

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, January 9, 2012 at the Three Rivers District Administration Office, 8550 New Hope, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ron Lengwin, Chairperson of the Board, Zone V
Bob Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I
Jadd Horban, Member of the Board, Zone II
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III
Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of Student Services
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education

PRESENT

Also Present: Brett Pyren, Maya Reumes, Kathy Kali, Helene Bisnaire, Heidi Hayriya-Hansen, Tobias Hatfrey, Richard Ziff, Dan Zeklan, Sharana Finekee, Shauna Kenealey, Jesse McNamara, JoAnn Bethany/Illinois Valley HS Principal, Brian Hannagan, Corbin Brasher, Madrone Eyebright, Kevin Marr, Chris Jelderks, Jono Van Brock, Michael Morris/Sodexo, David Bellenbaum, Celeste Guillory, Tony Guillory, Steven Sandberg/KDRV News 12, Casey Anderson/Illinois Valley HS Assistant Principal, Linda Kappan, Dave Marks, Debbie Yerby, Dave Bracken/Aramark, Scott Head, Samantha Osborne, Van Grainger, Patti Richter/Daily Courier, Stacey Denton, Jozsef Quinn, Renee Hults, Mandy York, Julie McCue, Wensdae Davis, Daniele Anderson 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 stated that January is *School Board Recognition Month*. He thanked the schools for the signs, flowers and letters presented to the School Board to thank them for all they do. Superintendent Huber-Kantola expressed his appreciation to each member of the School Board for volunteering their time and dedication to the schools, kids and the district. He then read the Proclamation from Governor John Kitzhaber.

RECOGNITION OF
EXCELLENCE

In keeping with the theme of *School Board Recognition Month*, Superintendent Huber-Kantola gave the Board a 'Pop Quiz'. The quiz highlighted some of the outstanding accomplishments made by the schools and students of Three Rivers School District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

With the absence of Lisa Cross Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that between the last meeting on December 13th and January 9th nothing has really changed financially. Last month the ending fund balance was projected to be \$1.7 million and this month it's projected to be \$1.7 million as well.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Member Meier asked to pull the minutes from December 12th and table them for approval until next month. There are some potential corrections that will require Board Secretary, Shelly Quick, to go back and review the recording. Member Meier then moved to approve the rest of the Consent Agenda as presented. Member

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

Horban seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

The following patrons spoke in support of the Woodland Charter School:

- Scott Head—Entrepreneur, Moved from Portland to Williams
- Dr. Shavana Fineberg—Clinical Psychologist, Williams resident
- Tobias Hatfield—Williams resident
- Kathy Kali—Entrepreneur, Williams resident
- Wensdae Davis—Woodland Charter School Developer
- Shane Jimerfield—Parent, Murphy resident
- Stacey Denton—Woodland Charter School Developer
- Daniele Anderson—Madrone Trail Co-Founder
- Dan Zaklan—New Josephine County resident; 38 years public school and administrative experience
- Richard Ziff—Woodland Charter School Developer

Tony Guillory stated he represents a local chapter of a National youth organization which operates in Merlin. Mr. Guillory spoke in support of the proposed use of drug dogs in the school. He believes that kids are entitled to a safe and drug-free learning environment.

Dr. Harvey Diamond stated the use of drug dogs is “ridiculous”. He believes children should not be placed in uncomfortable situations and it interferes with the children’s right to privacy and respect.

A recess was called for at 7:50 PM

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 PM

2011 FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS AND
AUDIT

With the absence of District Accountant Lisa Cross, the item was tabled until next month.

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL

Director Peter Maluk stated that Three Rivers School District and Woodland Charter School (WCS) both agreed to request for the State Board of Education (SBE) for a postponement in hopes that we could reach an agreement. Since then we have been looking at three areas; the application as it pertains to: 1) student performance, achievement and programs; 2) the budget ramifications and 3) the potential for site development in the area located at the Hidden Valley campus.

