

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 16, 2022**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a special and regular session Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at the District Office Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. Due to the Coronavirus state-wide restrictions, county case rate, hospitalization rates, and in keeping with the efforts of social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, both meetings were streamed online for the public.

**PRESENT**

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair  
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair  
Jenn Searle, Board Member  
Rich Halsted, Board Member  
Susan Fischer-Maki, Board Member  
Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent

Casey Alderson, Deputy Superintendent  
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director  
Jessica Durrant, Director  
Rob Saunders, Director  
Shelly Quick, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER/SPECIAL SESSION**

Board Chair Johnstun called the Special Session to order at 4:30 p.m. and announced that the purpose of the meeting is to interview the two Zone II board member candidates, Sylvia Marr and Susan Fischer Maki. The process is to interview each of the candidates individually for about thirty minutes. When that is complete they will both come back to the Board Room while the Board Members deliberate and discuss their decision making and then one will be nominated to take the position as the Zone II Director.

**INTERVIEW ZONE II BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES**

The Board Members conducted individual interviews of the two candidates, Sylvia Marr was first, followed by Susan Fischer Maki. They were each asked the same ten predetermined interview questions by the board.

Since we were approaching the 5:45 deadline for the YouTube livestream, Board Chair Johnstun recessed the meeting and announced that the selection of the board member will take place when the regular board meeting commences at 6:00 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

*Board Chair Johnstun reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Member Halsted made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT OF ZONE II BOARD MEMBER (Action)**

Board Chair Johnstun explained that they have spent the last hour and a-half in special session conducting interviews with two board member applicants. The two applicants are Sylvia Marr and Susan Fischer-Maki. She then opened discussion on the two candidates. We have two excellent candidates – both with many strengths.

There was discussion among board members and some of the comments included: so impressed – to be put

through that kind of interview process, on YouTube – however this turns out, the district wins; of importance to one board member was around a recent board decision they felt strongly about and they both did a really good job understanding the issues they face as board members in dealing with those topics; discussion on each candidate's strengths; budget experience.

Member Halsted made a motion to appoint Susan Fischer-Maki as the Zone II Board Member. Member Kelly seconded the motion and added that both of them are brilliant candidates and unfortunately, we can't assign two people. There was some discussion and then Superintendent Valenzuela added that we do have an open Budget Committee position if the person who was not selected is interested. It is a great way to start interacting and engaging with the school board.

Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

### **NEW BOARD MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE**

Board Chair Johnstun led the Board Member Oath of Office for Susan-Fischer-Maki, and she was seated at her podium.

### **SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE**

Member Kelly shared that he has had opportunities to talk with different staff members over the past few weeks and they were all grateful for the two additional days off around Spring Break. He explained that we are grateful for them – this has been a very challenging year for everybody in our schools with all the additional duties and responsibilities. We continue to appreciate everything that they do. Member Halsted announced that he challenged Applegate middle schoolers to come up with the amount of carbon tons that we are saving right now on a four-day week. The amount of contact time that teachers are getting with students right now is absolutely incredible! He then praised the student mentorship program at Hidden Valley run by Meagan Powers. It is a powerful program, and she is always looking for volunteers. Member Fischer-Maki commented that she is seeing joy – speaking as a parent. Joy from students being in classrooms with other students and staff and also extending into sports activities and clubs. Kids are active and enjoying a sense of normal. Kudos to all of the staff and coaches that are helping make that possible. Member Searle shared the seniors at Illinois Valley High School have been working really hard volunteering. They helped serve breakfast at the Senior Center to raise money for the Project Youth+ scholarship fund. Board Chair Johnstun shared that she went by the school to check on her daughter and she had a whole bunch of necklaces on – there was some sort of student activity going on that had to do with Oregon's birthday. It was just something fun that they put together for the students that day. It reminded her that schools are also focusing on engaging the kids and making it fun to be there. Deputy Superintendent Alderson announced the Illinois Valley girls' basketball team is really young and competing hard; the boys basketball team is currently ranked #5 in the state; Jesse Clark is taking over the wrestling program out there and has done a phenomenal job of recruiting kids and competing. Right now, they are one of the top teams in the state at the 2A level. We also have wrestlers from Hidden Valley and North Valley that had their districts last weekend, and they are preparing to go to state. Director Durrant gave a shout out to four schools that have been put through the wringer in the last eight weeks going through an audit for the Oregon Department of Education. The schools were: Sunny Wolf Charter School, Lorna Byrne, Illinois Valley HS and Fruitdale Elementary. They were selected by the state to have a deep dive and she is pleased to report that the audit scored 100%. Kudos to the office staff and administrators. Director Allen-Hart shared that yesterday she had an opportunity to be at Manzanita for the teacher of the Month Award where Lifeskills teacher Jo Gill was recognized for all of her amazing work with those students. She also gave a shout out to all of the SPED folks as it continues to grow – we have over 150 more student this year than past years. Superintendent Valenzuela shared that he has been in a lot of schools lately and sees some amazing things. Shout out to our administrative staff and the District Leadership Team – what we have done since March 13, 2020, has been ridiculous...difficult...unprecedented and heartbreaking! We have updated, changed directions, pivoted, to the point where it feels like if we did one more thing to our buildings they would break. But he too sees joy in our buildings. He sees students achieving and amazing teachers! This team, under the direction of a very supportive and courageous board, has done an amazing job to keep our doors open, give joy to kids, and do the best we can.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- *Nuts and Bolts / Facilities* – TRSD has some aging facilities: roofs, parking lots, and fencing. We have

facility issues all over the place. This board and district ran for bond recently and it failed. Roofs are a significant issue right now and needs to be addressed. Over the next few months the board will talk about the bond, but right now we have numerous roofs failing today and others that will be failing soon. Illinois Valley HS has significant leaks inside their building right now. It is a \$2.75 million job that needs to be done this summer. The possibilities include the use of contingency dollars, to finance at a zero to low interest rate or to aggressively go out for bond in November, but still wouldn't fund in time.

- *Public Comment* – Now available for our community virtually if they sign up online in advance. This is their opportunity to express concerns, make comments, or even tell the Board good things that they see. He then recommended that the next board meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> here at the District Office be in-person and open to the public. We will continue to offer the virtual public comment option.
- *Guidance Update* – There is a decline in case rates across the state, in Josephine County and in our schools. This is also a huge factor to the amazing work that we are doing in our schools. With the RSSL update that is coming out on March 31<sup>st</sup> masks become optional. Our environment will become a mask-optional environment. It will be his job to make sure that all staff and students feel safe in this district wearing the masks on April 1<sup>st</sup> and beyond. We will not tolerate mask-shaming. We are going to be as strategic and thoughtful as possible, so that when masks do become optional our school environments remain as safe as possible.
- *School Spotlight* – Future superintendent reports will include a school spotlight. Next month he will be featuring Lorna Byrne and share some great experiences they had there.

### **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 – February 2022
- Athletic Coaches – February 2022
- Grant Request (1)
- Out of State Travel Request (1)
- Board Policy – Second Reading
  - JGE - Expulsion
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Searle seconded the motion; Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

It was explained that we do have a process for community comments. Generally, the Board will hear the comments, but not respond. If they require follow up, then they would ask the superintendent to assign somewhere within the district.

- Patricia Downing, Board President Rusk Ranch Nature Center in Cave Junction – Provided a statement in support of the Kalmiopsis Community Arts charter school.

### **REPORTS – NO ACTION**

- **TRSD Graduation Rates**
  - Deputy Superintendent Casey Alderson commented that the TRSD Board set a goal back in 2017/18 of 85% by 2023 and the high schools have been laser-focused on that number. The graduation rates just released last month:
    - Illinois Valley High School = 93.33%
    - Hidden Valley High School = 89.12%
    - North Valley High School = 87.23%
  - He shared a slide deck and provided more detailed information around the four-year cohort graduation rate, the graduation rates historical perspective, dropout rates, district highlights, district areas of growth and positive factors that led to the increases in graduation rates.
  - Questions and comments from board members included: it was emphasized that the graduation rates went up during COVID – that is a testament to the staff involved at every level; reported comments from community members that the increases were due to the state standards being relaxed? It was explained that the state did not lower the bar for students. The change in not requiring the Essential

Skills and not requiring the standardized test had no impact on our graduation rates at all. Our students rose to the bar – it didn't get moved; Does the state track, by county, graduation rates for the entire county that include homeschool students? The county graduation rate is 77%, which does not include homeschool students; Appreciated reflecting on the things that impacted the improved grad rates so that they can think about how to continue those things that are successful on into the future.

- **Board Policies First Reading**

- GBED – *Pre-employment Drug Screening*
- GBED-AR - *Pre-employment Drug Screening*
- GBL – *Personnel Records*
- GBLA – *Disclosure of Information (To be DELETED)*
- Deputy Superintendent Casey Alderson brought forward the updated Human Resources policies for the first reading which includes a change to the policy around the pre-employment drug screening process which would not require every applicant or every position to submit to drug testing. For those positions that are safety-oriented, such as driving district vehicles, maintenance using tools and working with students, the pre-employment drug-screening would still be required.

- **Board Policies – First Reading**

- IGBA - *Students with Disabilities - Child Identification Procedures*
- IGBAC - *Special Education - Personnel*
- IGBAF-AR\* - *Special Education - Individualized Education Program*
- IGBAG-AR\* - *Special Education - Procedural Safeguards*
- IGBAH - *Special Education - Evaluation Procedures*
- IGBAH-AR\* - *Special Education - Evaluation and Eligibility Procedures*
- IGBAJ - *Special Education - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)*
- IGBAJ-AR\* - *Special Education - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)*
- IGBAK - *Special Education - Public Availability of State Application*
- JGDA - *Discipline of Students with Disabilities*
- JGDA-AR\* - *Discipline of Students with Disabilities*  
\*AR requires board approval
- Director Allen-Hart brought forward several special education policies and AR's forward for the first reading. Most of the updates and changes to the policies are dictated by state and federal law.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- **SOESD Local Service Plan**

- Superintendent Valenzuela brought forward the Local Service Plan provided by Southern Oregon Education Service District. In their universal supports Three Rivers accesses three main things: special education services, tech services and instructional improvement services. These are services that support additional areas of need in our district and recommended approval.
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the SOESD Local Service Plan. Member Fischer-Maki seconded the motion. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed 4-0, Member Halsted abstained as he is considered an employee of SOESD.

- **TRSD Modified Student Calendar 2021-2022**

- Superintendent Valenzuela requested the board approve the revised calendar that reflects two Staff Wellness Days – Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> which are on either side of Spring Break, in recognition of the incredible service that our staff has provided to our students this year.
- Member Searle made a motion to approve the modified 2021-2022 Student Calendar. Member Kelly seconded the motion. The board members recognized how much our staff has gone through and this is a way of saying thank you, take care of yourself and come back ready to finish the year strong. Mr. Valenzuela reported that there has been no negative feedback or concerns. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Kalmiopsis Charter Proposal Determination of Completeness**

- Superintendent Valenzuela requested the Board approve the fact that the Kalmiopsis Community Arts

Charter is complete. The Board is not approving the concept at this time – they are simply saying that the charter application is complete. We are working with OSBA on this proposal. If the Board approved that the application is complete, there will be a public hearing, tentatively set for April 6<sup>th</sup> in the Illinois Valley, and then from there the charter would come back to the Board for approval in May.

- Member Searle made a motion that the charter application for the Kalmiopsis Community Arts High School be determined complete. Member Halsted seconded the motion; there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **K-5 Health Standards Curriculum Adoption**

- District Durrant, along with Fort Vannoy teachers Austin McNew and Stephanie Revercomb shared information about the process and selection the new K-5 Health Standards Curriculum. Ms. Durrant presented information on a slide deck regarding the Oregon health standards, curriculum adoption process and the selected K-5 curriculum, “The Great Body Shop”. The cost of the curriculum is \$7 per student per year and proposed a ten-year subscription. The total approximate cost is \$135,000 for access for ten years. ESSER II dollars will be used for the purchase.
- Member Kelly made a motion to adopt “The Great Body Shop” as the K-5 Health curriculum. Member Fischer-Maki seconded the motion. There were some questions and discussion by board members. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Member Halsted would like to see a conversation, possibly in a work session, about the ‘fifth day’ and how that can be leveraged as well as potential summer programs to assist kids to get them on track academically.
- Board Chair Johnstun would also like to address our issues with facility improvements that are needed and the consideration of whether or not we go back out for bond. She suggested this topic would best be discussed in a work session.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – District Office
- Board Work Session - Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. – Illinois Valley High School
- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. – North Valley High School
  - North Valley High School Student Panel at 2:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.