

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

BOARD MEETING

REGULAR SESSION

April 18, 2011

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Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, April 18, 2011 at Illinois Valley High School, 625 E. River Street, Cave Junction, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT: John George, Director of Secondary Education

ABSENT

Also Present: JoAnn Bethany/Illinois Valley High School Principal, Lisa Cross/
District Accountant, Patty Dickens-Turk/Illinois Valley High
School Asst. Principal, Stu Burgess, Rob Saunders, Peg
Cowens, Mike Durrant, Dave Valenzuela/Evergreen Elementary
Principal, Kirsten Valenzuela, Dave Bracken/Aramark, Ryan
Nolan, Bonnie Cameron, Devon Dorn, Megan Brown, Joseph
Vigorito, Elaine Barker, Daniel Vega, Wayne McHugh, Cheryl
Winters, Tammy Griffis, Kim Williams, Gary Enoch, Kathleen
Baker, Graham Baker/Budget Committee, Lisa Kramer, Sally
Clements, Sean McKee, Carolyn Litak, Joe Serres, Amy Meyer,
Erica Butler, Michael Morris/Sodexo, Jim Bunge/Aramark and
Shelly Berry/Recording Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT

Board Chair Strahan called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. The Illinois Valley High School Chamber Choir sang the National Anthem and California Dreamin'.

CALL TO ORDER

Illinois Valley High School teacher Kirsten Valenzuela gave a presentation on the school's PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence) program. The class supports the PBIS incentive programs. There is a student selection process to participate in the class which includes a one page essay, evaluating themselves in all aspects of PRIDE and to have two teacher recommendations. The PRIDE program includes:

IVHS PRIDE PROGRAM

- The Feeds (news program of announcements every other day).
- PRIDE competition—Classes completing each other to see who can get the most Students of the Week; to see who can get the most PRIDE cards and who can wear the most red, black and white on Fridays.
- Cougar trek—For the kids in the green zone they get to go on a trip once every trimester in they earn it. They have to have 92% attendance, no referrals and less than 5 tardies.
- CREW Lesson Plans—every other week.

From last year to this year there has been a major drop in referrals. Attendance needs improvement and will be a target next year. Ms. Valenzuela played a video presentation of the PRIDE program that showcased highlights of the program.

HVHS TRIP TO
WASHINGTON DC

Hidden Valley High School teacher Stuart Burgess did a presentation of the trip he took with 11 students to the east coast during Spring Break. The students visited Arlington, Williamsburg, Jamestown, Richmond, Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Gettysburg and Washington. The students, teacher and chaperone traveled in a 15 passenger van to the various locations. Mr. Burgess presented a slide show which included some highlights of the trip with pictures from various locations.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

District Accountant Lisa Cross stated she estimates the district's ending fund balance to be \$1.37 million which is up from last month due to two different state school fund estimates that were received. They included the final renal reconciliation for 2009-2010 and updated estimate for 2010-2011 totaling \$581,000.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

Board Chair Strahan requested the March 7, 2011 Board minutes be pulled to be voted on separately. Member Lengwin asked why the athletic coaches were being approved after the season has started? Human Resources Director Debbie Breckner responded that it is due to a timing issue. Ideally the coaches should be approved for the upcoming season, the season before, for instance in June we should be approving all of the fall coaches. Sometimes at the last minute it's hard to get people and while all of their requirements don't have to be met, there are a certain number of requirements that are required before they end up on the board report. The district will continue to work with the athletic directors to get the information in a more timely way. We also have occasions in which we don't have a coach for a sport until the season starts. We may need to look at possibly making the decision that if we don't have a coach by a certain time possibly not offering that activity, which would be an unfortunate choice. Member Lengwin commented that it puts the Board in a difficult situation. Member Meier moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

MINUTES

APPROVED

Member Litak moved to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2011 meeting and Member Lengwin seconded. Member Litak asked for clarification regarding a question on page 9 which had to do with Charter School funding by the state. Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that he will get the issue clarified. The minutes were approved 3-0 (Members Weaver and Meier abstaining due to the fact that they were not in attendance at the meeting).

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Ryan Nolan, Cheryl Winters and Joe Serras from the Illinois Valley Booster Club provided an update on current activities. Mr. Nolan reported that the all-weather track project is still moving forward. The IVHS Booster Club since 2007 has completed a number of projects which include the press box at the football field, the batting cages, the sound system in the gym, the sound system at the field, helped a number of sports teams and helped with the softball field and baseball field. The project they are working on now is to complete the all-weather track. This year they have raised \$25,428 towards that project and have just secured a grant for the remainder of the project. The projected budget for the project is approximately \$200,000. Mr. Serras reported that he does work throughout Oregon for non-profits to obtain funding. They see a real need to fill, as Illinois Valley High School is the largest high school setting in Oregon to not have a track. He is currently approaching local and larger foundations (such as Murdoch Trust, Meyer Trust, Ford Family Foundation and several others). They are also seeking corporate support as well. Ms. Winters reported that historically that most of the money received up to this point has been 'in-kind' which means rather than cash money, it has been people that have stepped forward and donated their time, equipment and resources. They are still looking for community support. They currently have a three-year commitment from the Rotary this year, and will be receiving two more years of donations from the annual Grants Pass Duck Derby.

Student Daniel Vega stated that in the midst of our budget unbalance that we need to make our decisions very carefully and make education the priority.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS
(CONTINUED)

Illinois Valley High School art teacher Elaine Barker spoke on the activities and success of the IVHS Art Department. The students created a 2010-2011 calendar which was one of their first efforts. The cover was done by Chris Wright, who has gone on to participate in the "Visions 2011" at Coos Bay along with eight other Illinois Valley students. Most currently they are participating in the "Best of the Best" at the Grants Pass Museum of Art. There are currently 130 pieces of work from students at 13 schools. Out of the 130 pieces of work, ten pieces of work were selected to receive awards, two of which were Illinois Valley students. The Art Department will also be taking a trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in May. They will also be awarding a scholarship to help an art student.

Board Chair Strahan reported that he had the opportunity a week ago to attend a meeting with our Governor. It was an informal meeting with only 12 other people there which included a wide mix of people such as School Board members, teachers, Superintendents, a Title I Director and a Human Resource Director. The primary focus of the meeting was the Governor wanting to pitch his plan, the Education Investment Board, Senate Bill 909, which is currently going through the Legislature. His vision with this bill is to form a commission to formulate a plan to bring education under one umbrella, to better mesh the different parts of education in Oregon; beginning with early childhood intervention all the way up through grade 14. He spent about one-third of the meeting explaining that concept and his vision. The meeting was then opened up for questions which created an opportunity for them to share directly with the Governor their concerns in rural Oregon. Board Chair Strahan brought up the issue of inequity of transportation due to rural district costs. The Governor recognized that rural Oregon has many unique challenges and stated that he is addressing transportation efficiencies. The Governor then stated that the education system is under-funded, and probably will remain that way for the next couple of years. He believes after two years things will begin to get better. He does not support merit pay, believes we need to expand our vocational offerings and supports the need for waiver from the Feds in terms of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

EDUCATION MEETING
WITH THE GOVERNOR

Director Breckner stated that in the interest of time she would not have the Board draw the names of the three safety award winners for the month of March. They were drawn this afternoon and the names selected were: Mary Miller, Laurie Chambers and Rene Hults. The selected recipients will each receive \$25. Director Breckner also shared that there was a suggestion made from one of our staff that the recognition program be expanded to recognize those staff that are maintaining outstanding attendance. We have a couple of employees that haven't missed a day in twelve years. This will be looked at over the summer to see what we can do next year.

SAFETY AWARDS

Jim Bunge reported that after sixteen months, a lot of planning, tours and construction both of our biomass boilers are now up and running; providing heat to both Illinois Valley High School and Evergreen Elementary. It has been a long process, but with the help of Solargen and Ausland we're very close to the finish line. Mr. Bunge reported that back in September our first load of fuel at IVHS and Evergreen cost \$2.41/gallon. Our last load of fuel, prior to putting our boilers on line, was up to \$3.44/gallon. We have roughly spent to date between the two schools \$97,000 in fuel alone. We're projecting 290-300 tons of pellets for a heating season next year which would roughly cost the district \$46,200; a savings of about \$50,000 by running these two new boilers.

BIOMASS BOILER
UPDATE

Member Litak asked how many sources we have for the pellets. Mr. Bunge responded that right now we are in a contract with Bear Mountain out of Brownsville, Oregon. It is a two-year contract at \$165/ton. We are still open to local sources, such as Rough & Ready, if they become available.

SODEXO SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Morris with Sodexo presented the district with a \$1,500 check to provide three \$500 scholarships; one for each high school.

PROFESSIONAL
COACHING

Federal Programs Director Peter Maluk reported that as part of his responsibilities, he oversees professional development funds that the district gets from the Feds and specifically those targeted for continuous improvement plan for the school district and school improvement plans. For the last three years we have continuously been focusing on raising graduation rates, making sure all of our kids successfully get through our K-12 program and move on to either successful jobs or further education. It is a challenge and we are working very hard in a multitude of ways to make it happen. We have been working on attendance, PBIS, and specific curriculum issues such as math. To bring teachers along professional development is necessary. Also in the area of technology, we have come so far and still have miles to go. How to integrate technology in an appropriate and professional manner that improves instruction requires, again, more professional development. Quite a bit of our professional development money the last several years has been spent on student engagement. Sending folks to conferences and having them come back and work with other people. The essence of our success has been the establishment of instructional coaches. Not only are they coaches, but they are risk-takers as it is often difficult to teach your peers.

Three years ago we had almost 300 teachers and administrators participate in a cooperative learning Kagan instruction at Hidden Valley High School and it was a mixed reaction. We just had 80 people participate in a training in March and the reception was very positive. The district has been consistent in it's focus and people are using these structures in their classrooms, and it's working.

Director Maluk then introduced the three coaches:

- Mike Durrant—currently working 1/2 time as a secondary math coach
- Rob Saunders—last year a full time technology coach and this year half-time technology coach and teaching in the classroom half-time.
- Peg Cowens—formerly a teacher at Manzanita, but for the last two years has been a full-time K-5 math coach and also serves as a new teacher mentor.

Each of the TOSA (Teachers on Special Assignment) coaches gave a presentation on the services and support they provide to assist the staff in our district in the areas of math, technology and new teacher mentoring.

The Board commented how impressed they were with the presentations on the student programs shared tonight and expressed their appreciation for all that the coaches are doing to improve our district under such challenging circumstances.

RESOLUTION TO TRANS-
FER CONTINGENCY
FUNDS

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented a resolution to transfer contingency funds to support 29 students, at \$300 each to compete in National Competitions for Future Business Leaders of America (20 students), the National Skills and Leadership Competition (6 students) and the National Forensics Tournament (3 students). Member Weaver moved to approve the resolution. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

ERRP INSURANCE
FUND

District Accountant Lisa Cross stated that we are required to recognize federal funds that were received for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. The money is put into a special revenue fund which has restrictions. Member Weaver asked why we got this money. Director Breckner responded that it is part of the stimulus money under the healthcare reform. There was a grant we were able to apply for that allowed us to apply for reinsurance for some of the high cost claims—any claims over \$150,000 for any retirees that we are paying for insurance on. Every quarter we submit a claim and were

lucky enough to receive the funds. The grant is paid out on a first-come, first-serve program. The \$277,000 we received is for last year. We will continue to claim every quarter. That money will allow us to help offset what the district and employees are paying for health insurance. The money is required to be spent on health insurance costs. Member Litak moved to approve the resolution. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ERRP INSURANCE
FUND (CONTINUED)

APPROVED

Director Breckner presented the RUS Grant proposal for approval. The RUS grant is supplied for distance learning equipment and training. Teachers are wanting to expand their use of video carts in the classroom which average about \$10,000 each. Rather than partner with the ESD as we have done in the past, we are looking to go out on our own for the RUS Grant which would be more than \$400,000 to start providing the equipment in 8-10 different sites. It does require a match, which we will continue to pursue. We have received many letters of support for the grant. Ms. Cross explained that we still have funds available in Special Revenue Fund 266 which is required to be used for technology. Member Weaver moved to approve the grant proposal. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

RUS GRANT

APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Administrators which will expire in June. The MOU includes updated language in regards to two items. The first is that the Administrators currently don't have language for a sick leave bank and there is a need for sick bank time. This language allows the district to establish an administrative sick bank more similar to the classified sick bank. It would expire at the end of this year and we would have to renegotiate for future years. The other change is to also increase the district's contribution to administrative insurance to \$900/month which would be equivalent to the monthly district contribution that we make to the licensed staff. Member Meier moved to approve the MOU. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S
MOU

APPROVED

Dave Bracken stated he had nothing to add to his written report unless there were questions. There were none

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Michael Morris stated that he had nothing to add to his written report unless there were questions. Board Chair Strahan commented that he was pleased to see that we are doing well in forming a relationship with Ft. Vannoy Farms.

FOOD SERVICE
REPORT

Member Meier asked why there was a large drop in the number of students enrolled at Hidden Valley. Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that there were 20 students that graduated at the end of the second trimester.

OTHER

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 9:55 PM

Dave Strahan
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT