

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session, Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at Madrona Elementary, 520 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kate Dwyer, Member of the Board, Zone I  
Danny York, Member of the Board, Zone II PRESENT  
Kara Olmo, Member of the Board, Zone III  
Ron Lengwin, Vice-Chair of the Board, Zone V  
Patricia Adams, Superintendent-Clerk  
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources and Athletics  
David Marshall, Director of Support Services  
Dave Valenzuela, Director of K-12 Education and Technology  
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director of Student Services

ABSENT: Ron Crume, Chairperson of the Board, Zone IV ABSENT

Also Present: Casey Alderson/Illinois Valley HS Principal, Renee Hults/  
Williams & Applegate Principal, Heather Yount/Fruitdale  
Elementary Principal, Jessica Durrant/Manzanita Elementary  
Principal, Lori Chamberlain, Rachael George/Lorna Byrne MS  
Principal, John George/Fleming MS Principal, Damian  
Crowson/Lincoln Savage MS Principal, Mark Higgins/Lincoln  
Savage MS Assistant Principal, Darrell Erb/Fleming MS  
Assistant Principal, Julia Richardson, Patty Goodin, Brent  
Workley/Newbridge HS Principal, Kim DeForest, Kevin Marr,  
Gale Barlow, Lisa Beteta, Betty Sumega, Lise Van Brunt/  
Madrona Elementary Principal, Sharon Fisher, Gordon  
Schmieder, Steve Jones, Dave Marks/TREA President, Patricia  
Krauss, Sara Clements, Rhonda Pugsley, Jennifer Parsons,  
Peggy Sue Bunge, Robin Cook, Jim Bunge/Aramark Custodial  
Manager, Claudia Dow, Amy Meyer, Kari O'Brien, Linda  
Kappen, Carrie Gragg, Debbie Yerby, Van Grainger, Erik  
Lathen/Illinois Valley HS Assistant Principal, David Regal/  
Evergreen Elementary Principal and Shelly Quick/Recording  
Secretary. ALSO PRESENT

Board Vice-Chair Ron Lengwin called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Adams provided the board with the ODE District Report Card, Senate Bill 529 and a handout on a Standard Reunification Method for safety. She pointed out that our district has two 'Model' schools, Fruitdale and Lorna Byrne. These are high poverty schools that are ranked in the top 5% of Title IA schools in the state based on Oregon's rating formula. She acknowledged and applauded the two schools. They are 'Level 5' schools. Our district also has several 'Level 4' and 'Level 3' schools, we have no schools that are 'in need of improvement'. Superintendent Adams then spoke to the district's performance on the report card. In summary, the reading for grades 3 through 11 is above the state average or equal or better to like SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT (CONTINUED)

school districts. In mathematics our students in grades 3-5 and in grade 11 were below the state average or below schools that are 'like'; grades 6-8 are above the state average. In writing students in grade 11 are below the state average. In science grades 5, 8 and 11 are all above the state average. The graduation rate for 'like' districts is 71.7% - our district performance for graduation is 68.3%. Graduation is an area that we want to increase. The dropout rate for 'like' districts is 2.7% - our district performance dropout rate is 3.3%. We hope to address that with the alternative programs that being developed.

Superintendent Adams reviewed Senate Bill 529, which allows school districts to work with ESD's with flow-through dollars. Our ESD currently provides services significantly in the area of special education. It is up to the district to determine the value of the services and if they are cost effective. She has met with Grants Pass School District to determine if there is anything that they can coordinate in the area of special education and be of cost savings to our district. It has been determined that there is not. If by November 1, this Board would elect to have pass-through dollars through the ESD for the 2014-15 school year they need to notify the ESD by November 1 and make a decision by March. She will continue to evaluate the services and specifically look in the area of technology. Superintendent Adams would not encourage the board at this time to opt out.

The 'Standard Reunification Method' is a process used in case of an emergency. One of the areas that can be most chaotic is uniting students with their parent when a school is closed or evacuated. The administrative team will be working on a reunification method which is a process by which parents can come and pick up their child in case of emergency.

RECOGNITION OF  
EXCELLENCE

Madrona Elementary Principal Lise Van Brunt recognized the entire staff from both schools which made the Jerome Prairie/Madrona transition successful.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

District Accountant Lisa Cross reported that the district will start receiving it's tax payments in November. The district has been fortunate and have not experienced any deficits having to float loans from one fund to another, even with our ending fund balance being lower than it has been in past years. She submitted an ending fund balance from fiscal year 2013; the auditors left about a week ago, everything is finalized and the district ended up with about \$360,000 more than anticipated. The ending fund balance is actually \$1.7 million. Due to transportation and taxes we will set aside about \$325,000 so that in May when it is taken away to offset the way the payments are made from the State, we will have it available. The dispensable ending fund balance is \$1.36 million; we budgeted \$1 million in the adopted budget, so that left an additional \$360,000. Later in the meeting a resolution will be presented to appropriate those dollars.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Board Vice-Chair Lengwin brought forward the Consent Agenda for approval. Member Dwyer made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as submitted. Member Olmo seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-1 (Lengwin opposing).

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ft. Vannoy teacher Kari O'Brien thanked board members and administrators for attending ULP bargaining and contract bargaining. TREA appreciates the conversations, time and energy. She asked that the district redirect attention of our high schools to recognize our uniqueness and ruralness. Three Rivers School District programs do not need to be in competition with neighboring school districts. Examples of programs include STEM and vocational programs.

Madrona teacher Sharon Fisher thanked Madrona principal Lise Van Brunt for her work in the Jerome Prairie/Madrona transition and merge. Some of the positive things include the playground and the addition of the Jerome Prairie staff. Ms. Fisher asked that the board consider class sizes—the kindergarten classes at Madrona are currently at 31 and 32

kids. With class sizes that large it is difficult to meet the students needs. Member Dwyer commented that class size is at the top of her list of concerns. Member Olmo feels this is an area that needs to be addressed—possibly by policy? Superintendent Adams responded that the Madrona classes as of September 30th are 30 and 31 for kindergarten and 27 and 29 for first grade—which is very high for primary grades. Manzanita fourth grade has two classes at 36. She added we can look at policies on class sizes and see what OSBA recommends. Another area we can address it as a board is in January we will set priorities for our budget as we go into the budgeting process. We can identify class size as one of our top three priorities.

COMMUNITY  
COMMENT (CONT')

Manzanita teacher Claudia Dow read a letter from a teacher who is in her fifth year of teaching that could not attend the board meeting. The letter expresses concern over the personal financial insecurity she is faced with as well as the large class sizes and limited prep time. The letter was from Kellie Cowie.

Lincoln Savage teacher and TREA President Dave Marks stated that “they are working themselves to death”. The demands and time requested; they are asked to do more and more and more. In bargaining they have tried to offer the district some alternatives to money, such as time as they recognize there is no money. The kids of Three Rivers are not fairly treated in the State of Oregon due to the funding formula, which is a huge issue we are all working on. They have been bargaining since March and teachers need a contract. He encouraged the board to look at proposals and solve contract issues. The district had a large turnover rate last year and he does not want teachers to keep leaving the district. Their new motto—“We are one” - without TREA we don't have a district.

Member Olmo stated she has had an opportunity to attend some bargaining sessions. All board members are absolutely pro-teacher. The board has every intention of coming to an agreement, but are nervous and don't want to make an error and settle a contract with the licensed staff and then have an unfair labor agreement, which the last total came to about \$1.9 million, that would only go to high school teachers. If they settle at that magnitude what would it mean for the entire district? The board wants to move in a way that is responsible and not making anything more complicated for any individuals.

Member Dwyer added that two board members have attended bargaining sessions. The reason more board members don't attend is that once there are three board members in attendance it becomes a quorum and they are not allowed to do that. She asked that it not be misconstrued that by all members not attending as not being interested or willing to serve—legally only two can attend.

Madrona Elementary Principal Lise Van Brunt reported that today Madrona is a new school and has great things to offer kids. She gave a presentation on how they transitioned which included:

MADRONA  
TRANSITION

- Involving both Site Councils
- Last year they provided Jerome Prairie to Madrona field trips for students;
- Facility preparation which included an adequate playground
- The moving of things such as classroom, office and library contents from Jerome Prairie to Madrona
- The installation of portable classrooms
- The design of new bussing layout
- Open House—Having all families visit Madrona before school began
- School Assembly
- Parent involvement—Site Councils, PTA's
- Blended staff—making everyone comfortable and connecting

Some struggles they faced included:

- A large amount of students enrolling late, which caused the office and teachers to be overwhelmed.

MADRONA  
TRANSITION (CONT.)

- Finding out how they can make all staff feel 'connected'
- Lack of available staff before school to help with unpacking and organizing.
- The school is tight in terms of space—not much room for growth

Recommendations from staff if this ever had to take place again in the future:

- Board working on policy to make sure a decision to close a school was not made so late in the year.
- Providing additional staff along the way (from outside the school).

Ms. Van Brunt thanked the district for working so hard beside her and with her.

ELEMENTARY READING  
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

All of the elementary school principals in the district (Renee Hults, Jessica Durrant, Heather Yount, David Regal and Lise Van Brunt) presented strategies that our teachers are using at the elementary level to bring about school improvement and instructional improvement in the area of reading. Many students come into kindergarten that are not readers; they have to be prepared for their first statewide assessment, and prepare them for the challenges of middle school.

MIDDLE AND HIGH  
SCHOOL READING  
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

All of the district middle and high school principals (Damian Crowson, Dennis Misner, Daye Stone, Brent Workley, John George, Rachael George and Casey Alderson) presented reading strategies and how they track their students, assess where they are at and how they provide support when needed at the secondary level.

OREGON STUDENT  
WELLNESS SURVEY

Superintendent Adams reported that the packet contained a copy of the 2014 Oregon Student Wellness Survey. It will be administered to grades 6, 8 and 11 in February 2014. The data from this survey is used to assess student needs, climate and risks. The data is also used in applying for grants.

FIRST READING—  
POLICIES

Superintendent Adams stated that it is a first read for the eight policies in the packet:

- ECAAA/GACA Employee Identification Badge System (\*NEW\*)
- KGB Public Conduct on District Property (\*NEW\*)
- KL Public Complaints
- KL-AR Public Complaint Procedure
- JFCF Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Menacing/Bullying/Cyberbullying/Teen Dating Violence -Student
- JFCF-AR Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Menacing/Bullying/Cyberbullying/Teen Dating Violence Complaint Procedures—Student
- GBNA Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Menacing—Staff
- GBNA-AR Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Menacing Complaint Procedures—Staff
- GBNAA/JFCFA Cyberbullying (*To be deleted-Replaced by policy JFCF*)

She explained that this is an opportunity for the board to make changes and/or edit. There is no need to take action tonight. A typical practice would be the first read is a discussion and opportunity for input. Action is usually taken at the second read, although there is nothing to prohibit the board from taking action at the first read. A new policy is the *Employee Identification Badge System* and that is a common practice among school districts to have safety factors in place. She explained that the grey highlighted text is new language and asked the board if they would like to go through each of the policies or if there were questions? Member Olmo responded that she had questions that were probably more appropriate for a work session and can discuss further on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Adams stated that we will be doing policies from now until June and there will be first and second readings at every board meeting from now on out. The policies brought forward tonight are either new policies or policies that have already come up this year, or we anticipate may come up and need to have a proactive approach. These policies will also be introduced to the administrative team on Thursday.

District accountant Lisa Cross presented Resolution #02 to appropriate the additional beginning fund balances that she spoke about earlier in the amount of \$360,000. It would be put into the beginning fund balance and then expenditure line items for Instruction (\$320,000) and Support Services (\$39,600).

RESOLUTION (#02)  
TO RECOGNIZE AND  
APPROPRIATE ADDI-  
TIONAL FUNDS

Member Olmo moved to approve resolution #02. Member Dwyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cross brought forward Resolution #3 to appropriate moneys from the contingency for staffing purposes in three different areas in the amount of \$80,820. The three areas include: Manzanita class size reduction (exceeding 35:1 ratio), Illinois Valley High School alternative education instructor (.5) and the districtwide alternative education program administrator (extra duty contract for 6 hours per week).

RESOLUTION #3 TO  
TRANSFER  
APPROPRIATIONS

Member York mad a motion to approve resolution #3. Member Olmo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn at 7:55 PM

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Ron Lengwin  
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

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Patricia Adams  
Superintendent-Clerk