

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2020**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom for the regular board meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Jenn Searle, 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 Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Superintendent Valenzuela to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Mr. Kelly shared he has heard from a handful of parents and they are supportive of what the district has tried to do this year in light of COVID. They are very patient and understanding and know what our goals are – to do the best we can for the kids in light of the situation we are in. He then thanked the parents for being a teacher now, on top of all of the other roles they have during this time. Mr. Halsted echoed Mr. Kelly's remarks. Hats off to everybody in the district staff on up to the superintendent's office to the custodians for the herculean effort of getting the students in front of us. The impact of just being able to get our eyes on the students is so huge and so much worth the effort! The affects have been exceptionally positive. Ms. Searle thanked the teachers and staff for going above and beyond in this newest transition to CDL, especially for the K-3 kids. They used the week to build their confidence in using the devices and programs and it has made a huge difference in the K-3 online learning. Mr. York recognized the suicide prevention plan and feels like it is something that is super necessary. Hats off to the three ladies that put the plan together. It's desperately needed, especially in this time. Ms. Johnstun thanked the district for continuing to look at the available resources to support our students in school and also all of our staff in being able to work and their children being able to be safe and taken care of during the school hours. She is really happy that we have been able to work with the resources that we have to provide better support for our employees and the children in their homes. Director Durrant shared that at this time our four ELL staff members are still at the District Office hosting a family night. The broke the families up into small breakout rooms to answer questions in two languages about Canvas, accessing curriculum, how to create an email account as a parent, how to communicate with their teacher and how to send a text. We have 100% of our families right now online! We have also worked with two local family-owned businesses (El Charro Viejo in Grants Pass and Carlos's in Cave Junction) to provide a take-out meal for the families afterwards. Superintendent Valenzuela stated that we started this school year off with K-3 students in class every day. We had a lot of support from our staff and administrators. He thanked the courageous school board that stood behind them as a team to allow the district to do that work. It was not easy work, and there was a lot of scrutiny, but knowing that we had the support of this brave five-member board made it easier and made it possible. Thanks to the board for allowing them to provide those opportunities to our kids.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Metrics Discussion* – Explained how we came to the point where we are now in full CDL, and what it's going to take to get back out of CDL. He reviewed the Oregon Health Authorities report that the district gets every Monday afternoon with a two-week lookback and explained the numbers. Due to the numbers, TRSD is in CDL through January 7th *at a minimum*.
- *Enrollment* – We are down about 300 students since last spring. Our administrative team and our schools have been working incredibly hard to track down every single student. It's not as bad as the 500 we had predicted, but we are still down some students and looking for ways to get them back. He recognized Illinois Valley High School Principal Tanner Smith's efforts with his mobile van hotspot to reach kids with major connectivity issues. We now have students enrolled due to that outreach.
- *Attendance* – The district attendance rate is down 3.6%. We have done a ton of work making attendance relevant. The attendance rate is a health indicator for the district, school and class. Right now, in CDL we are taking attendance, but it is not giving us the same information that traditional in-person learning, taking attendance, gives us. The person-to-person component is missing.
- *First Quarter Pass Rate* (high schools) – In a comparison from quarter one of last year to quarter one of this year the pass rate is down 18.9%. The number is staggering considering how hard our high schools have worked to get those numbers way up and do a great job. The number is common in the state of Oregon and across the nation. This is largely due to factors such as the digital divide, access issues, engagement and a number of things CDL presents. This is a huge concern for us.
- *Care Report* – He thanked the three ladies that worked so hard on the suicide prevention plan and then presented a chart showing the DHS reports submitted by month over the last four years. As an example, this year in September we had two DHS reports – last year in September we had 12, and the year before 15. When we don't have our students in school, when we are not connecting with them on that personal level, the students aren't able to give us that information that they are desperately trying to communicate to somebody that would initiate a report. Directors Durrant and Allen-Hart are part of a team that meets regularly (MDT) and they discuss a number of issues that are related to DHS reporting, child care, how to deal with abuse, how to apply resources and they are *always* busy. This week they had zero MDT cases to discuss.

From a care standpoint, later in the meeting the board will discuss a resolution that talks about the importance of students being in school. We have all of the issues mentioned above, but for him personally, the 'care' issue is by far and away, the largest issue we have. The support, the structure, the foundation that our schools provide so many of our students, is getting better in a digital format – but it will never replace the students walking into that classroom and having the opportunity to connect with that teacher and get what they need.

- Director Allen-Hart shared some information on the limited in-person instruction.

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 – December 2020
- Athletic Coaches – December 2020
- Board Policies – Second Reading
 - ACB – All Students Belong
 - ACB-AR* - Bias Incident Complaint Procedure
 - **Administrative regulation that is required to be board-adopted*
- 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

- There were none.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- TRSD Suicide Prevention Plan
 - Director Durrant was joined by Monica Orndoff and Erica Butler to review the district Suicide Prevention Plan. At the November 18th board meeting, board policy JHH, the Suicide Prevention policy, was approved by the board. Part of the policy talks about having the suicide prevention plan. The board was provided with a portion of the Three Rivers plan.
 - North Valley High School counselor Monica Orndoff talked about creating the portions of the plan that include prevention, postvention, education and training staff. She believes this will provide support for our students to make sure they safe and also connect them to our resources.
 - Erica Butler added that in preparing the plan they worked with ODE, the Oregon Health Authority and also a nonprofit called Lines for Life. They provided school districts with a lot of resources. They also provided an outline of how to create a plan as well as examples of specific documents that we could look at and use pieces of for our district plan. It was a huge undertaking and there were representatives from all over TRSD, in all three valley areas. Stephanie Dumasil, the counselor at Lincoln Savage, got this rolling. Cassie Banuelos, counselor at Lorna Byrne, worked on this, and Monica Orndoff from North Valley. It is a very comprehensive plan, and we plan to start trying out and test it right away to make sure we have exactly what we want and need for this school district
 - There were questions and comments from board members.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Childcare Memorandums of Understanding (MOA)**
 - **OSEA (Classified) Childcare MOA**
 - **TREA (Licensed) Childcare MOA**
 - **Association of Three Rivers Administrators (ATRA) Childcare MOA**
 - Director Alderson stated that we have MOA's from three of our employee bargaining groups: classified, licensed and administrators. Childcare is a big piece of the family and our community and it is an area that our community lacks the ability to fill the need. During this time of COVID, it has created a huge burden for our staff. In a lot of cases, it has created an issue where staff have to make a choice of staying home with their child or go to work. The three childcare MOA's allows us to provide childcare for staff. The FFCRA act is expiring at the end of this month, and that's the one that gives staff the ability to take leave if their child's school or childcare facility has closed. Being able to provide childcare as part of their contract for the remainder of this year helps us on the staffing side and definitely relieves the burden of childcare for our staff. These staff members would be able to bring their children to school. We have a setup in each one of our locations where they can work and access their education there and their parents (our staff) are able to continue working in meeting the needs of our community.
 - Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the childcare MOA's for OSEA (classified), TREA (licensed) and ATRA (administrators). Ms. Searle seconded the motion. There was discussion.
 - Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution (#02) – Return to School State Guidance**
 - Board Chair Johnstun presented a resolution about returning kids to school as soon as it is possible. In general, it is the belief of Three Rivers that our students would have the greatest opportunities and we could provide the best services to those students if they were in school. We also feel we are able to participate with Public Health and provide a safe and careful

- environment to the students in school. We want to do this in a very safe way. It is her understanding that there are other districts in southern Oregon now that have voted on similar resolutions and the hope is that if there is enough of a voice that we could maybe have a larger impact in sending these to Salem and maybe getting our kids back to school sooner.
- Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the resolution (#02). Mr. York seconded the motion. There was discussion.
 - The board additionally agreed to add a cover letter indicating some of the reasons to get the students back in school which include the decline in attendance, the decreased pass rate, the decrease in the number of DHS reporting and decreased enrollment. They also believe the local school boards need to have more authority in these decisions. This also allows an opportunity for kids to interact and do so in a really safe and controlled environment.
 - Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Mr. Halsted expressed the need to talk about the state of our facilities. A work session was scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th at 5:00. All board members confirmed that the date works for them.
- Mr. York referred back to the pass rates and requested that we concentrate on what's happening with our freshmen. It they are bearing the brunt of this, due to COVID, we may need to pour some additional resources towards them.
- Multiple board members requested a more in-depth look at the data that was presented today - additionally broken down by grade level. It was agreed to review this in February, after the close of the second quarter.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Work Session, Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. - VIRTUAL
- Board Regular Session, Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. – VIRTUAL

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Jennifer Johnstun
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk