

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2024**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the District Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. The meeting was streamed online for the public and is currently available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZXEpGY--GQ&t=8008s>

PRESENT:

Rich Halsted, Board Chair
Jennifer Johnstun, Board Vice-Chair
Nancy Reese, Board Member
Pat Kelly, Board Member
Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent

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

Administrators present: Renee Hulst, Heather Yount, Kellie Lovell, Mark Higgins and Mike Herzog.

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

Member Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Johnstun seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Board members, the District Leadership Team, and Superintendent shared an outstanding school or district highlight of an event, activity, and/or kudos to TRSD staff.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Superintendent Valenzuela shared that January is School Board Recognition month and read aloud a resolution recognizing our board members for all they do and proclaiming the month of January to be School Board Recognition month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Valenzuela provided the Board with information on the following items:

- Bond – May Special Election – At the February 7th work session the board will be talking about the parameters for what the school board might approve at the February 21st meeting around the bond. In preparation of that vote, he stated he will be asking the board to pursue a bond in the May Special Election. In May 2021 the district went out for a bond in the amount of \$82 million, which would have amounted to \$86 million due to a matching OSCIM grant from the state. The bond would

have paid for HVAC upgrades, roofing, domestic water upgrades, covered outdoor learning spaces, additional classrooms, CTE expansions, windows, siding, exterior renovations, gym floor replacements and more. For that bond the district was clearly told no by the voters. That bond was \$.95c/1000 on a twenty-year bond. This time he will be asking the board to narrow our focus to two things: roofing and school security and safety. All of the district roofs have been through an extensive evaluation process by outside companies and the best estimate at this time is a \$34 million roofing liability for Three River School District. He urged the Board to go out for a \$39 million bond. He shared the district has been successful in obtaining a \$5.5 million OSCIM grant which would allow for the district to put \$34 million towards roofing and roughly \$10 million towards school safety and security. We have to protect the investments we have. It is his hope that Josephine County is ready to support the investments that we have. The district would be asking for \$39 million and on a 15-year bond it would be \$166 a year on the average, \$303,000 assessed value home – or \$.55c/1000. For a 20-year loan it lowers to \$.43c/1000 or about \$130/year on the average home. Member Kelly asked for clearer definition on the safety aspect of the bond. \$10 million would go towards the safety and security of 15 different locations. Some of the security upgrades would include fencing, hardening access points, buzz-in systems, cameras, lighting and elimination of blind spots.

- Fruitdale Park update - He has been working with the City of Grants Pass to find a solution. He reviewed the issue of Fruitdale School property overlapping with Fruitdale City Park property and the ongoing safety issues due to the homeless encampment at the park. We have been met with resistance from the City to put up any type of fencing or barrier due to the federal injunction. He has expressed our concerns at a park meeting and has also had the City come to Fruitdale School to observe the situation and have been met with no results. He will continue the fight to be heard.

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 – January 2024
- Athletic Coaches – January 2024
- Draft Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - December 20, 2023 – Regular
- Grant Request (1)

- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Reese seconded the motion; Board Chair Halsted called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Six community members addressed the board: Victoria Marshall, Mariah Rossi, Oliva Herrera, Pam White, Rick Nelson and Judy Ahrens.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Community Partner of the Month Recognition**
 - Director Allen-Hart shared a video presentation put together by the Hidden Valley Lifeskills program that acknowledges and shows gratitude to the Josephine County Food Bank and the Grants Pass Active Club. The presentation highlighted the Hidden Valley High School Life Skills Food Pantry Program that collaborates with the Josephine County Food Pantry to provide food for students and their families in need to address food insecurity in our district at all schools. None of this would happen without the Active Club generously matching payroll deduction contributions from Three Rivers Staff. JCYF has also graciously sponsored us through the summer food program the last three summers at Hidden Valley High School and

in 2022 received the All-State Foundation grant allowing us to reach out to all corners of the district, feeding thousands of people. This year the Life Skills Food Pantry program has averaged over 55 boxes a week since September, serving over 250 Three Rivers students and parents each week. As of the end of December the food pantry program has been expanded to now include schools in the North Valley and Illinois Valley areas.

Representatives from the Josephine County Food and the Grants Pass Active Club were at the meeting to accept the award. Hidden Valley Life Skills teacher Dennis DeCasas shared information on the program and thanked our community partners for their support.

ACTION ITEMS

● 2024-2025 Student Calendar

- Deputy Superintendent Alderson shared that the proposed student calendar for the 2024-2025 school year meets all the requirements from the state, in terms of seat time and instructional minutes. It also aligns with most of our region, including Grants Pass District 7.
- Member Kelly made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 student calendar. Member Reese seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

● TRSD FY 23 Audited Financial Statements

- District Accountant Lisa Cross brought forward the Three Rivers annual financial statements and auditors report as of year-end June 30, 2023. In summary, the auditors expressed an unmodified opinion. This means the financial statements give a true and fair view of the district's financial position and that they comply with all material respects to financial reporting. There were no deficiencies noted and there were no material weaknesses in reference to the district's internal controls and no instances of non-compliance. Once again, our district qualifies as a low-risk auditee.
- Member Reese made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Member Johnstun seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

● Budget Committee Members – Zones I and IV

- District Accountant Lisa Cross stated that there are still two positions open on the Budget Committee in zones I (Cave Junction) and IV (North Valley). We received one application from Rick Nelson for the North Valley area.
- Member Kelly made a motion to Rick Nelson to be appointed to the zone IV Budget Committee position. Member Reese seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The zone I position is still open, and we will be accepting applications until the position is filled.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- There were none.

FUTURE MEETING DATES.

- Board Work Session – Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 5:00 p.m. at the District Office
- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m. at the Hidden Valley High School
 - Student Panel at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Halsted adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.