically when the temperatures go down. Also, normally we would shut some of the controls down to a 51-52 degree temperature at night, but when there is severe cold the temperature is raised 10-15 degrees to keep some of the pipes from freezing. The diesel and heating oil fuel consumption goes up as well. Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that the increase cost was not just electricity, but it was the one that jumped the most.

Dave Bracken stated he had nothing to add to his written report, except that there were some very challenging issues over winter break and everything went well. Superintendent Huber-Kantola added that they just recently discovered leakage in one of the roof structures at Lincoln Savage. It was patched a few years ago, but the patches have cracked and so we may be in a situation where we need to replace a roof at one of the buildings in the very near future.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

Food Service Manager Michael Morris stated he had nothing to add to his report unless there were questions.

FOOD SERVICE
REPORT

Member Litak asked if there was anything new on the metal/can recycling? Mr. Morris responded that he has met with Cascade Metal Recycling and is waiting to hear if they are willing to do anything for us. Some of the kitchen ladies are doing it on their own. They live near the recycling center in Grants Pass, and run the cans their themselves.

Board Chair Weaver asked if Mr. Morris has looked into the possibility of pursuing volunteers? Mr. Morris thought that was a good idea.

FOOD SERVICE REPORT
(CON'T)

Superintendent Huber-Kantola offered to assist Mr. Morris with some contacts that he has, and offered to meet with him to discuss this issue further in an attempt to reach a positive resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Meier moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Lengwin seconded.

Member Strahan asked how the substitutes are paid for those people attending conferences? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that the subs for all of the out-of-state travel requests, with the exception of one, are being paid for out of the teachers Professional Development Fund. The fifth one is requesting to use Perkins Funds for his sub. The teachers Professional Development fund is a budgeted item that is approved each year.

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

OTHER

Member Meier informed the Board that Linda DuBose was willing to serve another term on the Budget Committee, representing Zone III.

Member Litak stated he had a question regarding enrollment. He wanted to know if the increase in enrollment at Applegate has caused a decrease at Lincoln Savage? Director Breckner responded that it is a very small amount. Applegate Principal Stephanie Allen-Hart has been reaching out to a lot of the parents in the Applegate community and the increase in students is due to attracting home-school students. They also believe there is a lot of movement due to the poor economy and people moving in with extended family due to financial difficulties.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Jim Weaver
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT