

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL SESSION
April 2nd, 2025**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a special session Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the District Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. The special session was streamed online for the public and is currently available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drhtYlpoifs>

PRESENT

Rich Halsted, Board Chair
Pat Kelly, Board Vice-Chair
Jennifer Johnstun, Board Member
Nancy Reese, Board Member
Cameron Camp, Board Member

Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent
Casey Alderson, Deputy Superintendent
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director
Jessica Durrant, Director
Rob Saunders, Director
Jessica Knable, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Halsted called the meeting to order at: 5:04 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS

- Madrona Leach Field Replacement Project
 - Accounting Manager Megan Beck requested a resolution by the Board, acting as the Local Contract Review Board, to allow exemptions to the bid requirements for the Madrona Elementary leach field replacement project. The resolution will designate Dave Valenzuela and/or Casey Alderson as staff members authorized to approve bids and purchases during the emergency phase. Vice Chair Kelly makes a motion to approve the resolution. Member Johnstun seconded the motion which passed unanimously (5-0).
 - Accounting Manager Megan Beck requests approval to reallocate funds to the Madrona leach field replacement project.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Intellectual Freedom Committee Presentation**
 - Emily O'Neal with the Intellectual Freedom Committee appeared virtually and presented information regarding library books and the potential liability of removing them from the library. She presented an overview of the "Miller Test", the legal test that is applied to books by the court on book challenge cases. There was discussion among the Board Members inquiring about potential lawsuits brought against the board. Vice Chair Kelly verbally challenged the speaker and expressed frustration with her information and how he believes it doesn't align with Josephine County community views. Vice Chair Kelly about the selection criteria for book and the objectivity of the presenter. Vice Chair Kelly questioned the group and he stated they are a disservice to students. Emily suggested the board consult a civil liberties lawyer for legal advice as the board navigates the book challenges.
- **Chair Rich Halsted requested a 5-minute recess at 6:06pm**
- **Chair Rich Halsted reconvened the meeting at 6:13pm**

- **Board Policy Review**

- The Board reviewed policies BDDH – Public Comment at Board Meetings, IIA-AR(2) Challenge of Instructional Materials, and INDB Flag Displays and Salutes. There was some discussion regarding these policies and the potential legal issues with rewriting them, specifically the Flag Policy. Chair Rich Halsted suggested that any recommendations for change beyond the scope of the board be made to the Governor and State of Oregon.
- There was discussion to host community forums or meetings in each attendance area to have more through discussions with community members regarding policy. The Board will work with Secretary Knable to get these scheduled.

- **Public Meeting Do's and Don'ts**

- This is a required training for Board Members once per term in office. The Board acknowledged this requirement and a path to the training was provided.

Future Meeting Dates & Events:

- Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Board Regular Session at Hidden Valley 4:00pm
 - Student Panel at 2:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Halsted adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM.