

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2021**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom for the regular board meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Jenn Searle, Board Member
Rich Halsted, Board Member
Danny York, Board Member

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:00 and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked Superintendent Valenzuela to share the recent change in mask status that affects board meetings.

Superintendent Valenzuela read an email correspondence just released from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) that updates the RSSL “fully vaccinated staff, school board members and community are not required to wear face coverings or physically distance inside at school board meetings if children are not present and only if the vaccination status is checked by the school”.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Board Chair Johnstun stated an amendment to the board agenda which will add an agenda item to ‘Board Policies – First Reading’ which will be the *Every Student Policy*. It was emailed out to board members on Tuesday. Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Searle seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Mr. Kelly thanked everyone, regardless of the outcome, who put forth the effort into our bond. He recognized the people who worked really hard to get it passed. He then congratulated our three returning board members for their reelection. Mr. York recognized our State Representative Lily Morgan and her generous grant of monies to the district to get us back on track with the Lincoln Savage septic system and the massive increase in costs that have come about. He is very appreciative of her support! Mr. Halsted echoed Mr. Kelly’s comments on the Bond Committee and everybody that worked on that. He commented that we had 33% of voter turnout in Josephine County – he asked that community members please get out and vote! He then shared that he and Mr. York sat in on the Hidden Valley HS accreditation and met with the accreditation team. There was an amazing number of positive things that they were able to talk about in terms of what this district is doing. It was fun stuff and really easy to articulate. Ms. Searle shared that she recently visited Lorna Byrne MS and saw Principal Danny Pratt and Assistant Principal John Seidel in action. The strong relationship that they have with the staff is so strong that it radiates through to the kids and the community. It’s a completely different school and she is so appreciative of both of them – it’s amazing! Ms. Johnstun spent the last two days traveling around with the North Valley men’s golf team as they went to state in Klamath Falls and Corvallis. It was a great experience being with them. They didn’t take a trophy home, but showed incredible sportsmanship and a lot of really great attention to what they were doing. Director Allen-Hart recognized our two district nurses who are still working very hard this year, Kathy Mahannah and Amy Chamberlain. They have done amazing work! We’ve had over 1000 individuals in quarantine this year and they have made calls to every single one, and even check back to see how they are doing. This is on top of their regular job, which is to support our students with medical issues, and

trainings. Director Alderson echoed the previous comments about the bond and additionally recognized the work of three people that led the PAC: Aaron Ausland, Lise VanBrunt and Addison Pate. They put in a ton of work! Director Durrant shared information on the upcoming summer school programs. It is no small feat for our administrators, teachers, classified staff, First Student and Food Service to get ready to go for summer school with six weeks notice. She is proud of each individual school for creating a plan to meet the needs of their students – and they're different. She is thankful to the state for being able to provide the funding to do this. Superintendent Valenzuela recognized districtwide athletic accomplishments: North Valley men's golf off to state; Hidden Valley baseball – conference champions. Before the board meeting, he went to Hidden Valley to meet with the track team. For the first time ever, that he can recall, both the men's and women's teams are conference champions and going on to state. He then congratulated our three board members who are returning for another four years. The work that we have been doing and will continue to do now is inspiring! Lastly, Illinois Valley HS Principal Tanner Smith was recognized with the 2020 *Fostering a Legacy* award by the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recognized the work Mr. Smith is doing with the youth out there, the engagement he has created with the youth along with the culture and the climate. Ms. Cross recognized Cy Allen from ZCS Engineering who assisted the district with applying for seismic grants. We received notification this week that we were awarded a \$2.5 million seismic grant to retrofit Fleming Middle School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Return to school for full in-person instruction* – Elementary school has been running full days for quite a while. Our middle and high school have been in person, with hybrid in five schools due to the 6' distance requirements in RSSL. With the change to 3' distancing, we were able to open up all of our schools for everyday instruction. Across the board the district saw an uptick in enrollment. Schools are embracing the opportunity, making it fun and engaging. The district is still supporting comprehensive distance learning (CDL). We are continuing to support kids in quarantine and CDL. The district has received tons of support and feedback, excited that the district has taken the stance that we are going to provide as many opportunities to students as we can. Return to school work has been super rewarding.
- *High School Graduations* – Plans are pending. We are eager to announce what is going on but are waiting on feedback from the Public Health Department, which has to review and approve the plans. We are really trying to get our plans in place with a more traditional look. As soon as the plans are approved, we will send out the information to our families.
- *Bond* – Huge thanks to the PAC! Addison Pate was a driving force, along with Lisa Cross and the PAC. One of the things the board needs to think about is what now? The bond didn't pass, but the needs of the district didn't go away. The roofs are failing and are not going to get better. We may be able to address 1% of our roof problems with construction excise tax (CET) dollars. As a district and a school board we need to decide what's next. It is his strong recommendation that the board elects to go back out, the question is when: November 2021, May 2022 or November 2022? A bond is the only means to make capital improvements in our school district. We will be working hard to educate the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Routine Personnel Items – May 2021
- Athletic Coaches – May 2021
- Draft Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - March 10, 2021 – Board Regular Session
- Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Searle seconded the motion; Mr. Halsted thanked all of the retirees for their service to the district. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- There were none.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Board Policies – First Reading**

- AC – *Nondiscrimination*
 - AC-AR – *Discrimination Complaint Procedure*
 - JB – *Equal Educational Opportunity*
 - JHF – *Student Safety*
 - ING – *Animals in District Facilities*
 - KGB – *Public Conduct on District Property*
 - GCPB – *Resignation of Staff*
 - ACBA – *Every Student Policy*
- Superintendent Valenzuela shared that these policies have been revised as per the policy updates recommended by OSBA, with the exception of the *Every Student Policy*, which was created by the district's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Any questions between now and June let him know.

- **Grow Your Own Grant Scholarship Recipients**

- Director Alderson shared that TRSD was lucky enough to be a recipient of the state's *Grow Your Own* grant. We submitted an application early in the school year. At first we were not successful, but then a month ago we got a phone call stating they would fund our project. Our grant was for \$200,000 in helping to support growing our own teaching staff. This money was to be used for our classified who have goals or aspirations of going in to the teaching profession. We can help with tuition, technology, or schooling. In surveying the staff, we were able to identify 16 individuals on our staff that are looking to become teachers in our district. We were able to fund all of the tuition requests received from those 16 individuals. The names have not yet been announced - We will go to each of the schools and present to them. With this grant we were also able to provide technology to graduating seniors going into the education field. The district will be providing each of them with a MacBook, about \$90,000. We hope to get them back in our buildings to student teach and then as a teacher with TRSD. Additionally, there is funding in the grant to provide learning spaces for staff. Not all staff have the wi-fi at home to be able to use their technology. We are creating learning spaces for adults in each of our attendance areas that they can go to after hours and access the wi-fi or do remote learning. We will be applying for the grant again next year.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Hidden Valley HS Collective with North Valley HS for the Sport of Swimming**

- Director Alderson stated that a formal vote by the board is required to be able to have both of our teams coached by one coach. This would allow the two teams to practice together and be coached by one coach. The teams will still be able to compete as two different schools.
- Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Hidden Valley High School collective with North Valley High School for swimming. Mr. York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- **Planned Course Statement – Japanese I**

- Director Alderson shared that the district is very excited about being able to offer another foreign language at our high schools. This class will be offered at Illinois Valley HS by a teacher that is fluent and is working on his endorsement to get highly qualified to be able to offer the foreign language. If possible, we are looking to be able to expand to the other high schools via remote learning.
- Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the planned course statement for Japanese I. Ms. Searle seconded the motion;
- Board questions and comments included: board members happy with the addition of a new language opportunity for students.
- Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Interdistrict Transfers**

- Director Allen-Hart stated that last year we had 70 open slots for transfers; 53 of those slots

- were filled, and the remaining 17 slots were closed in November. Given the current circumstances she is using caution and proposing that we only open 53 slots for next year. If those get filled up quickly, she can always come back to the board to request more slots. The proposed slots will include 28 at the high school level, 10 at middle school and 15 at elementary.
- Mr. York made a motion to set the cap to 53 slots for incoming transfers. Mr. Halsted seconded the motion seconded the motion; there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Superintendent Evaluation**

- Board Chair Johnstun read aloud the summary of the performance review for Superintendent Valenzuela, conducted on April 21, 2021. Overall, the Board is pleased with Superintendent Valenzuela's performance over the last year, especially with how he has led TRSD through the pandemic. While the pandemic was disruptive, he has maintained a focus on keeping students engaged and allowing in-person instruction to the extent allowed under the RSSL guidance. The Board commended Superintendent Valenzuela for his solid administrative team, providing a strong foundation for TRSD. Diligent communication to the Board and community has been appreciated. The Board expressed their appreciation for his proactive and strong leadership during this difficult year and asked that he maintain this approach during the year ahead as he navigates TRSD out of the pandemic and towards the next chapter for our school and community.
- Board questions and comments included: Very grateful for his leadership this year; what Superintendent Valenzuela has led staff through, he would have never imagined in his lifetime, and has done an amazing job of handling all of the variables; commended the superintendent and his staff for what they have done to take this district forward, not just during the pandemic, but after the pandemic as well.
- Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the 2021 superintendent evaluation summary. Mr. York seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Mr. Halsted commented that he has been receiving a lot of emails about masks and what the mask policy will be for next year. Possible to get a briefing in June?
- Board Chair Johnstun thought it would be good to provide a recap of the latest version of the Ready Schools, Safe Learners (RSSL) guidance.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Budget Committee meeting – Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- Board Retreat/Regular Session – Wednesday, July 28, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Jennifer Johnstun
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk