

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session, Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at the District Administrative Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Danny York, Board Chair, Zone II
Kate Dwyer, Member of the Board, Zone I PRESENT
Kara Olmo, Member of the Board, Zone III
Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV
Ron Lengwin, Vice-Chair of the Board, Zone V
David Holmes, Superintendent-Clerk
Dave Valenzuela, Director of K-8 Education & Technology
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director of Student Services
Casey Alderson, Director of Secondary Ed., Athletics & Alt. Ed.

ABSENT: Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources ABSENT

Also Present: Debbie Yerby, Kim DeForest, Ron Ruby, Steve Jones, Dave Marks, Neil Clark, Lisa Cross/District Accountant, Bonnie Cameron, Cindy Drought/OSEA Field Rep, John Clark, Vickie Nigh, Heather Yount/Fruitdale Elementary Principal, Linda McClanahan/North Valley Assistant Principal, Darrell Erb Williams & Applegate Principal, Renee Hults/Manzanita Elementary Principal, Van Grainger Patricia Krauss, Sid Hobgood/Fleming MS Principal, Dennis Misner/North Valley HS Principal, Damian Crowson/Lincoln Savage MS Principal, Jamie Ongman/Illinois Valley HS Principal, Keith Haley, Shari Noble, Krystal Graham, Vikki Johnson, Brian Miller/Hidden Valley HS Assistant Principal, Joseph Rice, Sharon Fisher, Kevin Marr, Linda Kappen, Brent Workley/New Bridge Principal, Kari O'Brien, Julia Richardson, Susan Loeffler, Wendy Taylor, Daye Stone/Hidden Valley HS Principal, David Regal/ Evergreen Elementary Principal, Scott Polen/Lorna Byrne MS Principal and Shelly Quick/Recording Secretary. ALSO PRESENT

Board Chair Danny York called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Olmo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Dwyer seconded the motion. Board Chair York stated there is a presentation from some high school students and asked to move that item 10-A (Hidden Valley FBLA Teacher Grants) up the agenda. Ms. Olmo amended her motion to move item 10-A to the item immediately following the agenda approval. Ms. Dwyer seconded the revised motion. Member Crume commented that there was no item for 'New Business' or 'Unfinished Business' on the agenda and asked why? Mr. York responded that he thought this was discussed and 'Suggested Agenda Items' was added to the end of the agenda. Superintendent Holmes recalls having that discussion—adding 'Suggested Future Items' to take the place of 'New Business'. Mr. Crume responded that he stated in an earlier meeting that according to Robert's Rules of Order their suggested agenda had both 'New Business' and 'Unfinished Business' on it. He said APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA our policy states they follow Robert's Rules of Order and felt they should have a 'New Business' and 'Unfinished Business' items on the agenda. Member Lengwin asked if they would like to amend the motion. Ms. Olmo responded no—her concern has always been if they have something new come up that they put at the end of the agenda that wasn't properly noticed, members of the community would be denied the opportunity to participate. Mr. Crume stated that he doesn't have anything specific tonight. He just thinks they need to follow the Robert's Rules of Order and have those items on the agenda. Mr. Lengwin stated the only thing he had was a discussion and does not believe it would be any vote, just a discussion on some legal bills. Ms. Olmo said that might be a request for information in the future so could fall under 'Future Agenda Items'. Mr. Crume said it could still be discussed under a 'New Business' category, and that's what it is there for. Ms. Olmo added—or future. Board Chair York state 'new' or 'future'. Ms. Olmo stated 'future' works better for her because it gives everyone an opportunity to look at an agenda that appropriately reflects what they plan to discuss—with the exception of an emergency or a last minute need. Mr. Lengwin said he would like for a board member to have an opportunity to discuss something that would maybe be a request. Ms. Olmo believes that can be done under 'Future Agenda Items'. Mr. Lengwin agreed. Board Chair York called for a vote and the motion to approve the amended September 16, 2014 board agenda passed 4-1 (Crume opposing).

HIDDEN VALLEY FBLA Hidden Valley High School students Rilynn Hansen, Kali Henderson and Walker York introduced themselves as members of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and the Josephine County Foundation (JCF). They presented a \$10,000 grant opportunity to enable ten teachers to get \$1,000 for their classroom. Application deadline is October 1, 2014. Students Katherine Haley, Sylvia Marr and Jaya Black-Lazo presented a backpack program for at-risk teens that provides them with a new backpack filled with essential items such as bowls, blankets, toothpaste and tarps.

Superintendent Holmes reminded the board that this presentation is part of a grant request and needs approval by the board. Board Chair York explained that this is an action item as it is a \$10,000 grant from JCF and FBLA. Member Dwyer made a motion to approve the \$10,000 teacher grant. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. York thanked the students for the great job.

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE Superintendent Holmes introduced the idea of "*Say Something Positive.*" One of the goals in our district this year is to improve our public relations and one of the ways is to be in control of our message. There are phenomenal things going on in our buildings across the district. This is a quick opportunity on a monthly basis to point out the great things that go on. The board will go first. The easy ones he would like them to try to stay away from are the athletic/sports related and try to focus on educational things and activities. When the board is done, he will give one then open it up to the audience.

Member Dwyer was at North Valley High School and saw incredibly dedicated teachers. She was impressed and have so much respect for how hard our teachers work and work hard to create relationships with every single child. Member Olmo acknowledged Principals Daye Stone and Jamie Ongman for the efforts on the turf field project at Hidden Valley High School. These two administrators went above and beyond on their own time to write the grant, identify partners and bring something to the district of extreme value. Board Chair York commented on the attendance at the high school football game at Grants Pass High School in lieu of the Hidden Valley football field being done. It was greatly attended and an amazing gesture for Grants Pass to allow us to use their facility. Member Lengwin recognized Rob Saunders who is coaching soccer. Mr. Lengwin also responded to a Craigslist ad and saw one of our First Student busses at the location. The bus, driven by Ron Laham, was very clean, well kept and well maintained. Member Crume shared an issue with a parent complaint regarding athletics. The parents invited

Mr. Crume to attend the meeting at the school. Director Casey Alderson, Principal Daye Stone and new Hidden Valley Athletic Director Brian Miller were in attendance at the meeting. He watched the way they listened to the complaint and responded. They came up with a solution. He was contacted by the parent after that it had all worked out. It was a great example of customer service. Mr. Holmes shared that the district received the test scores from the state and the two items that were very noteworthy are that all three of our middle schools and Fruitdale elementary are all level 5 schools—which is the top 13% of the schools in that category across the state. The work that those staffs, students and families are doing is phenomenal. Beyond that, all of the schools in our entire county were at level 3 or above. Every one of our schools is in the top 50% in the state. Great work!

SAY SOMETHING
POSITIVE

Newbridge teacher Kim DeForest thanked Kate Dwyer for her efforts sharing digital literacy skills through her work with the Josephine Community Libraries. Another gentleman shared that some of our students take courses at RCC. With Josephine County's new initiative you can travel from Josephine County to Medford for \$2 on a bus. Director Allen-Hart acknowledged Applegate School for continuing on with the Applegate fundraiser which was held recently at Wooldridge Winery. This was the sixth year and raised money for strings, arts and enrichment for students. Newbridge principal Brent Workley shared that they administered an ODE mandated assessment in math and the vast majority of students (96-97%) at the correctional facility took the test on the computer, used their calculators and tried to do good on the test. They also have their new online newspaper up and posted—"NewbridgeNews.org". Kairos has also moved from the old facility in Merlin to their new facility—they are up and operational assisting children that are mentally ill. Lincoln Savage principal Damian Crowson also shared regarding state testing that in looking at middle school data Lincoln Savage rates 19th in the entire state and number two in southern Oregon. They finished 1.6 points behind Ashland middle school. He recognized his staff for a tremendous year. Fruitdale and Hidden Valley parent Keith Haley stated that he had contact with two Hidden Valley staff members, Mrs. Harmes and Mr. Seibold, since school started. It was very positive and they have "gone the extra mile." Parent Kevin Marr gave kudos to Hidden Valley for ranking 23rd in Oregon and 1800 in the country in the U.S. News and World Report making Hidden Valley a silver award winner. Mr. Stone added the award is based on college preparation and through RCC alone they had 66 kids earn college credits over the course of last year. They offer 135 collegiate credits at Hidden Valley high school. 30% of their students take AP classes and pass at least on of those tests. A gentleman stated he has a granddaughter at Hidden Valley taking four AP courses this year. She is also in FBLA and went to Nashville. He congratulated Hidden Valley on their success. Sheri Noble, who works in the TRACT program, gave positive thanks to the SPED department and to maintenance. Their program moved from the District Office to a new location and they have been very supportive and helpful. She thanked them for the support during their transition. Mr. Stone recognized maintenance crew leader Donny Hiler. He is nothing short of amazing. They have had multiple project where he has needed help and Donny has been there to problem solve and work around the clock to get things done. He definitely goes above and beyond and will be receiving a letter of commendation from him due to the special things he has done with their maintenance program and balancing so many balls in the air.

Superintendent Holmes stated his full written report is linked the board packet on the website. The district enrollment is slightly down, but fairly steady. We are above the budget number but slightly below our fall number from last fall for enrollment—about 80 students. We are down about 30 students from the Spring, when school closed in June. There are enrollment issues at a couple of schools which will be addressed later on in the agenda—in terms of class sizes. The district newsletter is up and online on the district web page. It is a result of a lot of hard work by Karreen Ghena, who works in the District Office, Fiscal Department. She has a background in newspaper and a degree in English. She has been a real asset to help produce the newsletter. He recognized the positive energy

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

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REPORT

with the return of the students to the classrooms. There was a welcome back meeting for all of the staff at Fruitdale the week before students arrived. It was incredibly positive—and a bit overwhelming for him. He hadn't been nervous speaking in front of a group of people in a long time—addressing 230 teachers for the first time at Fruitdale he had a few butterflies. There is great energy in all of our buildings with all of our staff. He was able to attend Ft. Vannoy's first Friday meeting, which is the district late start and an opportunity for our teachers to do professional development for an hour in the morning and focus on those teaching and learning things we are doing to make our classroom learning environments better. It's so refreshing to get to sit down with those educators and listen to what they are dealing with and what they are working on. They are looking at data and using that to make decisions. Mr. Holmes is working on a customer service survey that will be forwarded to the board and some staff members to review for input. The scope is pretty broad in nature looking at how well teachers communicate with parents, how well our office staff greets and treats the public, how well our principals deal with issues that come to their office, how our district staff does in terms of problems that come their way, and how we are doing in terms of meeting the needs of students from a parent perspective. The survey will be linked to the district website when it is finalized so that anybody can give us feedback. We will also find a way to get that in the hands of the public that doesn't have electronic access.

RECOGNITION OF
EXCELLENCE

Board Member Kara Olmo announced that last year in August the Josephine County Educational Fund (JCEF) celebrated 50 years of service in Grants Pass. She wanted to make sure it didn't go unnoticed at this board meeting. Ms. Olmo shared the history of JCEF and the great work they have done getting scholarships for all students in Josephine County. Ms. Olmo also serves on the JCEF board and recognized the huge commitment of the full board to support all of the students, programs and potential projects at Three Rivers. Last year alone they awarded \$326,000 to our seniors in the form of scholarships throughout the four high schools in our area. There is over \$4.2 million in the fund that supports the organization. Currently JCEF is working with the district to finish the turf project at Hidden Valley high school and they have been instrumental in keeping the strings program at Applegate School functional.

Member Lengwin asked if they have open board meetings? Ms. Olmo responded that there are quarterly board meetings. The next board meeting is September 18. She does not know if they are open to the public. The meetings are normally at Plywood Country in Grants Pass.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Chair York brought forward the 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. Member Crume asked to pull some items. They agreed to vote on each item separately. First was *Routine Personnel Items-2014*. Member Olmo made a motion to approve 7-A, Personnel Items. Member Dwyer seconded the motion and acknowledged there were some changes made by the personnel department and all board members received the revision. Mr. Crume asked if the personnel list could be broken up? There is a termination on there and he believes it will make it cleaner. He would be happy to vote on the other stuff, but has questions on the termination. Mr. Holmes responded that they could break anything out they wanted. He added that in terms of the termination, he is not going to be able to discuss anything in a public meeting about a personnel issue. Mr. Crume stated his issue with that is that he has a couple of questions, and if he can't get answers to the questions—he was gone last week out of cell service and email service. He would have to vote 'no' on that. He asked if it would be possible to amend the motion. Ms. Olmo responded that she will keep her motion as was presented. Mr. Crume said if it doesn't pass then they would make a motion to approve everything except for the termination and vote on that separately. Mr. York agreed and added they would then have an executive session for that discussion in the future. Mr. Holmes stated that in terms of process he

thinks what the district has done in terms of due process has been followed to the letter of the law. We are at the point now where, as he can't speak to the specifics of the personnel issue, but what's in front of them is for the board to determine whether they are going to approve and support that termination or not. Mr. Crume asked for clarification that they couldn't break and go to and go to an executive session under an employee issue and ask the questions there or discuss it in any way? Mr. York stated if the executive session were held they would need to invite the employee. Mr. Holmes added any executive session that contains personnel the employee has to be there as well. Ms. Olmo said her motion was to support the work of the district and to approve 7-A as presented. Mr. York asked if there was any further discussion then called for a vote. The motion failed 2-3 (Crume, Lengwin and York opposing). Mr. Crume then made a motion to separate the termination and approve the *Routine Personnel Items* with the exception of the termination. Mr. Lengwin seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-2 (Olmo and Dwyer opposing). Member Olmo moved to accept the termination under 7-A for Robert Horban. Member Dwyer seconded the motion. Mr. Crume stated he has a couple of questions he would like to ask the HR person—but she is not here so he directed the questions to the superintendent. His first question was according to the HR investigation, did this employee get fired because he wasn't following the essential duties and responsibilities laid out in his job description? Mr. Holmes responded that he can't discuss that. Mr. Crume then asked if the employee was properly evaluated by his director? Mr. Holmes responded that they cannot discuss personnel in an open board session in any shape, form or manner. Mr. Crume said that he cannot vote on it. He can't support it if he can't get an answer to the questions. Mr. York asked if there was any further discussion? Ms. Dwyer stated that it is her understanding that there has been extensive due process afforded to this situation and she personally would like to support the efforts of the district to establish their personnel situation. In her opinion, from what she has read, all of the benchmarks of due process have been met. Mr. Crume's response to that was his allegiance as a school board member is to the taxpayers and his community members that elected him. That is first and foremost his allegiance. With that being said, his job is to do what's right for Three Rivers School District—not just support staff—although he wants to support staff. But his first priority are his community members—and he has questions about this termination. Ms. Dwyer commented that she shared his priorities, but does not agree with him about the termination. Mr. Crume responded that he didn't say anything about the termination, he just said he had questions about it—and he can't get his questions answered. It's tough to support a decision that you can't get the questions answered. Mr. York then called for the vote and the motion passed 3-2 (Crume and Lengwin opposing).

Member Olmo made a motion to approve 7-A.1 Athletic Coaches as revised. Member Crume seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Member Meier made a motion to approve 7-B Out of State travel for Fleming teacher Jerry Wilder and the annual eighth grade band trip to Six Flags in Vallejo. Member Lengwin seconded the motion. Ms. Olmo requested that the district have appropriate chaperone coverage and male/female ratio. There are a lot of details that go along with outside travel to areas where there are overnights. She doesn't know exactly how we manage it and how the parents are vetted, and who has access to which kids. Mr. Holmes stated he has taken this trip about a half dozen times in his former district so he is aware of the environment and routine—so he also knows what to look for. She hit on the high points: ratios, male/female chaperones, how many kids per room, how many rooms each chaperone has, down time, check in times, etc. He does not know right now what this district's specific policies are but will look into it to make sure they meet the standard of what he is used to seeing. Mr. Lengwin is curious about this trip- he didn't get his agenda packet so he doesn't know what is it exactly? Mr. Holmes said two things he would address: the first one is concerning his board packet. He sent an email to Mr. Lengwin this afternoon. We will start overnighting the packets. The cost to do that for the district is pretty minimal compared to the value of having it in their hands in a more timely manner, being certain it

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gets there and having more time to review it. With all of the requirements now of all of the administrators submitting reports to the board there is a lot of reading on a regular basis which he loves for them to read because they have really good things. This trip involves an overnight—one whole day playing in front of adjudicators and getting one-on-one and small group and large group assessment from adjudicators on their playing. Then they do an actual performance that is rated and evaluated for scores 1 through 5. The following day they get free admission to Six Flags and that's where they actually do the ceremony for the awards for all of the schools. The kids get six or seven hours to play in the park and then get on the bus and come home overnight and sleep on the bus. As a chaperone, parent or administrator you will not sleep for about 48 hours. It's a very fun trip for adults as well as the students, but it's very valuable. In his former district their bands went and their choirs went as well on a regular basis and it's a great experience. It not only gives the band and music program the opportunity to build responsibility with young people around following direction, being where they are supposed to be and doing what they are supposed to do, interacting with the public in an appropriate way and then performing under pressure as well. It's a unique setting in terms of the performance, as opposed to playing just for parents at the holiday program or playing downtown. Mr. York called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Member Olmo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented as a fair representation of the recorded minutes. Member Lengwin seconded. Mr. Crume stated he was out of town last week with no access to email and he did not get his board packet until about 2:00 yesterday (Monday). He hasn't had time to read them and would like to abstain from this vote. Mr. York called for a vote and the motion passed 4-0. Member Crume abstaining.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Board Chair York reminded attendees that the board would hold their comments to about three minutes and asked that in the future if they could get people to completely fill out the *School Board Comment Card* by ensuring the check the box requesting to speak at the meeting and also check the box that they have read and understand the Public Input Directions on the back of the card.

Judy Ahrens shared that September 17 is U.S. Constitution Day and the importance for all students and all of us to be reminded of our U.S. Constitution and the liberties and freedoms we have. She sent Mr. Holmes a fax to see if the district could have some kind of celebration. It may be too late to tell the kids to wear red, white and blue tomorrow—but maybe something to put on the wish list for next year. She also provided some other ideas. On a different note she expressed her concern about Common Core. She talked about some of the other states that do not support Common Core and strings attached to it. She said that the kids that came before the board tonight are frustrated—she doesn't think they are frustrated because no money, they are frustrated because of the kinds of content of what we give them. They don't understand why it's so confusing. There is a national organization called Eagle Forum. If they really look and “peel back the onion” they will see a lot of things that they need to start correcting now.

Joseph Rice stated in light with Constitution Day tomorrow, Oregon has a statute ORS 336.057 states “courses in Constitution and history of the United States—In all public schools course of instruction shall be given in the Constitution of the United States and the history of the United States. These courses shall begin not later than opening of eighth grade and shall continue grades 9 through 12.” Additionally, Oregon statute 336.067 states “Instructions in ethics and morality. In public schools special emphasis shall be given to instruction in honesty, morality, courtesy, obedience to the law, respect for the national flag, the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, respect for parents and the home, the dignity and necessity of honest labor and other lessons that tend to promote and develop an upright and desirable citizenry. B states respect for all humans regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, sex or disability. C- Acknowledgment of the dignity and worth of individuals and groups and their participative

roles in society. D—Humane treatment of animals. E—The effects of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and controlled substances upon the human system.” He hopes this is within the curriculum and it then brings him to the book “Persepolis”. With Common Core this is approved reading. This book is in the high school. Ms. Dwyer asked in what curriculum of our school is it included? Mr. Rice stated that it is in the libraries of the high school and is approved by the State. Ms. Dwyer stated it is her understanding that book is not in the curriculum of any of the classrooms. Mr. Rice expressed concern for her interruptions and Ms. Dwyer explained that she was asking a factual question and if he was aware of a place where it is in the curriculum that she is not aware of? Mr. Rice said he is aware these are in the high schools, in the library. Ms. Dwyer asked if Mr. Rice would care to describe what the book is to the audience? Mr. Rice said he would love to do that. Ms. Dwyer stated our policy doesn’t include banning things on the basis of excerpts. Our policy includes the possibility of challenging works in their entirety in their value as a work and asked Mr. Rice to address what the overall work is about? Mr. Rice went on to read what he found in the book to be offensive. Ms. Dwyer commented that it is misleading to discuss excerpts from a book without mentioning what the book is about. Board Chair York asked Mr. Rice to finish his comments so they can move forward. Mr. Rice read more excerpts and was then stopped by Mr. York. Mr. Rice responded that Mr. York was offended by the work and by what he just spoke. As he spoke about morality and teaching of morality to our children—how can the board expect students to conduct themselves with these values that’s mandated by laws to be taught—yet they are reading this? If this is in a college level library he has no issue with it. They are young adults and have the ability to choose. But when we talk about the graphics of torture we talk about disparaging the United States government. We talk about the vile things in the book. He does not believe high school students or any other student within the district that has access to the library has the ability without this being instructed in a classroom to understand the contents of the book. This book does represent the travel of the woman from Iran to the United States and the horrors that she suffered in war. But when we talk about high school students and our expectations that they don’t use the language in this book in the hallway or the classroom—what type of double-standard is being set for the students? What type of confusing message is being sent for the students if they can walk into the library, check this out and then read it without any type of educational instruction as to the contents? That is his concern. Here in the Three Rivers School District not being in the curriculum and not being given the surrounding understanding of what it means—that’s an issue.

Ms. Dwyer addressed the room and explained that this is a book written by a young woman who lived through the Iranian revolution. She is telling the story of what happened to herself and her family. The scene of torture is a description of the due process and rights of a political prisoner having been removed from him. There is nothing in that book that would imply that anything good is happening or that someone should ally themselves with that. It is the only book that she has ever seen that teenagers have ever read to understand the Iranian revolution, the fall of the Shah, our involvement in that country and we have another book in our school library where a man is dressed in a crown of thorns and whipped and then he is nailed to a cross and she will never stand for taking that book out of our school library. She does not believe that there is anything in that book that a high school student cannot understand in context and believes it is an excellent book.

Neil Clark stated he has trouble hearing the business that goes on in the board meetings and asked to consider having a microphone for the presenters so that the meetings are better recorded and put on record rather than what’s been done in the past. He introduced himself as a retired educator and currently works with a student. He has a real concern about what’s going on in our schools. He is real concerned about what he perceives that in this school district they are lacking a good opportunity to take a good look at the curriculum that’s being used in our schools. The Grants Pass 7 district does have a Curriculum Council. He highly recommended that this district does the same. At the

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same time not only involve the Curriculum Director but also involve the schools and the community. He offered to donate his time. People that are in the community that are concerned about what is going on with the curriculum ought to be invited to take part. He asked the board to consider this and hope it would be a topic in the future. He then mentioned ORS 332.072 that says that they are authorized to make decision on behalf of the parents and the people that are in the district. The Oregon Department of Education and a number of other organizations are not their boss. They (the board) represent us and again asked them to seriously consider that topic. He then talked about the standardized testing that takes place. The Smarter Balanced tests that are being used for the first time this year. Throughout the country people who are experiencing this test—65% of kids are failing. The kids are not having their self esteem built by failing. They're giving materials in the classroom and the tests are based on those materials that are a real detriment to them in many ways. He asked the board to consider opting out of the Smarter Balanced tests. This has been done in a number of districts throughout the country as well as some states opting out of Common Core all together. If there were enough citizens here in the community that came to the board to ask them to what they could to opt out of Common Core all together what would it take? Would it take a petition of a certain number of petitions? Does it take a lot of people like himself who are concerned about the curriculum to come and speak to them? He then asked for feedback from the board. If it were a petition, what would they require for a number of signatures from people in the community?

Ms. Dwyer responded that it is her understanding that such a decision would have to be made by the Oregon Board of Education. They could not choose to opt out of their directives unless they chose to opt out of all their funding. Mr. Clark said he presently has four sets of petitions in progress. Two of those are directed to Kitzhaber and three other people on the legislature. The original copy of those petitions and others will go directly to them. He would like to be able to present copies of those petitions to the board so that they become aware of the concern they have in the community. He asked if there was any objection to doing that? Ms. Dwyer thinks it would be fine but does not believe they have the power to act on that. Mr. Clark agreed that ultimately it is a legislative decision, but at the same time the board is not under their authority to do exactly what they say. The board represents the people and representing the people they should have that constitutional right to make that kind of a decision. He hopes the board will discuss this in detail—he can be involved if they would like. There is so much information out there about what Common Core is doing to our schools and our kids. It has been slipped in on us very quickly without having input from the community and the board members and the district people. They need to stand up for their rights and do something about it.

Mr. York believes it can be a topic for discussion in the future. He does not know if they are going to be able to cross all the T's and dot all the I's before the next board meeting. At the later portion of this meeting it will be discussed for future business.

Dale Matthews stated he runs a couple of websites. One is called "goodcounty.com" and the other is called "badcounty.com". They put videos up on the internet so people can keep track of what their county government is doing. He can only tell the board what he sees at the meetings—he can't verify how much of it is true. He goes to more of the County Commissioners meetings than they go to of their own meetings. He has been doing this for almost a decade. He heard Cheryl Walker, the current chair of the Board of County Commissioners say that the school district is on board with the projects at North Valley with the sewer district. He has also heard her say that the school district is not on board with the projects at the North Valley Sewer District. She has indicated that she is very frustrated with what she terms as indecision on the part of the school board about what to do about it. The next thing coming up is they're going to be applying for a grant to try to get some money in to her project which is concentrating on the North Valley Sewer District. She indicated at a recent meeting that she's going to include this school district as a partner in this project. That may come as a surprise to some of you who, according to what they say in their

meetings, you are not a partner. She also told the other two commissioners in a meeting in their board room that once the money comes in, based on your participation on paper, that once you see the money that you will come on board. The summary of that is—if it's not true that they are partners or believe that her plan is great, she intends to use the district's name to get money for her project and then come to the district afterwards and say "now do you want to be on board?" Present at these meetings were Cherryl Walker, Rob Brandes from the Public Works Department, Simon Hare and Keith Heck. If the board feels that it is necessary to take any preemptive steps before she uses their name to apply for this grant he suggests that they talk with Simon Hare who, at the moment, seems a little bit upset—or perplexed about how that is possible. He then shared that badcounty.com now has 137,000 views, which is a lot for a website in our area. Goodcounty.com has a lot less. Seeing what he saw with the FBLA students, and he knows Mr. Pendleton very well, that will make a great addition to goodcounty.com. He stated he was disappointed because the board has unlimited time that they would allow one of their board members to constantly interrupt a person who had gotten up to speak. Sorry Mr. Chair, but it is up to him say "now hold on a second" and he did—finally. He is impressed by what happens when people come forward to speak. He has seen it at the Board of County Commissioners where he was stopped seven times in three minutes. He thinks it's a bad trend. When you see that happening from people within the county he would jump all over them.

Mr. Crume thanked Mr. Matthews for the information he provided tonight. He knew nothing of these accusations, suggestions, comments that were made but he will look into it.

Madrona teacher Sharon Fisher shared that she teaches Constitution. She has a packet that the district gave her and they are doing it in her classroom.

Vikki Johnson stated she has a young child no where near high school age at this point, but what she hears about the book and the fact that she personally feels that is a parent's choice. If her son came home with that book she would have no choice but to take her own position on it and that position may or may not be to explain how much she disagrees with the school that he is supposed to trust to get his education from. They are undermining parents by allowing that student to take that out without getting a parent's approval. If they insist on having it then it needs to be something that is approved by the parent. She would pull her child out of the school. She thinks it is ridiculous that people could say you have to understand the context. Kids are going to see, say, hear—kids do things these days because they can get anything on the internet. It doesn't need to come from school and she is extremely disappointed that anybody would even go against or be disrespectful to somebody who as a parent has the choice to say what their child should or shouldn't see. Especially if it's not in the curriculum. It's something that they can just come home—and you will have to tell them that the school's wrong or whatever your position is and at this point tell your student that they disagree completely with the school they are supposed to trust to get their education. She then asked if anybody had anything to say?

Mr. Crume responded that they have addressed this book (Persepolis) a couple of times and he is appalled as well that this book is in our public library and it was given to us by the state of Oregon as an approved book on the Battle of the Books readers list. He then told the parents that are concerned with it that there is procedure in the district and they just simply need to fill out a complaint form. He believes the way the procedure goes is the superintendent and the Curriculum Director will address that complaint form and make a decision to pull the book out of our schools or not. If they choose not to pull it out of our schools it will then come before the board and he would hope the board would vote to pull any book like that out of our schools. There is a procedure and he encouraged each of them to follow it that aren't happy with it.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

John Chambers talked about substance abuse prevention. He serves on the local alcohol & drug planning committee for Josephine County. He was appointed by the Commissioners to advise them as part of the committee on substance abuse prevention and treatment plans, programs, etc. He considers it a very important subject. He was one of the ones, along with John George, that got the LADPC (Local Alcohol & Drug Planning Committee) to fund the Boys & Girls Club to come in to all of the middle schools. There is a position on the LADPC for someone from the Three Rivers School District. They would love to have a representative from the district. The county doesn't have any drug prevention and drug treatment money of their own. All of the money comes from the State or from the Federal government, but they feel that it would be better used with local control. He offered himself to the district as a person that if they are looking at substance abuse prevention programs of some sort, he would be very happy to look at the science behind them to see what they do and how they work and give his opinion about them. Mr. Chambers is also the coordinator of the *Truth About Drugs* campaign for Josephine County. They have booklets on various forms of drugs—not particularly for kids. They are for teachers and parents to understand. He provided copies of the alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug abuse to members of the board.

Newbridge teacher Kim DeForest stated that next week is “Banned Books Week” in the United States. As an English teacher she talks to her students about this every year. Some of the most classic books that they teach in their common curriculum, since the 1950's are on previously censored or banned books lists. Some of them include: *The Kite Runner*, *Part Time Indian*, *Thousand Splendid Suns*, *A Child Called It*, *The Hunger Games*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Catch 22* and *Lord of the Flies*.

Student Sylvia Marr stated that in addition to what Ms. DeForest said, she has read almost every book on that list. She has also read *Persepolis* and feels that her morality and ethics can't be fully developed until she actually knows the bad things that go on in the world. She doesn't like to be sheltered and to be hidden from what the world actually does and is capable of and what people are capable of. She won't be ready to go into the world after high school if she doesn't know that these things actually happen.

Wendy Taylor asked to make a suggestion to amplify. It is very difficult to hear. She stated that when there was a specific speaker, she was ashamed to have attended a meeting that's important and a speaker got up because he cared about a student or students and he was immediately interrupted and brow-beat. She watched the faces of the board and there was a little bit of a reaction. She believes that they all owe the man an apology—especially Ms. Dwyer. When you allow this to happen you intimidate the people that want to be active and want to be involved in their kid's lives. She then asked if Ms. Dwyer was going to apologize to the speaker? Ms. Dwyer responded no and said she is sorry if people think that she was being rude, that was not her intention to be rude. It was her intention to get a clarification for the audience about what book they were discussing and what the book was about. Ms. Taylor responded that she does not get it. Ms. Dwyer responded that she was trying to understand, and have the audience understand what it was that was being discussed before they delve into the level of detail. She did apologize if that was misunderstood and she was a little heated about it. For that, she did apologize. However, she doesn't apologize for trying to seek a clarification so that the people in the room understood what was being discussed.

Mr. Crume stated that they did go over the allotted twenty minutes tonight, but this is a public school system and they should have local control. These people that took the time out of their life to show up are the taxpayers of their community that foot the bill for these schools. He loves to see a packed auditorium tonight. He appreciates them coming out, appreciate what they have to say—sometimes it's not so fun. He has been on the receiving end—and it's not fun but it's still valid. It does not mean they have to agree with everything or disagree. Thanked them for taking their time to come and speak to them. If the public

comment period were to go one hour, he would be happy to sit and listen to every one of them.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Superintendent David Holmes pointed the board to a written report by Director Breckner and gave an update on the CEP program, which is a federal program that allows districts to identify schools with certain levels of poverty to offer all students in those schools free breakfast and free lunch. Ms. Breckner's report to the board has a very good explanation of the rules, policies and procedures around how the program works, how they qualify and why we do what we did. He reported there are eight different schools that qualify for the CEP program that we are now offering free breakfast and free lunch to all of the students in those buildings. The qualifier (where the misinformation happened) was referred to as free and reduced lunch rates and if the school had 40% free and reduced lunch rate then you would take 1.6 and multiply it by that percentage (40%) and would get to 64%. You can then offer free and reduced lunch to every student in that building and get 64% back from the federal government for the cost of that meal. Our food service program was in the red pretty substantially last year—so what that would indicate is that all 36% of the cost of that meal would have to be paid out of the district's general fund. To further complicate, the calculation really wasn't based on free and reduced rate—it's actually based on the federal government's direct qualifier rate. What that refers to is the percentage of students whose families qualify for direct federal assistance or state assistance. That number is much lower than the free and reduced lunch rate. We looked at what those numbers were and only qualified schools that had the direct rate that was equal to about 66-67%. That ended up being eight schools. There were a couple of schools that were at like 98.7% and qualified those. There are some savings on the other end as every student in the school is getting free and reduced lunch which has some savings from a classified perspective. The other advantage to that program is if every student is getting free and reduced lunch it will increase the participation rate, which should improve the profit. There are no numbers on the lunch program yet as it is too early. Ms. Breckner should have a good set of numbers for the October meeting. We are working really hard at all of the buildings. He has met with all of the lunch program people personally. The main focus right now is simply improving the flavor of the food that is being served to our kids. He has been very pleased with the ideas and work from Mr. Hershey, our new Food Service Director.

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Mr. York looks forward to getting the update next month. Ms. Olmo said she is not sure if the food service update is the right place, but would like some updates on how the district can include some local foods and foods that are reflective of our community. Mr. Holmes responded that there is a piece in the contract from Sodexo that they will buy that food from us at a rate. If we collect any kind of local foods that they can use to bring in the kitchens to supplement the food they are getting from Sodexo they will do that and we get credit for that food.

Teacher Kari O'Brien commented that Fort Vannoy Farms wanted to get their food in to the schools and they were told by Sodexo that they would have to pay for the freight to Portland to have it approved and then bring the food back. That's coming from Bob Krouse at Fort Vannoy Farms. Mr. Holmes asked Ms. O'Brien to send him an email with that information.

Superintendent David Holmes provided a top ten list off of the long range facility improvement plan which is funded by the construction excise tax fund. He provided a recap of where they are at with the exception of the installation of the heat tape roof piping at Fleming. Everything else, RFP's have been issued, bids are being taken and a lot of it has been completed. We had an old back up wastewater plant at the Fleming site that was inoperable and we have been going about refurbishing that plant. We are probably eight weeks away of firing that plant back up at a cost of about \$35,000. What that will do for us is give us duplicity in case something happens with the other plant which is very old

LONG RANGE FACILITY
PLAN UPDATE

LONG RANGE
FACILITY PLAN
UPDATE

and in very bad condition. It will also add capacity to the project. The next piece will be to look at the main plant and start doing some rehabbing of the pieces and parts and the structures in the main plant and we will have a way to take stuff offline briefly while we perform some of the upgrades. He then addressed what the County Commissioners are talking about. There is a consortium being put together to try to raise funds to pay for satellite wastewater treatment plants throughout North Valley. They all believe that in a best case scenario that is three to five years out. We have issues with this plant that can't wait for three to five years. We are in the process of doing what we can do to take care of our own and make sure that we are able to continue having school at Fleming and Manzanita because we can treat the wastewater that's coming from those two things in the next three to five years. In terms of what the County Commissioners do or whatever direction that goes we will be in a position to do whatever is best for this district whenever that happens. At the workshop in October he plans to have the next ten items ready for review.

ACHIEVEMENT
COMPACT

Director Dave Valenzuela stated that in the two years previous to this we have discussed the Achievement Compact in June and explained why that has been difficult because we don't have data to predict what they are shooting for with this Achievement Compact. To recap what it is—the Achievement Compact is a compliance document that we submit to the OEIB (Oregon Education Investment Board). It's a predictive document that we submit saying that the district is going to hit some targets. The main targets are graduation rate, ninth grade credits earned and third grade reading proficiency. The numbers that are put in the compact are predictive. The document is not something that we use as a district on a daily basis or a document used to make decisions about where we are headed or what kind of strategies we employ. The numbers submitted are indicative of the district that would be graduation rates in the upper 90's with high achievement by the year 2025.

Mr. York asked if OEIB uses this to rate us as a district? Mr. Valenzuela responded no—the document is not used in any of our report cards or reporting. We use the state report card and year end data to make decisions about instruction. Mr. York asked if we ever go back and see how we are doing? Mr. Valenzuela responded that we can. He would have all of the verified data and he and Director Alderson could come back with a full report about where they predicted and where we are at in January after they get everything from the state. Member Olmo made a motion to approve the Achievement Compact as submitted. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION (#04) TO
TRANSFER
APPROPRIATIONS

Superintendent Holmes stated the resolution is in response to need for staffing increases at four of our schools based on enrollment numbers over the first two weeks. There was money set aside for this purpose in the budget. He appreciates the process and it was very forward thinking; instead of placing staff in places we think they might be and have then have to RIF or move staff. This is more a more budget wise process to go through. Based on those numbers, what this proposal represents is one new FTE for a 4/5 blend at Evergreen Elementary; one new FTE at Fruitdale Elementary; the increase of a Title One teacher from .67 FTE to a full time FTE at Manzanita that will help with third grade there; and then the rest of the pieces are pieces that will help Hidden Valley High School address their huge class sizes that they are currently dealing with. The most economical way to do that at Hidden Valley is to buy preps of the existing staff that are willing to do that. There are some trade-off's for that. This allows us to utilize the high quality staff and also to do this semester by semester. One of the issues we had because of the process that the district went through last Spring of moving from trimesters to semesters and then trying to calculate the bell schedule and all of those things—basically what happened is that the administrative and teaching staff at Hidden Valley got crunched up against the start of school trying to create quality master schedule that would allow the best distribution of students across all classrooms. We have a lot of hot spots in a lot of subject areas. One of the pieces is that we may not need all of these preps the second semester because Mr. Stone will be able to sit down with his staff and recreate a new master schedule. They will have the opportunity to go back and make some pretty major tweaks and reschedule

students in that have missing classes and level out the schedule. The problem we would have if we were to hire a full time FTE at that school is highly qualified standards for staff. We would be unable to find a “jack of all trades” that is qualified to come in and teach a math class, a science class, a social studies class and an English class, etc. This is a way to address all of the hot spots in all of the curricula areas without putting all of our eggs in one basket. This resolution represents the transfer of funds from one fund to the other that will allow us to hire those staff members to meet the needs of those individual schools.

RESOLUTION (#04) TO
TRANSFER
APPROPRIATIONS

Board Chair York expressed his gratitude to the high school. He has three sons there and understands that it gets crazy with class sizes and our budget. He appreciates the teachers and their willingness to allow us to buy their preps. It works really well.

Member Olmo made a motion to approve resolution (#04) to transfer appropriations in the amount of \$229,016. Member Dwyer seconded the motion.

Ms. Olmo asked if we have teachers who are willing to have their prep periods bought. Mr. Stone responded yes—this is not a long term solution to the class size. They are hoping they can take a step in the right direction and he appreciates the forward thinking that the superintendent has to get a reprieve. The reality is that for the first semester he has an English teacher that will have over 250 kids during the day. It is pretty exceptional that we have staff members that are willing to take that on.

Member Dwyer expressed her appreciation for the collaboration between the schools and the administrators and the teachers to come up with creative solutions like this. As much as she wants smaller class sizes she also never wants to stop our teachers and administrators from making the creative decisions they need to make to support teaching and learning. She likes the flexibility of this because rather than just have an edict that says we will have ‘this’ class size we are going to look at it as a group, collaboratively, and come up with what’s best for the kids—she appreciates that.

Mr. Holmes added North Valley and Hidden Valley will be on split lunch starting tomorrow (September 17) which is going to be a huge advantage to everybody. It will speed up the lines immensely at lunch and get more kids participating. They will get more time to actually eat even though it has been shortened because they will get their lunch in time to sit down and eat as opposed to standing in line, which also discourages participation. Also, in terms of forward thinking with the board, one of the things he thinks they are all hoping is that our budget situation as we move out of this recession we have been in since ‘07 and seen all of these cut student days. The idea that this will set aside, in the face of having added back eight student school days to our current calendar and hiring extra staff at the beginning and still have the ability to do this is pretty phenomenal. His only hope is we are at the situation to take the next step forward again next year. He did not believe it was true that there were class sizes like this. He takes that from a perspective of coming from a different district in a different state and having standards that are totally different than what we are currently dealing with. His work as superintendent with the board has got to be able to move forward through the next year, and next budget year of being able to have not just at Hidden Valley High School, but the elementary and middle schools too—when we have elementary classrooms of 30-32 kids that is ... He is not the education professional that thinks every classroom can’t have more than twenty kids—but there are limits. Any teacher that’s in here or any administrator that has ever been in a classroom as they all have knows the difference—just the energy in the classroom between having 32 and 22 or 34 and 24. It’s almost an exponential curve, it is not a linear line. The idea that we are trying to offer the most appropriate and impactful educational environments in that setting is commendable to all of the educators in this district. The test scores that he just mentioned, the ability to reach those kinds of stats. He would invite anybody to go in those classrooms and watch what’s

RESOLUTION (#04) TO
TRANSFER
APPROPRIATIONS

going. The fact that we can reach that kind of data, and be in the top 50% at every one of our schools across the entire state and have those kinds of numbers. He is real excited to see what that would look like when we have 'reasonable' numbers in our classrooms.

Member York called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION (#05) TO
APPOINT ASBESTOS
MANAGER

Superintendent Holmes brought forward resolution #05 to appoint Ric Ross as Asbestos Manager. He explained that this is just a paperwork issue. The district has to identify a person that goes on the paperwork that goes to the state so that the regulations and reports come to a particular person required by the state.

Member Olmo made a motion to approve the resolution #05 as presented. Member Dwyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SUGGESTED FUTURE
AGENDA ITEMS

Member Lengwin stated the only thing he had, and doesn't know if it is an agenda item—he was going through the check registry and looking at all of the checks for legal counsel and some of them are very big. He was wondering if they can get some kind of itemized list of what all this is about. Mr. Holmes responded that they are basically all of the tort claims they have been dealing with over the last summer. From a general perspective that is what it's about. He will provide the board with a detailed accounting of the charges.

Member Crume stated someone brought it up and they have talked about it many times—the curriculum committee. They have been trying for a couple of years to get one established—he had people speak about it tonight. He has Common Core on his list, but they talked about that quite a bit. The curriculum committee would be a valid agenda item for the future.

Member Olmo said that perhaps Mr. Holmes could present the board with some ideas as to how they might—what the district currently has, how it currently works and what we see in other districts that hear was working well. Mr. Holmes responded that he would be happy to present an idea at the October workshop. They have been discussing this for the last couple of weeks. It comes back to budget, which may not sound correct, but curriculum is curriculum and instructional materials is really what people view as curriculum. But instructional materials aren't really curriculum, but you can't really change curriculum unless you buy instructional materials to support the curriculum change. He has a model in mind and will let the board know what that looks like.

ADJOURN

Member Crume made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lengwin seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:15 p.m.

Danny York
Chairperson of the Board

David Holmes
Superintendent-Clerk