

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 2019**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session, Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at North Valley High School, 671 Monument Drive, 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
Danny York, Board Member

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

ABSENT: Paul Kelly, Board Member

Administrators: Erik Lathen/North Valley High School Principal, Tim Sam/North Valley High School Athletic Director, Rob Saunders/District Office Administrator, Damian Crowson/Hidden Valley High School Principal, David Regal/Evergreen Elementary Principal, Lori Higgins/Fleming Middle School Principal and Mike Herzog/Merlin Alternative Center Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Halsted called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Ms. Johnstun acknowledged the great student panel held prior to the board meeting. The students were respectful and prepared. Mr. York felt the same way. He was excited about the engagement with the students. Mr. Halsted recognized the 'Chain Gang' at Illinois Valley High School football games. They do an awesome job and are very helpful to first time officials. Ms. Dwyer recognized the students at Illinois Valley High School working on the composting program. Superintendent Valenzuela thanked Frank Ault and Joan Jones for being at the board meeting. They are truly dedicated to helping kids. He also recognized Erik Lathen, Tim Sam and their North Valley High School team. The meeting today with students was a great example of what investing in school culture results in. The kids were respectful and have a good sense of what it means to be a North Valley Knight! Director Alderson gave kudos to Merlin Alternative Center administrator Mike Herzog and the rest of the MAC staff. Teacher Leslie Henriques took students to the Grants Pass Career Fair today at Grants Pass High School. The district had over 300 students that we took to see over 100 different employers in our region. Director Durrant recognized each of the center coordinators for 21st Century – Melodie Gragg at North Valley High School, Krystal Graham at Hidden Valley High School, Mary Morgan at Evergreen and Tabatha Siemer at Lorna Byrne Middle School. All of the programs are up and going with awesome attendance! Director Allen-Hart acknowledged the leadership team that made a switch in how they run their meetings. They are now out in school buildings a couple of times a month. It is awesome to get a chance to be in the schools, get a tour, visit classrooms and get a chance to feel all of the good stuff that is going on.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Community Engagement Events* – Announced that there are events going on tonight simultaneously at North Valley High School and Hidden Valley High School. Board members also plan on attending these events. There was a meeting last night at Illinois Valley High School. The Cooperative Strategies team runs the meetings. They are very impressive and able to draw information out of people and have really engaging discussions.
- *Four Day School Week* – Tomorrow the four-day survey will start to go out to the public. It will run until the first week of November.

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 – October 2019
- Athletic Coaches – October 2019
- Out of State Travel Requests (2)
- Grants Requests (3)
- Draft Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Board Special Session and Regular Session – July 18, 2019
 - Board Regular Session – September 19, 2019
- Mr. York made a motion to approve the revised Consent Agenda. Ms. Johnstun seconded the motion. There was some discussion regarding the grant requests and the ability to meet board packet deadlines. Board Chair Halsted called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Judy Ahrens – Addressed the board about communications. She suggested the board consider televising board meetings.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Project Gap**
 - Joan Jones and Frank Ault from the Josephine County Foundation (JCF) reported on the progress with Project Gap which is now in its second year of the grant. Ms. Jones shared that Project Gap is a graduation assistance program and is a pilot program at Hidden Valley High School funded by two grants received from Meyer Memorial Trust. The goal of Project Gap is to increase the number of kids getting to the finish line of high school and to get more first and family students to go to college. At the end of the first of their first year they are way beyond their goal was. They had 25 students involved in the program and 16 mentors. They find students that would benefit from having a community member act as a mentor or a coach. A lot of these kids don't have a constant adult that's a good role model for them. They meet with the student no less than once every other week. Many of the mentors do come every week. At the end of the first year they created a peer tutoring program, took two field trips and had a mentor appreciation day. The only hiccup they experienced is their GAP manager Cece Hansen at Hidden Valley moved to Fleming to take a Counselor position. They are in the process of interviewing candidates to get the new person started and get the program back on track. They are also in collaboration with the Youth Pathways Internship program run by Gene Merrill. They feel very fortunate to have the support of the board and the cooperation and access to staff and administration. Mr. Ault shared that JCF is involved in about 20 projects a year but the center core for them is the annual vision clinic, the Campus Closets that they have at Rogue River, Illinois Valley High School, North Valley High School and Hidden Valley High School. Another of the big programs is the student enrichment. Every September they contact every K-12 teacher in the county and give them an opportunity to seek a grant that will improve the educational program for their students. They have 27 students from seven different schools involved in awarding the grants. This year JCF is funding 23 different projects for \$27,430 – 15 of these are in Three Rivers School District and total \$18,756. The Board thanked them for all that they do.

- **North Valley High School Administrator Report**
 - North Valley High School Principal Erik Lathen reported on North Valley High School as it relates to the Board goals.
 - Graduation
 - Incorporating employability rubric. They have created a ‘Freshman Journey’ class.
 - Graduation rates – Two years ago they were at 66% and last year they believe to be about 80%. The graduation coach has been really helpful. Their chronic absenteeism has also improved about 15% over the last couple of years.
 - Culture of Care
 - Working closely with Lonnie Webb. He was very appreciative and pleased with some of the stuff that they are doing which is a credit to the North Valley staff. Focus on the 3-R’s (Respect, Responsibility and Resilience).
 - 3C’s: Customer service – friendly staff and the main office is a great place to come. Communication – they have sent out over 1000 positive notes to their community. They also have a recognition system for students to recognize other students. There have been over 200 of those this year. Community Involvement – They are always striving to improve upon. They had a tailgate this past Friday which involved community member and students. They have more wrap around services than ever, and it really helps.
 - Merlin Alternative Center Administrator Mike Herzog shared that they currently have two graduates and he expects there will be four to five more.
 - They have a new class being offered where kids are attending a class at North Valley. Right now they have shop and weight training and he is hoping they will soon be able to include art.
 - They have been able to use more of their space at MAC. They now have a room for their Options counselor and now have a staff room!
 - Kids are now able to attend job fairs; students are involved in sports and are also going to dances and school functions.
 - Starting Kiwanis Student of the Month.
- **TRSD Continuous Improvement Plan**
 - Director Durrant reported that as part of the process of taking the board goals and refining them, many different stakeholder groups since June have been putting their information and ideas together for a district Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). This is something that every school district in Oregon is completing with a hard deadline of December 6, 2019. Administrators have worked on this piece as well and have narrowed it down to two goals:
 - Academic growth for math and English Language Arts (ELA). The metrics chosen intentionally align with the upcoming Student Success Act application.
 - Culture – life-ready skill. Centered around working K-12 for developing life-ready skills and helping kids be social-emotionally literate for themselves and regulate their own emotions.
- **Annual English Language Learner Report**
 - Director Durrant explained this is a compliance piece for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) English Language Learners. This is the state report that is always a year behind, based on information, so it is for year 2017-18 school snapshot.
 - This year we have increased from 36 to 74 ELL students – which is a huge increase. The district will be staffing an additional position to accommodate the increase.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Interdistrict Transfer Slots**
 - Director Allen-Hart proposed to close the 16 transfer slots that are still open. We could still take students that would qualify on a hardship transfer and continue to keep students that move mid-year if they qualify.

- Mr. York made a motion to close the 16 remaining transfer slots. Ms. Dwyer seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- **Board Policies – Second Reading**
 - JEA – *Compulsory Attendance*
 - JEC – *Admissions*
 - JECA – *Admission of Resident Students*
 - JED – *Student Absences and Excuses*
 - JFC – *Student Conduct*
 - JG – *Student Discipline*
 - JHFDA – *Suspension of Driving Privileges* – TO BE DELETED
 - Superintendent Valenzuela brought forward the policies for approval, and JHFDA to be deleted.
 - Ms. Dwyer made a motion to accept policies: JEA, JEC, JECA, JED, JFC, and JG and to delete policy JHFDA. Ms. Johnston seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution (#07) to Transfer Appropriations from Contingency**
 - Accounting Manager Lisa Cross explained this transfer is to accommodate the need to add a K/1 teachers at Evergreen Elementary due to the size of the first grade classes and those requiring special needs.
 - Mr. York made a motion to approve Resolution #07 to Transfer Appropriations from Contingency; Ms. Dwyer seconded the motion and commented that this is a good problem to have largely due to positive outreach in the community. Board Chair Halsted called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Other**
 - Mr. York asked about the food service deficit showing \$190,608. Ms. Cross explained the district has not received the September reimbursements. We are also working with John Stone/Sodexo to get estimates from him as to how many meals we should be serving and get a better idea of what the year-end estimate will be. She also explained how Student Success Act dollars may be available to help next year.

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. York asked if we have heard anything about wastewater testing? Mr. Valenzuela is working to get a meeting with Mike Bollweg as he is the testing agent.
- Ms. Dwyer asked that the board look at how they can support their communications with the community a bit better to meet their board goal.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, November 6, 2019 – 5:00 p.m. – District Office – *School Board Work Session*
- Wednesday, November 20, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. – Applegate School – *School Board Regular Session*
 - Town Hall Feedback re: Four Day Week at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Halsted adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Rich Halsted
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk