

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
September 15, 2021**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 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, the meeting was streamed online for the public.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Rich Halsted, Board Member
Danny York, Board Member
Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent

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

ABSENT:

Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Jenn Searle, Board Member

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. She explained that the meeting had to be restarted due to technical difficulties. She then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Halsted made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously (3-0, members Kelly and Searle absent).

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Member Halsted shared that he is exceptionally proud of this school district for being able to pull off and be one of the first school districts in the state to start school with kids in school. Even though there will be some COVID hiccups along the way, he is exceptionally proud of the staff and students and parents to get this school year going. Member York recognized the Hidden Valley college and career center, specifically Carla Carter, following up with last year's graduates to make sure that they are where they need to be and when they need to be there, as far as their career paths ahead of them. As the father of a recent graduate, he really appreciates the extra effort! Board Chair Johnstun shared that the district now has a newly opened school-based health center at North Valley High School. We have a great community provider that will be staffing that clinic. There are not any type of health care facilities in the Merlin area, so, as a mom, if the kids were sick and needed to be seen there would be quite a bit of travel involved. Having access to services in this area will be beneficial and keep kids in school. Director Alderson announced that there is a plethora of new CTE programs around the district. Teachers have been getting supplies so that their classrooms are ready on day one. There is a FFA chapter starting up at North Valley HS. Hidden Valley FFA chapter had an Open Barn event for the community to come through and check out the things their students are going to be doing this year in the ag program. There is a lot of excitement for all these programs. Director Durrant recognized Allie Berg, who is an instructional coach for elementary. She has been a game changer! Allie has brought so many things and we appreciate her willingness to dive in and support teachers and principals, as well as her willingness to learn. She also recognized the support she has received from Jessica Falkenhagen, Damian Crowson, Erik Lathen and Justin Wright while conducting the contract tracing on the high school cases. Director Allen-Hart also acknowledged the K-8 crew who have also been doing a great job. The administrators are doing a great job in assisting with this while also running their buildings. Director Saunders is amazed at the work that our food service staff is doing because

there are some really challenging circumstances. We are short staffed – but we have people that have stepped in from other areas to serve our students food. Our farm to school grant is also exciting – we just got almost 2000 pounds of fresh produce from Fort Vannoy Farms and some other sources. Superintendent Valenzuela shared his Say Something Positive is reflective of some of the other things already shared. The staff is doing a great job with parents showing great care. Evergreen Principal Jenny Jones and her support team are incredible! He then shared interactions with Lorna Byrne administrators Danny Pratt and John Seidel, who were teaching due to no subs, and doing awesome work! Then went to Illinois Valley HS and found principal Tanner Smith meeting with staff and our Josephine County Outreach Officer talking about each individual student at the high school and how to best support them. That level of care and compassion is a testament to the much-improved graduation rate. He was truly inspired by what he saw in the Illinois Valley!

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- *What’s Happening* – He is incredibly proud of this district. We have kids back in school, all day long, every day. We are at nearly 4000 students and enrollment is coming up to a healthy level. The kids are coming back to amazing things: music, construction, manufacturing, wood shop, agriculture, art, drama and more! Over the last year and a half we have really invested in our teaching staff and it shows. It is of highest importance to him to make sure school is fun, engaging and meaningful for kids and that is what we’re doing. We are building on that success every day – he is seeing a lot of smiles behind the masks.
- *Lincoln Savage wastewater treatment project* – He provided an in-depth update on this huge project that has been going on since March of 2020. It is expected to be complete in 2-3 weeks.
- *SB 744 – Graduation requirements state of Oregon* – Explained the misconception around the “dumbing down” of Oregon’s graduation requirements. The bill removes the Smarter Balance assessment as a requirement for graduation, but students are now allowed to demonstrate their skills in other ways.
- *Mandates* – There are still a small handful of families adamantly opposed to students wearing masks at school. The large number of families love that their kids are in school. Even with our efforts to mask, social distance, screen and quarantine when appropriate, we are hitting a critical mass when it comes to managing the outbreaks in our schools. We have quarantined over 600 students at one point or another and approaching 100 staff members over the course of the school year so far.

Regarding the vaccine mandate for our staff – would he have chosen it? Probably not – but it’s here and we are dealing with it. It’s hard and there is a lot of emotion and feelings about it. There is substantially less work for our contract tracing staff when it involves vaccinated staff and/or students. Vaccinations are also keeping more people in schools. He then shared that we just lost a beautiful and impactful staff member to COVID and can’t contemplate the idea of more loss. At this time he is standing up for our staff and students and doing everything we can to keep every one of our kids in school.

Board members then followed up with comments, sharing their thoughts about the vaccine mandate. They then agreed that Board Chair Johnstun and Member Halsted would co-author a letter to Governor Brown expressing their concerns with the vaccine mandate for staff.

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 – September 2021
- Athletic Coaches – September 2021
- Request from North Valley HS to re-establish FFA Career Technical Student Organization
- North Valley and Rogue River’s Cooperative team for boys soccer
- Board policy ACBA – *Every Student Policy*
- Member York made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Halsted seconded the motion; Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Superintendent Valenzuela and board members read all of the written public comments aloud that were received prior to the meeting. Eighteen written comments were received, and they were all scanned and emailed to board members prior to the start of the meeting. The majority of the comments were in regard to the Every Student Policy and mandates (mask and vaccine). There was also a comment about the board meeting only being available to the public online, a concern from an elementary parent about the lack of schoolwork available for her quarantined student and a person advocating for John Chambers as a Civics teacher for one of the newly proposed planned course statements. All of the written comments will be scanned and added to the online board packet, so they are available to the public.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Project Management Services Award of RFP**
 - District Accountant Lisa Cross stated that the district issued an RFP for Project Management Services at the end of July. We had five companies express an interest and ultimately two companies submitted bids. After the evaluation process and conducting online interviews, HMK Company was awarded the bid. Currently the district has two projects: the Fleming seismic rehabilitation project and the addition of classrooms at Fruitdale. HMK was selected for their extensive K-12 history, they have a presence in southern Oregon, they have a fee-based schedule and innovative project ideas.
- **Annual English Language Learner (ELL) State Report**
 - Director Durrant shared that our English Language Learner (ELL) program is alive and well and one of the requirements for the state is to put before the board the statewide ELL Report. The link is in the board packet, posted on our website and on the ODE website. This is the 2019-2020 report. We currently have 78 students in our EL department and approximately 27 more that will be screened in the next thirty days. We have 45 elementary, 16 middle school and 13 high school students. Once the student exits the ELL program they will continue to be monitored for two years.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Independent Adoption for K-5 Three Rivers Virtual Online School (TVOS)**
 - Director Durrant stated that TVOS was born out of the need for an alternative platform for elementary learning. One of the new requirements for the Ready Schools Safe Learners Resiliency Framework is that if you are using a program for an online platform, the curriculum has to be officially adopted. Last year the district used Pearson, it was really rough and had major challenges and the contract was not renewed for this school year. A team was put together to research alternatives and found that Florida Virtual School (FLVS) was the best. The program is currently in use, and it is fantastic! Parents have reported much less confusion from their students and the teachers are very happy as it integrates with Canvas.
 - Member York made a motion to approve Florida Virtual School as the online curriculum for adoption for the K-5 TVOS program. Member Halsted seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
- **Student Investment Account (SIA) Annual Report – 2020-2021**
 - Director Durrant explained that the board report contains the answers to the four questions about how the district used the Student Investment Account (SIA) money for the past year. The responses were put together by the District Leadership Team and others involved in the program, with support from SOESD, and Lisa Cross for the financial piece. This report is a yearly requirement, and the report is required by the state to be presented and approved by the Board and is due at the end of this month.
 - Member York made a motion to approve the SIA Annual Report. Member Halsted seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution (#01) to Declare Surplus Property**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela stated that we have been having discussions about the Selma property for quite some time and trying to figure out how best to utilize that property. This resolution, which has been reviewed by our legal counsel, will declare that property as surplus and no longer suitable for student use. This will then allow us to list that property. The board will still have to approve a purchaser and a purchase price down the road. We have seen some interest in that property by local Selma and Cave Junction area residents and maybe that will happen once it's listed. Once the resolution is adopted, we will work with our real estate agent on how to list the property to be contingent on board approval.
 - Member Halsted made a motion to approve resolution #01 to Declare Surplus Property. Member York seconded the motion; there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Confidential Memorandum of Agreement – Sick Leave Bank**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela explained that the Confidential Memorandum of Agreement is simply a clerical adjustment to make sure that we are allowing for the maximum number of days to be accessed in the sick leave bank for the confidential employee group. It used to say “8”, but the forms they filled out always said “20”, so this MOA just corrects that error in the contract.
 - Member Halsted made a motion to approve the Confidential Memorandum of Agreement for the sick leave bank. Member York seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Planned Course Statements**
 - Summer Academy
 - Link Crew Mentor
 - Civics
 - Conceptual Physics

 - Director Alderson reviewed the four Planned Course Statements on the agenda for board approval.
 - Board members asked some questions and expressed their excitement about the new courses being offered.
 - Member Halsted made a motion to approve the four Planned Course Statements. Member York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Member Halsted asked about delving into the board goals a bit more? It was decided that would be an October work session item.
- Board Chair Johnstun would like to continue to see absenteeism rates as they relate to quarantine to get an idea on the impact on the district.
- Member York asked that someone follow up with the Madrona parent that we heard from in the Public Comment period. It's an issue that applies to other students and families as well.
- Board Chair Johnstun also requested to hear in October how the vaccine mandate is effecting our district.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Work Session - Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. (Time and location changed as the student panel at Hidden Valley High School was cancelled)

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.