In the area of the curriculum and programs, all of the recommendations that the district made in response to the original application have been made and are satisfactory and the district can support it.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola addressed the two remaining issues. In speaking with our attorney, it is not unusual for a district that would be approving a charter school, to be done so on a conditional basis. Some of the standard conditions are that the district and charter would be able to reach agreement on a contract and a lease, the site would be up and running with all of the necessary permits no later than a month before the opening of the school and insurance would be active, with all of the necessary liability coverage. This would be a pretty standard request for charter school start-ups. The proposed conditional approval before the Board is about the site being adequately developed. Ultimately that does not fall within the district’s responsibility. Our lone responsibility on the site is to get rid of the two buildings that are existing. We are currently scheduled on February 10th for the Fire Department to go to Hidden Valley High School and they will conduct classroom activities on instruction on burning. Then on February 11th they will conduct a ‘Burn to Learn’ on both of the buildings. Shortly thereafter we will finish cleaning up the site, which will conclude our site responsibilities. At that point it becomes the responsibility of Woodland, if approved, to develop the site.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reflected back to when we looked at the budget for the proposed Sunny Wolf Charter School and the various budgets that were reviewed. In the end, none of them were completely accurate—it ended up being what it was once the school opened and the students showed up. With the proposed Woodland Charter School budget, it just depends on how many kids actually leave the district to attend the charter school and how many kids come in from outside the district. They could develop scenarios that over the next three years would actually gain the district somewhere in the neighborhood of \$40-50,000 and you can develop scenarios where the district loses \$40-50,000 in the same three-year time period. That is the range of the risk/reward financially that exists. Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that he can support the latest proposal. He explained the difference between recommending and supporting. He believes it can be done, although there are some reservations. We have taken steps in negotiations to get the budget as close to being neutral as is absolutely possible with the 80% pass-through and a cap on the number of Three Rivers students. He recommended a cap of 75 students. If the proposal is conditionally approved, Woodland Charter will still need to come up with about \$100,000 or more for site development, and will have to have it complete before August 5th. They will also need to raise some funds to operate the school.

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL
(CONTINUED)

Member Meier asked if the resolution for conditional approval stated one of the contingencies is the successful negotiation and execution of a charter school agreement? Is that where items such as the cap are going to be? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded yes, but feel like we have accepted a cap of 20 students from Three Rivers School District.

Member Meier commented that she noticed in the information provided that there would not be a Director this year—who will be doing those functions? Stacey Denton responded that the developers will act in that capacity. There will be a part-time office manager/bookkeeper. Member Meier asked how the services get provided to the English Language Learners? Director Maluk responded that we would have some responsibilities, depending upon the need. We might have to have that student transported to Madrona for part of the day; or might just be consultation with our ELL staff.

Member Meier asked in terms of the contingencies, the negotiation of the charter agreement and lease agreement; she asked if both of those would take Board approval after an agreement has been reached with the Woodland Charter developers? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that yes they would and recommend that a timeline be attached such as the March Board meeting.

Member Meier also responded to the patron who commented that the Board members “came with their minds made up”. She stated that her mind was not already made up and personally this has been one of the most difficult issues facing her as a board member. She expressed her appreciation for what the Woodland Charter developers are doing and their willingness to work with the district. Her passion is for the small rural schools, specifically Applegate and Williams, which has always been a fight for survival. Which brings up her concern that there are already two really outstanding schools in our district that are always on edge in terms of their survival. It is important to not take away the choice for those students and families. Member Meier acknowledged that there is some hesitation about the enrollment cap, which also occurred with Sunny Wolf, but that made it work. Another issue of concern is in regards to the lease. Member Meier expressed that she would have a really hard time approving a 30-year lease without any kind of ‘out’ for the district. We currently have a school on the proposed charter school site, which is different than the situation with Sunny Wolf and we don’t know what it will mean; if it causes disruption or issues for the school that is there that we can’t work out we need to be able to protect the high school that is there. Also, if the high school needs that property we need to put that first. There needs to be some discussion along those lines. One of the

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

suggestions made by Member Meier was rather than a 30 or 60-day notice would be to give a school year notice so that they would be assured nothing would happen in the midst of a school year. Member Meier stated the 80% pass-through was a big one for her and would like to see this work out.

Some discussion was held regarding the various lease situations that currently exist in the district to protect both the district and those leasing our property.

Member Crume commented that he and Ms. Denton had a phone conversation and feels he should share with the rest of the Board where he stands. Member Crume feels like his job is to look out for the best interest of Three Rivers School District. The Woodland Charter School developers have done a wonderful job of putting everything together and it is appreciated. He sensed the passion they have for their school but will stand against it. He feels like it is not the best thing for Three Rivers School District at this time. Facing the financial troubles ahead, the loss of students and considering Applegate and Williams he is unable to support it. If it works out, that's great—and he will support it.

Member Litak stated that in December the Board was told that it would be impossible to do this without an 85% pass-through; what's changed between then and now that they can do it at 80%? Ms. Denton responded that they are putting themselves on the hook to raise more money and also the removal of the kindergarten program from the school design is such that the program is very costly. Kindergarten students are only funded at one-half ADM and because of the high cost of running a Waldorf kindergarten and the low income generated from the ADM for those children they removed it from the school design. That coupled with a willingness to raise the necessary funds they think that there is a better chance for wide-spread community support if the funds for the charter go through the local school district with the school district as a sponsor; so they are willing to compromise and believe in their community that there will be the support to put forth the funds that will be needed to cover any shortfalls. Lastly, removing the administrator position from the budget for the first year also makes it feasible.

Member Litak asked about the possibility to save money utilizing surplus modulars within the district? WCS still has an item in the budget for \$26,000 to rent modulars. Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that Lincoln Savage does have a couple of modular classrooms that could be utilized; they don't have the bathrooms. Ms. Denton commented that they were not aware of them until today. She added that the line item for renting modulars could be looked at as a placeholder. If there is the potential for modulars that are owned by the district to become available at a competitive price then they will look at that option closely.

Member Litak noted that there is a lot of fundraising needed and the budget appears pretty tight. He asked what was the district's financial responsibility, if any, if they are not able to meet their fundraising goals and not able to pay the bills? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that we will have no responsibility. Director Maluk added that he spoke with Kate Pattison from the Oregon Department of Education about anything that's in the Conditional Agreement; it is the responsibility of Woodland to meet the expectations. If they don't meet the lease expectations or they don't meet their financial expectations—on the August 5th deadline the contract dissolves and things will go back to ground zero. If problems arise, schools can be closed mid-year and the financial liability still rests on the Board of Directors for the charter school.

Ms. Denton clarified that in the signed declaration in their proposal they agreed to meet the August 5th deadline for having all necessary permits and readiness proven. Should that not be met they would propose to open the school in the subsequent academic

year. So it would not be a dissolution of the charter altogether, but a delay.

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

Member Litak commented that given their response it seems that the district does not need to worry if the WCS budget is viable. He then added that he is very impressed by the diligence, tenacity and perseverance that the developers have exhibited in their endeavor.

Member Meier asked a question regarding the overall enrollment cap. The proposal reflected a year-by-year step up—is that also something that can be negotiated? Her concern is that she would like to see that approved each year by the Board, as was done by Sunny Wolf. She would like to minimize the disruption and the threat to the other schools in the community and ensure some safeguards, especially in terms of the other two schools. Mr. Ziff responded that as pointed out earlier—it is all about the kids. They feel that if the child's needs are better met by the charter, then it is a successful transfer. Member Meier commented that is true, but we don't want to take the choice away from the remaining kids anywhere.

Ms. Denton asked for clarification from Member Meier in that if she is requesting that the cap be renegotiated annually—as that is not how it is for Sunny Wolf. It was drafted in their contract and set as a certain number for each of the three years. Member Meier responded that she wants to see some kind of safeguard to ensure that we would take a huge financial hit that would impact all the other kids in our district—or a huge impact to Applegate or Williams.

Member Horban suggested that if the charter should grow, the district could consider a percentage in regards to the cap.

Member Meier made a motion to approve the Resolution for Conditional Approval for Woodland Charter School subject to the outlined conditions with a change to item #6 which states "*That the projected \$18,000 out-of-pocket costs TRSD faces from lost revenue in the transferring of existing TRSD students into Woodland Charter School be relieved through a grant from the Woodland Educational Initiative to TRSD for a maximum of \$18,000 by the end of the 2012-2013 school year . . .*" to be modified "*or through a lease that brings in a comparable amount of revenue by the end of the 2012-2013 school year to Three Rivers School District*". It was also requested to make a change to #3 in wording and change "*the towns of Williams and Applegate*" to "*outside the attendance areas of Williams and Applegate*". Member Horban seconded the motion.

Member Litak stated that he had voted against the charter when it came up before. But the developers have re-worked the proposal and we are all fortunate that the Legislature passed a law that was actually beneficial to the situation which made a big difference. The financial impact should be minimal and believes we can mitigate the impacts on Williams. There are a lot of unknowns, and we need to keep some flexibility to address any upcoming issues. The charter school will provide kids with another alternative; different kids learn better in different ways and if we can provide that without hurting the rest of the kids in the district he believes we should do it.

Member Meier added that assuming this passes there will be many challenges ahead in terms of work and negotiating the lease and the charter agreement. She would like the Board to be kept informed as to what is going on, even though they are not involved in the actual negotiations.

APPROVED

Board Chair Lengwin called for a vote; 4-1 (Member Crume opposing).

Member Meier congratulated the Woodland Charter School developers and expressed her appreciation to the district staff which has worked tirelessly. Ms. Davis thanked Superintendent Huber-Kantola and Director Maluk for spending the countless hours with

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

them to bridge the gap from a year ago to get to where they are today. She appreciates all of the work they have done together, and feels it is symbolic of what they can do and have this be a positive for the district and the entire community.

USE OF DRUG DOGS IN
SCHOOLS

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that the district does not have any intention of having a dog isolate a kid and do anything like that. The intention is that the district will say loudly and clearly our school campuses need to be drug-free. In regards to research, the learning that does not take place when the school has drug issues is enormous. The research on what kids can learn in terms of math and science if they are smoking marijuana—no question that it is a huge impediment. We are blind if we say we are living in a time when our schools and our children don't have access to drugs. Teenagers need to have boundaries, and they will try to cross over those boundaries. Having a preventative measure of having the dogs available randomly gives our students another opportunity to say 'no' and 'no I am not going to bring those to school'. After our last Board workshop and much thought, he has no qualms about bringing dogs into the schools where his kids go to school. He wants them to be safe and drug-free.

Member Meier asked for clarification as to what the drug dogs go after? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that it was marijuana, cocaine, heroin, crank and meth. They do not hit on prescription drugs.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that if you look back at the expulsions that have taken place since he was the Expulsions Officer to where Director Ely is now the Expulsions Officer, we have seen a swing where more than 50% of the expulsion he did for drugs were prescription drugs. Now, we are seeing more and more marijuana issues and distribution of marijuana.

Member Crume stated that one of his main concerns when the Sheriff was here for the workshop was that he was worried about some of the kids coming to school, and their parents could be growing and/or processing pot, and their clothes could smell like it. He would not want to humiliate one of those kids and have the dogs hit on one of them. The Sheriff assured us that they would only bring the dogs through the halls on times when the students were in classes, so the dog would not go towards any one student.

Member Meier commented that if we just have them just check lockers—what about backpacks? Are we just encouraging kids to put it in their backpack or pocket versus stashing it in their lockers? Member Crume responded that we talked about that and the idea was not to make it advertised; it was only going to be lockers at first. Just the idea to have the dogs presence at the schools to try to detour the kids from bringing the drugs to school. His kids attend Three Rivers School District schools and he wants the presence of the drug dogs there; if his kids brought drugs to school he would be in favor of arresting them. He wants kids to have a safe place and the drugs are becoming more and more evident in our schools and we are having more and more problems with it.

Member Meier asked if the district has gone to the staff, parents, Site Councils, students, or Student Government to get feedback before we reach this decision? She would have liked to see that. Member Meier acknowledged that we do have an issue, especially in our high schools as well as any high school in America. She commented that her daughter experienced some real issues back in 2008, in terms of people offering her drugs on campus or people offering her things that had drugs in them without her knowledge and things she witnessed. Her concern is that she does not want to rely on drug dogs and believes there is a deeper more fundamental problem in terms of training, in terms of staffing and in terms of attention. In speaking with some

USE OF DRUG DOGS IN
SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

students, Member Meier stated that she was told ‘everybody knows who is coming to school high’. She believes there are some training issues and believes there are some staffing issues in terms of people being overworked and not having the staff to patrol the high school parking lots after school to see what is going on. Back in the time when her daughter was in school she believes there were some failures to deal with problems that were obvious, which she complained about at the time. She wouldn’t mind this as a last resort if we did everything else and still couldn’t deal with the problem, but feels like there may be this sense that we are dealing with it, rather than doing the fundamental changes that need to happen. Member Meier would also like to consider the type of learning environment and school climate we have. She does not like the idea of police coming through with drug-sniffing dogs. If that’s what it absolutely takes in the long run, she would accept that—but would like to see other ways of solving it first and that being a real last resort. Additionally, she would like to hear feedback from the parents and Student Councils. How they would feel about it—and what other solutions are there? Member Meier also believes that we have failed the kids that were bringing drugs to school. Those kids needed intervention and we didn’t provide that for them. She also expressed concern that we are singling out one class of person and certain substances—meaning that we are talking about students, but we are not going through the Principal’s office, staff lounges and classrooms. This is not to suggest that we have a drug problem with our staff, but we are singling out students and how that would make them feel; and believes we have as much of an alcohol and prescription drug problem and it doesn’t address that. Member Meier wants to make it clear that it is her and that she is not associated with anyone else that spoke tonight, but she wants to address the substance abuse in our schools for the safety of our kids and their future but is not convinced this is the way to address it. Her thought is that if we were going to beef up our other programs and give those a try and have this as a very last resort when we can’t address it, she could probably support it. But, does not want to start having drug dogs go through next month when she believes there are a lot of other things we could and should be doing that maybe we are not doing to the best of our ability.

Member Crume stated that in response to the teachers and the parents; on the way to the meeting tonight he received a phone call from a concerned parent, which has two daughters that go to our schools, and both of them have complained on numerous occasions of going in the bathrooms and either seeing people smoking pot or smelling it. He has also received a few e-mails from teachers saying that they are completely in support of the drug dogs at the high school and feel that we need them. It’s also more than just the high schools—it’s our elementary schools and the junior high schools as well.

Member Meier responded that she agrees that you can sometimes go into the restrooms at the high schools and have the smell of pot—but why isn’t anybody dealing with that? If anybody can walk in and smell it, then why aren’t we having staff members handle it?

Superintendent Huber-Kantola commented that if you look at the expulsion rate, people are finding it. Also, in regards to training, since 2008 we have changed some of the things we have done. All of the administrators have gone through a training conducted by the State Police on not only marijuana, but prescription drugs and people being under the influence of things such as alcohol. The administrators take annual refresher training as well. There is online training that administrators take at the beginning of the school year around drugs and alcohol that is new. So, it is something where we have begun to do other training things—it is not just bringing in the dogs as the only solution.

Member Meier stated once again that she is against the drug dogs in the schools. However, assuming that it passes tonight she urged that we don’t rest on the thinking that we are dealing with the problem. She believes there is a lot more work to do. There are

USE OF DRUG DOGS IN
SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

a lot of issues—training being one of them. It may even take spending some money for certain staffing at times where things are happening so that we are catching these things. She again urged that we not think that this is going to solve the issue. That is for the sake of all the kids, including those that have a substance abuse problem.

Member Horban stated that it is important to note that with the decriminalization of certain drugs and the medical marijuana prevalence in our town that kids these days are getting mixed messages about it. We need to step up and show them that drugs and alcohol are not okay.

Member Litak commented that this would not address all of the problems. It doesn't address alcohol or prescription drugs. There is the backpack issue, although we can now search those with reasonable cause. This would send a message that we are not going to allow this and it would help. He asked how often we are looking at bringing the dogs? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that we have not yet laid out a plan. Member Litak added that he would be in favor of this as long as it's not all of the time and ongoing. He would like it to be relatively unobtrusive and not disruptive. He believes we should do it, but procedurally Member Meier brings up a good point, in that it probably would be better for us to get some feedback from Site Councils, Student Government and staff to get buy-in from those folks and there may be things that we have not yet thought about, in terms of a better way to do this or maybe issues around this that we may want to be aware of. His suggestion would be to table it and get the topic out to the schools and bring it back to the Board with feedback.

Member Horban stated that he has been asking a tremendous amount of people in regards to this topic and the charter school the last couple of weeks. It is important that we realize that our top law enforcement and our only elected law enforcement in the County thinks it's a good idea.

Ms. Bethany stated that she brought it up to her Site Council at their meeting which consists of three parents, three teachers and two classified employees. They were 100% in support of it.

APPROVED

Member Crume made a motion to allow drug dogs to come to the schools and directed the staff to establish guidelines to make it a non-disruptive to the education of the students. Member Meier seconded and the motion passed 3/2 (Members Meier and Litak opposing).

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Bracken stated he had nothing to add to his written report and asked if there were questions?

Member Meier asked if the alarms at Fruitdale were still an issue? Mr. Bracken responded that the fire alarm system is working great. There is an issue at night that they are working on. It should be fixed within the next week.

Member Meier expressed her concern in regards to the Fire Marshall inspection in that items noted last year are still issues this year. She urged that anything that is brought up as issues not be seen again. Director Breckner responded that she is reviewing those also and will be reviewing with those administrators where there were specific warnings given last year that showed up a second time.

Adjourn at 9:15 PM
