

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2019**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the District Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. A full recording of the meeting is available on the District web page.

PRESENT

Rich Halsted, Board Chair
Jennifer Johnstun, Board Vice Chair
Kate Dwyer, Board Member
Paul Kelly, Board Member

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

ABSENT

Danny York, Board Member

Administrators: Rachel Damiano/Hidden Valley High School Assistant Principal and Lori Higgins/Fleming Middle School Principal

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Halsted called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Mr. Halsted recognized the Oddfellows organization for their donation of \$3500 to help pay off overdue lunch accounts at Applegate School. This was spearheaded by Food Service employee Diana West. Ms. Johnstun recognized Jessica Durrant and Dave Valenzuela for putting together a great opportunity for them to visit a four-day school week at Corbett. It made a huge difference to be able to ask questions and see it first-hand. Ms. Dwyer recognized our district graduates. Today she met with a group of very thoughtful people that are interested in the Selma Center to provide community events and basic needs there. There were some of our graduates there that have come back to our community. She also gave a shout out to the Kerbyville Farms, the baked goods at the Painted Rooster are outstanding and a former Illinois Valley HS graduate is a baker there. Mr. Kelly has attended several basketball games this season and complimented the parents that stay after and help with cleaning up the gyms and putting stuff away. Director Alderson gave a shout out to all of our staff. There is a lot of stuff going on this time of year in their lives and their students' lives and it is a pretty stressful time. Our staff handles it with grace and provides a safe, welcoming environment for our students to come and learn in. Director Allen-Hart shared that the middle schools have taken on a focus of saying something positive and being positive. Mark Higgins and Kirk Baumann are meeting intentionally with parents, reaching out and problem solving. Emails are going home with positive messages. She asked Fleming Principal Lori Higgins to share what's going on at Fleming. Ms. Higgins talked about the Elf Store. Staff brought in a variety of things for students to Christmas shop – 43 students came through today and were able to Christmas shop. Her and Assistant Principal Cassie Banuelos helped them shop, wrap the gifts and put tags on them. The students were so

grateful to get gifts for their family members. Director Durrant acknowledged Fruitdale Librarian Constance Palaia-Marr. There were not enough books in her library for bilingual students. She researched great books at a variety of levels and Ms. Durrant was able to get her the money to purchase 86 books. They are available for any school to use. Superintendent Valenzuela recognized Ric Ross and Don Manion – especially Don Manion is responsible for keeping our students warm. Today we challenged them with a major pipe breakage at Lorna Byrne and then a freezing sixth grade hall at Fleming. They have to cover all areas of the county to take care of problems. He appreciates their efforts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Wastewater Treatment Update* – Will table until next meeting when Mr. York is present.
- *Four Day School Week* –
 - Showed presentation from before with some updates.
 - 1468 Responses; a large cross section of parents have taken the survey, but we are unable to tell how many are elementary, middle or high school.
 - Answering questions about the fifth day – can it be meaningful?
 - Which day of the week? The majority of the responses chose Friday.
 - What to do with the fifth day? Intervention (47%), school is closed (42%), enrichment opportunities (40%), internship opportunities (34%), professional development for educators (18%) and childcare (17%).
 - Concerns:
 - Is this good for students? Ongoing.
 - How long will the day be/Will the length of the year increase?
 - How will employees be impacted? (Classified/Certified) The staff committee includes members from both unions. Financial savings drove the initial conversation, but it has very little to do with the approach and drive behind the conversations right now.
 - If there is enrichment/intervention on the 5th day, can there be bussing? There could be, but it would be limited, such as straight line routes.
 - Will this save the district money? It will save us money in transportation costs. But, that is not why there's a committee meeting and why we're visiting Corbett. We are talking about a four day school week because we believe that with our rural setting, with the challenges that we face with time constraints, especially with the amount of time kids are on busses, going to a four day week could benefit our kids, and could benefit our teachers that drive from Ashland to Illinois Valley, and could benefit a lot of different factors. It is *not* on the backs of our employees. We will develop a four day work week plan that doesn't adversely impact our employees.
 - Has this already been decided? Absolutely not!
 - Mockup calendar – there is a huge misconception that if we go to a four day week our kids will be in school until 5:30. Keeping everything equal – starting after Labor Day and ending the second week in June, we would need to add close to 55 minutes to the high school day. Current school hours are 8:00 – 3:15 and the concept high school hours are 7:50-4:00. If we did something like start the week before Labor Day, and perhaps go to the end of the week in June the calendar would be expanded by six days which would allow us to shrink the minutes.
 - Mr. Valenzuela explained that Corbett is a school district that achieves on a national level. Every student at that school district applies to and is accepted to college as a graduation requirement. Their success is in no way based on their four-day school week schedule. But they are successful in a four-day week schedule. They have been a four-day model for twenty years. He had Jessica Durrant, Rich Halsted and Jen Johnstun share some of their experiences from Corbett – which were all very positive!
 - Mr. Valenzuela then explained that Coos Bay went to a four-day week back in 2010-2011 for two years and has since peeled back from their model going half

days on Friday. That superintendent shared that the four-day model was implemented strictly for money, they didn't have a plan, and the community came back at them over the lack of childcare.

- There are over 85 districts in Oregon on a four-day week and they are mostly rural.
- For TRSD and him personally, doing something on the fifth day matters. His concern today is they build an amazing program opportunity for students and they come and then start to dwindle. Part of our implementation would be how to keep the fifth day alive and make it meaningful for the students.
- When the committee met, they were divided up in to groups and started working on questions and didn't have enough time to finish the tasks. The committee will be meeting again on January 7th.
- He needs to get direct, specific information from elementary folks. They will work on inviting themselves to PTO and Site Council meetings in January and February and invited board members to attend.
- A Town Hall has been scheduled at North Valley on January 16th.
- We will also be working with our collective bargaining groups. We need to be sure we are all on board for going this route.
- This will be on the agenda for next month – it could be an action item, but he feels he needs to gain more information.
- There were additional comments from board members. It was stressed that if we go to this model, we would need to stick with it for at least three years. Also, that we don't shift the day off to accommodate holidays, it will be too confusing and hard for parents. If implemented, to do it district-wide – not as a trial in one area. That way the burden is not in one area to get it right.
- The board directed Superintendent Valenzuela to bring it to the board at the January meeting as an action item and they can choose to vote on it if they are ready or table it until February.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Routine Personnel Items – December 2019
- Athletic Coaches – December 2019
- Out of State Travel Request (1)
- Board Policy – Second reading
 - JEBA – Early Entrance
- Ms. Dwyer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Emily Reyneke – spoke to her request for an appeal to the board regarding her complaint. She also intends to bid on the transportation contract. The four-day week proposes a challenge for any school bus contractor. It's a big cut and will be difficult for hours of service rules for bus drivers.
- Mark Vidlak - is a teacher at Hidden Valley, on the four-day week committee, and has five kids that attend our schools. Believes teachers would really like the change. From a parent standpoint, it's very hard for kids involved in extra-curricular activities to have meaningful job shadow opportunities. They would have the ability to do those things on the fifth day. Things are so busy these days the additional family time would be very valuable. He disagrees with a four-day pilot model. Believes it would look like we are not all in. If we are going to make the move we should go all in.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Board Policy – First Reading**
 - JFCA – *Student Dress and Grooming*
 - JFCA-AR – *Student Dress and Grooming*

- Superintendent Valenzuela presented the policy and AR for the first reading. He asked for questions and there were none. The policy is a model policy from OSBA.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Board Policy GCPC/GDPC – Retirement of Staff (REPEAL)**
 - Director Alderson explained that with the changes from SB 1049, which allows the district to rehire retirees in the PERS system and allows them to work full time. Previously they were working on the 1049-hour limit. We are waiting on the updated policy from OSBA and working on the AR as a regional group of HR directors. This policy is no longer applicable under the new Senate Bill.
 - Mr. Kelly made a motion to repeal policy GCPC/GDPC *Retirement of Staff*. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution (#08) – Unbudgeted Grant Funds**
 - District Accountant Lisa Cross explained the resolution is to include the grant amounts for the two seismic grants for the Illinois Valley High School gym and the Hidden Valley high school gym.
 - Ms. Dwyer made a motion to approve resolution #08 to accept unbudgeted grant funds. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
- **TRSD Financial Audit**
 - District Accountant Lisa Cross explained that the audit for year ending June 30, 2019 is an unmodified opinion that means the financial statements are presented fairly and according to accounting standards. She explained the district's *Statement of Net Position*.
 - Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the June 30, 2019 Financial Audit. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
- **TRSD Long Range Facility Plan**
 - District Accountant Lisa Cross explained the board has been through most of the information. It was a lot of effort by a lot of people in the district. The final report includes a summary of phase I and phase II and the surveys for each individual school. At the very end is the physical assessment by facility, which is in very fine detail. This information will be helpful as we go to apply for grant funds and if the district chooses to go out for a bond.
 - Ms. Dwyer made a motion to approve the Three Rivers School District Long Range Facility Plan. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- There were none

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, January 15, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – District Office – *School Board Regular Session*
- Wednesday, February 5, 2020 – 5:00 p.m. – District Office – *School Board Work Session*
- Wednesday, February 19, 2020 – 4:00 p.m. – Illinois Valley High School – *School Board Regular Session*
 - Student Panel at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Halsted adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Rich Halsted
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk

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