

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 2020**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met virtually via Google Meet for the regular board meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Kate Dwyer, Board Member
Rich Halsted, Board Member
Danny York, Board Member

Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent
Casey Alderson, Director
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director
Jessica Durrant, Director
Shelly Quick, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Halsted called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call vote was taken, and all board members were present, with the exception of Member Dwyer who is running a bit late.

BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from May 27, 2020 Budget Committee meeting. Mr. York seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0 (Member Dwyer absent).

There were no community comments in regard to the budget.

District Accountant Lisa Cross shared that she learned from ODE that the district will probably be paid on the February 25th estimate due the fact that they will not have a legislative session until later in the summer that addresses the funding. The budget to be approved is based on the only estimate that we know.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve Resolution #14 to adopt the budget, appropriate funds and declare tax levy. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously 4-0 (Member Dwyer absent).

AGENDA APPROVAL

Ms. Johnstun made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously (4-0) (Member Dwyer absent).

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Ms. Johnstun complimented the North Valley graduation. It was a wonderful event and incredibly well thought out. A parent commented to her that she was so happy with the way it went that she wished that future graduations could be done in the same manner. Great job and thanks for making this so special for the students of 2020! Mr. York commented on the Hidden Valley graduation. It was obviously different, but it was still an amazing time to get together and see the kids walk across the stage. Best part of the gig as a board member! Mr. Kelly participated in the North Valley graduation and almost everybody there was focused on the positives. North Valley did a phenomenal job orchestrating the whole day. He too heard from several parents that this was probably the best graduation ever! Some of the kids felt the same way. The district may want to consider a different way of looking at graduations. It was a lot more individualized and personalized. Mr. Kelly also thanked all of our retirees and wished them good luck! He then congratulated our valedictorians and salutatorians and encouraged them to go out and make us all proud, do amazing things and be successful at whatever they choose to do. Mr. Halsted shared that out of all of the graduations that he has ever been to, this was the most memorable he has ever attended or been a part of. The opportunity to see the students and their loved ones faces, as well as having a moment or two

to talk to the student as they are crossing the stage was absolutely amazing! Hats off to Brian Miller, Susie Biller, Josh Saunders and everybody else who put on the Hidden Valley graduation – it was very memorable and cool to be a part of.

(Member Dwyer joined the meeting at 6:15)

Ms. Dwyer attended the 10-1/2 hour marathon graduation at Illinois Valley High School said it was heartwarming. The most fun for her was hearing the excitement from principal Tanner Smith. His love for each and every one of those kids! She thanked the entire team at Illinois Valley High School for their dedication to the students. Superintendent Valenzuela agreed that graduations were amazing! He thanked the high school staffs - the principals and the office managers, who moved mountains to make the logistics of each one of those graduations work. They were all three different, they catered to their community and played to the strengths of the environment that the schools are in and did a fabulous job! It was a great way to recognize our students in such an unprecedented time. He shared that they had a lot of support and guidance from our HR Director Casey Alderson. He has been doing an incredible job through this spring where the position of HR has become more complex than ever.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Bond – There have been multiple conversations over the past several years about going out for bond in this district due to the aging facilities. Oregon is one of the very few states that does not include capital improvements in the State School Fund. The state provides funding for teaching and learning only. The potential dates are for a May 21, 2021 bond measure we would need to retain a bond and financial consultant around July. We would need to form and convene a bond committee to finalize projects by the end of August of 2020. The grant that the state provides if you are successful with a bond, which would provide the district with an additional \$4 million towards those projects is due on September 15th. A description and bond amount needs to be included in that grant.
- Reopening of Schools – Guidance has been released: *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* from the Oregon Department of Education. The district has been reviewing it in as much detail as possible. The administrative team took apart the first few sections. The guidance is complex – 49 pages long and has eight main components that a district needs to consider. Of those components there are 39 points of consideration within the eight major categories. He reviewed some of them which included: managing high risk populations, physical distancing and cohorting and tracking. The guidance can be found on ODE's website. There are multiple virtual sessions being conducted by ODE to talk districts through the guidance and take questions. This guidance will intentionally be updated every three weeks. He pointed out the instructional models that the plan and guidance outlines. There are three main instructional models: On-site learning – normal school; Hybrid – students on alternating schedules and provided with some distance learning; Comprehensive distance learning – students are home and teachers are teaching from a remote location with no onsite instruction. Guidance for the comprehensive distance learning has not been released yet, but the standards are expected to be very high. An onsite model we know how to do well. A hybrid model is something that we would have to learn more about. The district is looking at our August inservice – there are four days, and two of the days are dedicated to the teachers and are not being used for professional development. That leaves two days on how to implement and operate in a hybrid model and implementing the four-day week, and how to respond if there were to be an outbreak. His goal as a superintendent: a) We are able to return to onsite instruction; b) Emphasis and focus on our K-5 student population. To make sure they have as much onsite instruction as possible if we are forced into a hybrid model.
- There was some discussion and questions from board members on both topics.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items in the consent agenda will be approved by a single motion unless a member of the Board or the Superintendent requests that an item or items be removed and voted upon separately.

- Routine Personnel Items – Jun 2020
- Athletic Coaches – Jun 2020

- Out of State Travel Requests (3)
- Grant Request (1)
- Draft Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - Board Regular Session – May 20, 2020
 - Board Special Session – May 27, 2020
- Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. York seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Public comments were received via email from four community members and read aloud by Superintendent Valenzuela. All of the comments were in regard to the district stance on equity, inclusion and anti-racism. They were from:
 - Gail Pearlman
 - Quin Fazio-Patch
 - Shelby Valdez
 - Constance Palaia

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Three Rivers School District Stance on Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela stated that from the community comments read, simply by placing this topic on the agenda has sparked more public comment that we have had in any virtual meeting thus far. In regard to the stance by Three Rivers, he reminded the board that on December 18, 2019 we had the first reading of board policy JFCA, which was subsequently unanimously approved, along with the AR, at the January 15, 2020 board meeting. Specifically, that policy addresses student dress and grooming. We changed the wording of our dress code policy to include *“Clothing shall not convey profanity or symbols/messages depicting, implying, or which are reasonably perceived as promoting intolerance, hatred, and/or a hostile educational environment or harassment/bullying on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the Confederate Battle flag and swastikas”*. Also, *“Clothing and accessories shall not depict symbols/messages of groups generally recognized as promoting intolerance, hatred, and harassment/bullying, such as the Ku Klux Klan or Aryan Nation.”* The adoption of policy JFCA was controversial and cumbersome at the time, when in reality it was a relatively small step in this district’s journey toward addressing the issue of racism, equity and inclusion. We, as Three Rivers School District administrators, have a shared belief and value system that honors the idea that all of our students’ matter. No staff, or no student or member of our school community should ever feel marginalized, excluded, or less than, in Three Rivers School District. Yesterday he tasked all of our administrative staff to begin the development of their building specific comprehensive plans to intentionally address this topic at the start of the next school year and an ongoing effort to diminish inequities in our schools, to eradicate racism for all of our school communities. Mr., Valenzuela has experienced racism personally growing up, and has worked in this district his entire career and values what and who we are and is committed to making sure that these policies are carried out, enforced, and recognized on a daily basis. Following the board meeting, the district will be releasing a more comprehensive statement to school communities, parents and media.
 - There was further discussion and feedback from board members. All board members were supportive of the idea of a district level work group comprised of staff at all different levels.

ACTION ITEMS

- **First Student Property Lease**
 - Rob Saunders pointed out a change in the First Student lease agreement from the original packet that was posted. The district goal is to transition to more of an industry standard with our property lease agreement with First Student. At this time, we have a good price for them

to lease that property, which in turn comes back to the district in overall savings. If we were to go to the proposed initial amount it would affect our fixed cost for transportation. The updated agreement kept the same price for what we started in 2017 plus the CPI rate. We have the option to revisit the rate after year one.

- Member York asked about the asphalt repairs necessary at the Ringuette property. Who is responsible for paying for that? Ms. Cross responded that First Student pays 25% of the cost. Mr. York recommends adding that to the lease. Mr. Saunders will double-check to make sure that road maintenance costs are included in the lease.
- Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the First Student property lease. Mr. York seconded the motion. There was further discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **First Student Contract**
 - Rob Saunders stated they addressed section 3.2 which talks about if and when we have to cut school days. The initial proposal was around seven days and an adjustment was made to a worst case scenario of ten days. He was excited about the average age of the fleet going down, which means more safety. In regard to the rates, he is continuing to work on additional savings with the monitors that would be provided. We believe we have the opportunity for TRSD employees to take some of the shifts. The contract is fairly similar to what we have had before with First Student.
 - Ms. Johnstun asked for some discussion about the overall cost in terms of what we had looked at in the budget compared to the projected savings when looking at the four-day school week. Mr. Valenzuela responded that at that time we were looking at current service levels along with the current contract and shared the history of increasing compensation for drivers. Our estimates on the four-day week were on those old rates. Now, with the new rates, they are accounting for higher wages, increased costs across the board (fuel, insurance, etc.).
 - Ms. Johnstun made a motion to approve the First Student contract. Mr. York seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Aramark Contract/Proposal**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela explained that this Aramark proposal is the same one that the board heard from Stafford and Jim Bunge a year ago and revisited in the fall. It is the service contract for Aramark to assume management responsibilities over maintenance. Aramark currently oversees our custodial services as well as our grounds. Jim Bunge has done nothing but quality work. He fully endorses the proposal and asked for the board's approval to move forward with the maintenance contract.
 - Board Chair Halsted added that this is a big deal. It gets our superintendent even more focused on education instead of buildings and grounds. Also, if and when we go out for bond to repair our facilities, we need to show that we are doing the best at taking care of our facilities. He believes it will eventually save us money in the long run.
 - Ms. Dwyer made a motion to approve the Aramark contract. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Oregon School Employees Association (Classified) Contract**
 - Director Alderson explained that the new contract is based on changes needed to transition to a four-day school week for students. The classified group really feels good about moving to a four-day school week for students and for staff. We did the best we could to make sure that every employee stayed whole. It was challenging with some classifications, but we were able to do that. We had the opportunity to get creative with some schedules and some situations. The contract was voted upon by our classified staff and passed unanimously. They really felt good about the proposal.
 - Ms. Dwyer made a motion to approve the Oregon School Employees Association contract. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 4-0, with Mr. Kelly abstaining as his wife is a classified employee.
- **Southern Oregon Success Academy (SOSA)**
 - Director Alderson shared that the proposal for the Southern Oregon Success Academy (SOSA)

has been about six years in the making as far as providing opportunities for kids to learn in avenues that can be called alternative or non-traditional. It is a method to meet kids where they're at. Travis Osborn was charged with capturing those kids in our area that are currently enrolled somewhere else, such as online charter academies throughout the state. His work over the last two years has saved close to 50 kids that were going to be leaving the district. SOSA puts all of our alternative education options under one umbrella and enrolled all in one place. Right now, all of our kids are still enrolled in their home school. This will also change the perception of what we're offering from the traditional concept of an alternative school to something that is focused on the positives and the success of students. Travis Osborne added that this is more of a management thing. We have different hybrids – we are able to have students there full time, part time some online or 100% online. Management wise it will make things a lot easier to control. We have a great staff that is working with our kids in these non-traditional settings at Jerome Prairie and the Merlin Alternative Center. We have a staff that is really dedicated to helping kids and this helps give them an identity because of the amount of work that they do together already.

- There were some comments and questions from board members and Superintendent Valenzuela, who were all highly supportive.
- Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Southern Oregon Success Academy charter proposal. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion. Director Alderson added kudos to Travis Osborne. He has done a ton of work in putting this together and drafting the charter, the gathering of kids we would have lost in ADM, the number of kids that he has saved for our district has come back tenfold in ADM and paid for quite a few teachers. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **2020-2021 Paid Lunch Prices**
 - Rob Saunders shared that there are a couple of options for the 2020-2021 meal prices. This only affects three of our schools that are not CEP sites. In working with Chartwells, his recommendation is to go with option 'C' which would change elementary from the current price of \$2.40 to \$2.45, middle school would stay at \$2.70 and high school would go from \$3.00 to \$3.05.
 - Mr. York made a motion to approve Option 'C' meal prices for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed (4-0), Member Dwyer was not present for the vote.
- **Resolution (#15) to Transfer Funds from General Fund to Carryover Fund**
 - District Accountant Lisa Cross explained that this was the annual resolution to carryover discretionary dollars from the schools. They save their money and they put it into fund 150 and are able to purchase larger priced items.
 - Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve Resolution #15 to transfer funds from the general fund to the carryover fund. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Retreat, Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm – Weasku Inn
- Board Regular Session (Organizational Meeting), Wednesday, June 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. – Weasku Inn
- Board Special Session (*Tentative*), Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Halsted adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Rich Halsted
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk