

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, October 15, 2012 at Jerome Prairie Elementary School, 2555 Walnut Avenue, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ron Lengwin, Chairperson of the Board, Zone V PRESENT
Bob Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I
Jadd Horban, Vice-Chair of the Board, Zone II
Leslie Meier, Member of the Board, Zone III
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
Stephanie Allen, Director of Student Services
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of High School Education, Maintenance and Athletics
Dave Valenzuela, Director of K-8 Education, Technology and Transportation

ABSENT: Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV ABSENT

Also Present: Michael Bradley, Mandy York, Peggy Sue Bunge, Steve Jones, GARY HOFSTETTER/ARAMARK DISTRICT MANAGER, JIM BUNGER/ARAMARK CUSTODIAL MANAGER, DAMIAN CROWSON/LINCOLN SAVAGE MS PRINCIPAL, JENNIFER PARSONS, RICK DRAPER, LISE VAN BRUNT/JEROME PRAIRIE AND MADRONA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, KELLI COWIE, ROBIN COOK, ANITA CHRISTENSON, DEVON DORN, KIM DEFORREST, BONNIE CAMERON, CURT TIFFANY, MEGAN BECK, JULIE RAUCH, LORI SANDERS, VAN GRANGER, SALLY CLEMENTS, KATE DWYER, REBECCA KELLY, ERIC HOLTE, MANDY YORK, JESSICA DURRANT/MANZANITA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, SHANI HULST, JANELL KITTLESON, DEBRA YERBY, RICHARD DUNCAN, KARI O'BRIEN, AARON SKINNER AND SHELLY QUICK/RECORDING SECRETARY. ALSO PRESENT

Board Chair Ron Lengwin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that there will be a local meeting on Wednesday, October 24th at North Medford High School. The public will be able to speak and express their concerns representatives of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) related to school funding as they begin their budgeting process. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola congratulated the five schools that were recognized as 'Outstanding' by the state and pointed out the banners in the gym that will be presented to each of the schools: Manzanita Elementary, Williams Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle School and Applegate School. Williams was also recognized as a 'Model' school by the State. Fleming Middle School was also recognized as 'Outstanding' for another consecutive year. There is only one other school in the state that has been named 'Outstanding' or 'Excellent' as long as Fleming which is West Sylvan Middle School located in the Portland area, has 848 kids, 13.2% free and reduced lunch percentage and a student/teacher ratio of 23:1. Fleming MS has 400 students, their free and reduced lunch percentage is 63.3% and the current

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (CONTINUED)

student/teacher ratio is about 26:1. These middle schools are the two longest schools with 'Outstanding' records in consecutive years (six).

Member Meier commented as to what an achievement this is for a school district like ours, with declining enrolment and the funding issues we have had. The number of schools we have being recognized is quite an amazing achievement and something we should be very proud of and need to publicize.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated we have recently had a couple of requests for naming facilities after people. There is a board policy—FF, which he then reviewed. There is a form that needs to be completed and submitted to the Board Secretary. It would then go to the Board, who would appoint a committee of seven members. The committee would follow the process and submit their recommendation to the board to take action.

There is interest in naming the Lorna Byrne gym after Jamie Scott. The district received the paperwork today. A committee will be appointed at the November meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

District Accountant Lisa Cross presented the Cash Status report as of September 30th. The ending fund balance will be reported beginning next month.

CUSTODIAL REPORT

Custodial Manager Jim Bunge introduced Gary Hofstetter, the District Manager for Aramark, who was in attendance. Mr. Bunge reported that he has completed the first round of monthly inspections. He reviewed discrepancies that will receive further training. Mr. Bunge commended Ft. Vannoy Elementary and custodians Eric Holte and Darrin Bossingham. They had zero discrepancies during their inspection. There will be a district-wide custodial training on December 3rd. Mr. Bunge reported that last month he attended a technical training in Illinois, in which he was updated on the latest processes and procedures.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

Maintenance Supervisor Robert Horban reported that during the month of September they started the annual fire inspections with the State Fire Marshall. Eight of the schools have been completed thus far and have had good reports. Because of the dedicated work of the custodial crews, we have three of the eight schools, Lincoln Savage, Williams and Jerome Prairie, that came through the inspection process with no hazards noted, which is quite an accomplishment.

Member Litak asked if Mr. Horban was aware of the issue at Illinois Valley High School with the passing bells? Mr. Horban was not, but will look into it.

FOOD SERVICE
REPORT

Food Service Director Michael Morris stated he had nothing to add to his written report and asked if there were questions—there were none.

ELEMENTARY REPORT

Jerome Prairie and Madrona Principal Lise Van Brunt reported that Jerome Prairie is doing well attendance-wise this year—they are up two kids. Very few staff changes this year; they have welcomed two new teachers to the staff. Jerome Prairie has had an easy start. Things have gone very well and smoothly; Open House was well attended. She is proud of the work done by the PTA and Site Council.

Madrona enrollment is also up slightly. There are 29 kids in the Lifeskills program. They have been working on a Community Garden; they were recently gifted with some materials to expand the garden at no cost to the school. They have a retired teacher who is a Master Gardener that continues to coordinate the program.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
REPORT

Lincoln Savage Middle School Principal Damian Crowson reported that Open House was great, and thanked Food Service Director Michael Morris for the barbecue which

served over 300 people. There is a new schedule at the school this year which builds in collaboration time and time for students to work on core subjects in which they need additional support. They have a new computer lab with 40 computers in Mr. Wardle's math classroom. They also have a new used computer lab in one of their portables that students are using for research and keyboarding. He shared the athletic numbers—about 24% of the student body is participating in sports this current season.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
REPORT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Crowson shared that Applegate School held their Open House in September and had a great family turnout. They have elected their Student Council and have planned a school-wide spirit week for the week of October 29th. Harvest Festival is scheduled for November 9th. Applegate, like all the middle schools, is working hard to establish an intervention/enrichment system that works with their unique environment. He also shared that for the first time in Lorna Byrne history they were named as an Outstanding school. At Fleming, it is the sixth year in a row that they were recognized as Outstanding. Mr. Crowson also stated that Fleming Principal John George wanted to thank the PTO and volunteer coaches for all of their time and efforts.

Hidden Valley High School Principal Daye Stone shared that at the start of the year when he was hired he didn't know what to expect, but was happy to report that there has been more passion, energy and vision that he has experienced from the School Board down to the teachers to parents and kids to make this place special. In speaking for all three high schools, the Wednesday enrichment periods are in practice at all three high schools with the goal of getting kids over the top. They are offering enrichment opportunities for kids that have their grades right and the students that are struggling are getting interventions from teachers to close the learning and achievement gaps. He explained how the rotations are working at each of the high schools. Mr. Stone reported that it is progress report time and the incompletes are high. It is going to take time for students to understand the new process. He expects the incompletes to be down by the end of the trimester. The class loads are high, there are some classes pushing 40, and a few over 40. In all three schools they are working to level the numbers. They are focusing on how to meet writing proficiency and exploring interventions. They are working on applying PBIS in the secondary school setting and a reward system for students and staff. Collaboration is continuing on non-contact days as well as utilizing live video conferencing.

HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT

There was discussion by the board to better understand the 'incompletes' and how the enrichment and intervention programs were working.

Member Meier requested the minutes from the September 24th Special Session be removed from the Consent Agenda due to a minor correction that needs to be made. They will be voted on at the November meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Meier moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included a revised coaches list and an added out-of-state travel request for Hidden Valley FBLA. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Jerome Prairie parent Mandy York stated that she has 4 children in the district, two at Hidden Valley, one at Lincoln Savage and one at Jerome Prairie. She lives on Riverbanks Road and expressed concern with potential reconfiguration which could send her elementary student to the north valley side. Her family is very invested in the Hidden Valley area through sports and other programs.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Illinois Valley math teacher Michael Bradley expressed his appreciation to the Board, and recognizes all they do for the district. He has been a teacher in the district for eight years, and taught for 17 years. He is proud that he is a teacher, but recognizes the financial difficulty that they have faced over the last several years. As a teacher rep for his building, he would like to see their contract settled as quickly as possible.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS
(CONTINUED)

Member Litak expressed that on behalf of the rest of the Board they share that sentiment.

Teacher Rebecca Kelly stated she has been a teacher at Evergreen Elementary for the last 14 years. She is currently teaching third grade and her class size is 33, 20 of which are boys. She explained the difficulty in meeting district expectations versus the realities of large class size and requested a smaller class size - "class size matters". PE, art and music have also been handed over to the elementary classroom teacher. Ms. Kelly stated that the classrooms at Evergreen are currently: 30-31 in first grade, 34 in each of the second grades and 33 in each third grade. Students and teachers are overloaded and teachers are not as effective and she cares that she is not as effective.

Evergreen Elementary second grade teacher Sally Clements also spoke to the large class sizes. In 2010 the Sustainability Committee determined that for first through third grade that a maximum for class size should be 30, with 28:1 as their recommendation. She struggles daily with the ability to meet the needs of all of her students. "Class size matters" and she requested a 2nd/3rd grade blended class be added, which would reduce the class sizes down closer to 27.

Illinois Valley parent Kate Dwyer explained the benefit that her children had due to lower class sizes. She backed up the request of Ms. Kelly and Ms. Clements to lower the class sizes at Evergreen.

Member Litak stated that he had raised the issue of the large class sizes at Evergreen last month and Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that the choice was made at the building level was to have lower numbers in the fourth grade classes (23). They elected to not do a 3rd/4th blend and go with straight grade level classes, even if the numbers were a bit higher. Ms. Breckner added that with existing staff they could reconfigure teachers and reduce the class sizes in the lower grades.

Member Meier agreed with the need for lower class sizes, but explained the difficulty in meeting the needs of the students due to the lack of appropriate state funding. Our district starts off with less money per student due to transportation costs. She encouraged people to share their concerns at the state level.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola added that we can look at solutions within the building, as well as cost out bringing in an additional teacher. The Board requested an update in November.

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL UPDATE

Woodland Charter School administrator Stacey Denton reported that they are into their fourth week of school. There are currently 62 students enrolled. She announced that Woodland Charter School was awarded a federal grant from the US Department of Education's charter school program. They will receive \$250,000 this year and if successful they will receive an additional \$150,000 the following year. The funds will go towards educational supplies and equipment, professional development for their teachers, and outreach. They are one of 15 schools in the nation to receive the grant; there were six in the state of Oregon.

Ms. Denton noted that their site development is moving forward. The road is installed and graveled, water and electrical lines have been laid. They have scheduled delivery of their modular buildings next week. Some issues with DEQ may slow them down a bit. The temporary location at Gateway church is going well.

The next step will be planning a playground. They are coming in under budget on their site development and feel confident they will reach their fundraising goal for development.

Member Litak congratulated them on receiving the federal grant. He asked if those funds could be used toward facilities? Ms. Denton responded that it is a non-construction grant and cannot be used for operational expenses.

Manzanita Elementary Principal Jessica Durrant explained the logistic difficulties with rainy day recess. They would like to build an outside covered structure. The plans were presented to the Board, and she explained the structure would be approximately 15' x 120'. She has met with the Fire Marshall and Maintenance Supervisor Robert Horban to discuss facility access to the back of the school for emergency equipment. They currently have a private donor willing to donate \$20,000 if they can get matching grants. She has the backing of both the PTA and Site Council. The are can be utilized for PE as well as recess.

MANZANITA COVERED
PLAY AREA

Ms. Durrant requested Board support to move forward in seeking out donors and getting three bids for the project. She will bring information from the bids and grants back to the Board.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola shared the official notification from State Chief Education Officer Rudy Crew that our Achievement Compact was approved by the state.

OEIB RESPONSE TO
ACHIEVEMENT COMPACT

Director Doug Ely reported that the district has processed over 200 transfer requests this year. There were 67 incoming transfers approved, and 74 outgoing transfers were approved. A total transfer difference of only seven is pretty good. One of the things that has helped this year is the move towards the Odysseyware Online program. We have 14 students participating in Online Plus (tutor supported online) and have an additional 10 home school students utilizing our program to access their education through the district. This provides another option to our students and he looks for the number to increase over time. These are not kids that we are losing from our schools to go into online; they are kids that would have been dropouts and we are giving them new hope in a different area and some were never in our school system that are now accessing our curriculum.

INTER-DISTRICT
TRANSFER REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that as part of legislation in SB1581 it stated that school boards have to appoint an Achievement Compact Advisory Committee. He has met with representatives of the employee bargaining groups to get input. Their role is that they will look at our Achievement Compact, look at the progress we are making, and will give a report back to the Board some time before February 1st for the Board to consider before we look at next year's Achievement Compact. Members of the Committee include:

RESOLUTION TO
APPOINT ACHIEVEMENT
COMPACT COMMITTEE

- Sabrina Skoog Madrona and Jerome Prairie Teacher
- Cassie Banuelos Lincoln Savage MS Teacher
- Lorilyn Townes Hidden Valley HS Teacher
- Constance Marr Fruitdale Elementary Library Manager
- John George Fleming MS Principal
- Daye Stone Hidden Valley HS Principal
- Jessica Durrant Manzanita Elementary Principal
- Dave Valenzuela Federal Programs Director
- Doug Ely High School Programs Director
- Stephanie Allen Student Services Director
- Dan Huber-Kantola Superintendent/Member at large

APPROVED

Member Meier moved to approve the Resolution of Appoint Achievement Compact Committee and Member Litak seconded. After a brief discussion a vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

CLASSIFIED (OSEA)
CONTRACT

Director Breckner reported that the district has reached a tentative agreement with the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), which represents our classified staff, on

CLASSIFIED (OSEA)
CONTRACT (CONTINUED)

their financial reopener for this school year to reach what the financial terms would be. Along with that financial reopener both the district and the Association were able to open two additional articles to address any other concerns there may be. She requested the Board approve the financial reopener with OSEA which includes updated definitions of substitute and temporary employees, providing e-mail access to the group for the Union President, financial terms that represent a zero percent COLA for the 2012-13 school year, no steps for the 2012 school year and clarification on inclement weather procedures. In addition OSEA suggested we take a look at the way we pay our substitute staff and asked the district to consider reducing that rate to minimum wage which is \$8.80/hour for the 2012-13 school year. That reduction, along with their efforts to reduce absenteeism led to a proposal that would reduce the contract immediately by six work days. In the event they were not able to save the equivalent of four additional days, both through the reduction of changing the substitute wages as well as trying to reduce their absenteeism, the district has the ability to reduce an additional four days in June. There are a lot of advantages to the proposal: 1) We are able to see the six day savings immediately; 2) It gives the employees the ability to impact their own outcome for the year with the additional four days being held in reserve if needed and some of the language things will help the administration in terms of snow days and how to use temporary and substitute employees, and the differences between those. As pointed out in her Board Report, this would be the third year in a row that employees would not have been compensated for a full year. We have reached this tentative agreement and it has been ratified by the classified union and she requested the Board approve the reopener.

Member Litak moved to approve the OSEA Classified financial reopener/contract as presented and Member Meier seconded.

Member Horban asked how the projected PERs rates will affect our district down the road? District Accountant Lisa Cross responded that the rate will be 1.5% worse than what we had estimated a year ago—about \$250,000 from the General Fund.

Member Litak clarified that the \$8.80 rate for minimum wage will only apply through the end of the 2012 calendar year and then will go up in January.

Director Breckner added the other issue has been a concern about our ability to maintain substitutes for minimum wage. We will be addressing that for positions where we have a substitute service in a capacity in the same assignment for longer than five days. There is a solution for that.

Member Meier commented that she appreciates the sacrifices of the classified employee group. They wish they could do more for all of the employees than what they are able to do.

APPROVED

Board Chair Lengwin called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 8:35

Ron Lengwin
Chairperson of the Board

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk