

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, February 8, 2010 at Williams Elementary, 20691 Williams Highway, Williams, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Jim Weaver, Chairperson of the Board, Zone II
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III PRESENT
Dave Strahan, Member of the Board, Zone IV
Ron Lengwin, Member of the Board, Zone V
Robert Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education
John George, Director of Secondary Education

ABSENT: Doug Ely, Director of Student Services ABSENT

Also Present: Mindi Hernandez, Michelle Sesock/Williams Principal, Diana Tonnesen, Devon Dorn, Tiffany Converse, Colleen Hoffman, Bonnie Cameron, Brenda Richardson, Wensdae Davis, Yolanda Bruton, Stacey Denton, Michael Morris/Sodexo, Clarisse Alves, Rick Alves, Mark Tonnesen, Dave Bracken/Aramark, Elly Lengwin, JoAnn Bethany/Illinois Valley H.S. Principal, Patty Dickens-Turk/Illinois Valley H.S. Vice-Principal, Joanne Wardle, Catherine Agnifili, Karen Williams, Wayne Brown and Shelly Berry/Recording Secretary. ALSO PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Weaver made an amendment to the agenda, adding a new business item 5E: Resolution 09—Classified Appreciation Week, an action item.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola announced that all site councils were visited in December or January. Williams won the award for the largest turnout at the Site Council meetings. The following topics were discussed:

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- The calendar for next year. Universally parents and staff like the day before Thanksgiving off, and requested that we continue, even if it means adding an additional day to the end of the school year.
- Still have 80% of the people in favor of the early start that took place this year.
- The overall main request from the Site Councils at the secondary level was the ability to check on students progress, grades, etc. Lorna Byrne is now piloting the Parent Assist program. The parents that signed up at conferences now have online access to their students' information.

The Three Rivers District Science Fair was held at the District Office on February 3rd. There were 180 projects from students in grades 1-8. Eight schools submitted projects: Evergreen, Ft. Vannoy, Fruitdale, Madrona, Manzanita, Williams, Fleming

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (CON'T)

and Lincoln Savage. Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported the top ten projects that are going on to the Regional competition.

The economic forecast came out today. There has not yet been an analysis by the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA), COSA, Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) or the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). There is \$200 million worth of school funding that is either put into the budget or not, based on where the economic forecast falls. What did come out of the forecast was that it is tracking slightly behind the December forecast. It looks like it will be down \$182 million from December due to: 4th quarter estimated payments down, BETC credit estimates up which results in a negative State ending fund balance of \$106.3 million.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Devon Dorn from North Valley High School stated she was asked to speak on behalf of about 82% of the North Valley staff. The staff was told by their principal that she would be retiring as opposed to being reassigned by the school district. She stated that Ms. Hugle informed the staff they were making a change in leadership at North Valley High School. Ms. Dorn stated she understands the privacy issues, but would like to ask the district to examine how this decision was made; would like the Board to come talk to some of the staff about how they feel about Ms. Hugle as their Principal. Ms. Dorn presented a packet that outlines their concerns as a staff with a cover letter that was signed by 25 people. The packet also contained a list of accomplishments that happened at North Valley in the last five years. Ms. Dorn requested the School Board to consider how the evaluation of Ms. Hugle was made.

Board Chair Weaver stated he was disturbed to hear that there were people who were unwilling to sign things that express their opinion and thanked Ms. Dorn for not being one of them.

North Valley teacher Yolanda Bruton stated that she has only been a teacher for five years, but has been involved with the school district for many years as a parent. She expressed her concerns about the direction the district is going. Ms. Bruton stated the thing she most admires about Ms. Hugle is she constantly reminds the teachers that every student has the potential to achieve academic excellence. The teachers job is to support the students and to help them achieve high expectations. She expressed concern that the academic standards would become watered down as well as concern about fear in other co-workers that there would be a target on teachers based on personalities not performance.

Board Chair Weaver recognized that this is a difficult time and this sort of change-over causes a lot of anxiety and fear; we hope good will come out of it. But, we cannot comment on the situation as a Board because it is a personnel matter and we will be closely watching what develops at North Valley and he appreciated Ms. Bruton expressing her concerns.

Stacy Denton from the Woodland Educational Initiative stated she is a resident of Williams, an organic farmer and also does non-profit administration work. Lindsay Davis of Williams introduced herself. They are part of an independent group that is looking at an alternative method of educating their children and pursuing the possibility of starting a Waldorf-based charter school in Williams or Applegate for grade levels K through 8th. They have been meeting as a group for almost a year and are currently writing the state incentive grant proposal. The deadline for the proposal is in May. They plan to bring the formal proposal before the Board at a later time. They would like to enroll in the fall of 2011, beginning with a few grades, then potentially building one grade per year.

Member Litak asked if they had any idea of how many students they would be looking for at this point? Ms. Denton responded that it is a bit premature at this time, but look forward to meeting the minimum of 25 students that are required, and hope for more than that. They are currently generating a list of potentially interested students.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS (CON'T)

Board Chair Weaver asked for a more in-depth explanation of the groups theme and the Waldorf model itself. Ms. Denton explained that there are three other charter schools in Oregon utilizing the Waldorf model and that the Waldorf model is quite complex, based on the work of Rudolph Steiner, an educational philosophy system that was developed in the 1920's and currently the largest growing educational model in the world on the private school and charter school level. They offered to provide much more detail at their next presentation.

Secondary Education Director John George presented the following policies/AR's for their first reading:

- IKF - Graduation Requirements
- IKF-AR - Graduation Requirements
- IKF-AR(2) - Modified Diplomas, Extended Diplomas and Certificates of Completion.

Student Services Director Doug Ely explained the reason the change to the AR for the Modified Diploma was an OAR was passed in December which will standardize the Modified Diploma across the state of Oregon.

Board Chair Weaver asked that when the second reading is presented at the next meeting that the acronyms get spelled out the first time they are used in the policy.

Board Chair Weaver stated that there were three positions on the Budget Committee that became vacant. Linda DuBose (Zone III) and Kevin Marr (Zone II) have expressed their willingness to continue to serve on the committee. A new person, Tammy Canady, expressed her willingness to serve on the committee for Zone IV. Leslie Meier moved to appoint the three names presented as Budget Committee members. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING:

IKF, IKF-AR &
IKF AR(2)

BUDGET COMMITTEE
POSITIONS

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD) Local Service Plan for 2010/2011. He stated we would be approving the way that the ESD is allocating their funds and the way they structure themselves.

SOESD LOCAL
SERVICE PLAN

Superintendent Huber-Kantola covered each of the service areas available to our district and how we utilize them:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Administrative/Business Services | 12.09% |
| • School Improvement Services | 8.52% |
| • Programs for Children with Special Needs | 65.25% |
| • Technology Services | 14.14% |

Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that we do not utilize the STEPS program available through the ESD. We run our own multi-handicapped programs in our district. As a result of this, we receive money from the ESD in lieu of services which is part of our budget (about \$700,000/year). Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that the SOESD has served us well.

Leslie Meier moved to approved the Local Service Plan as presented by the Southern Oregon ESD. Member Strahan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Federal Programs Director Peter Maluk presented a grant opportunity for approval. The REMS (Readiness and Emergency Management; US Department of Education) is offering

REMS GRANT

REMS GRANT
(CONTINUED)

a two-year grant to school districts for the opportunity to evaluate and revise their emergency readiness plans and emergency management process. We currently have plans in our schools, but they have not been updated in quite some time. This grant would offer us the opportunity to go back and review them, get staff current on plans for individual schools and for individual types of emergencies. It's about a \$300,000 grant, it depends on the size of the district. With the grant money we could pay for staff training, additional resources and supplies. We are working with Del Norte School District as a consultant. They received this grant a year ago and have helped three regional districts get the grant already. The deadline for the grant is February 26th.

Member Meier asked is we would be paying a grant writer on their staff? Director Maluk responded that we only have to pay a fee if we are awarded the grant.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that we are also working with Grants Pass School District. Director Maluk explained that they are doing their own grant, we are just working in consultation with them in regards to linking up with other local agencies: police departments, fire departments, mental health, health departments, etc.

Member Litak asked what an 'LEA' is? Director Maluk explained that refers to Local Educational Agency—the school district.

Member Litak then asked what we felt the odds were of getting this grant. Director Maluk responded that he feels the chances are pretty good. Most districts have been successful. This is something that is long overdue and feels there is a real good chance we will get it.

Member Litak asked what the \$300,000 would be spent on? Director Maluk explained that it is a two-year grant. A portion would go to salaries. Developing plans for each district will require first, that we create teams for each school/site. Each would have a team that would need to be trained, and the training is extensive. We go through the training and each school develops a plan. Then there is professional development training time, paying for consultants, and that adds up pretty quickly.

Board Chair Weaver asked if there would be ongoing expenses after the two years? Director Maluk explained that there should not be. Generally, already the things we have in place already.

Member Strahan moved to approve the REMS grant application. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE
APPRECIATION
RESOLUTION

Board Chair Weaver read a resolution presented recognizing our Classified Employees and proclaiming March 1-5, 2010 to be Classified Employee Appreciation Week.

Member Meier moved to approved the Resolution. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

INTER-DISTRICT
TRANSFER UPDATE

Secondary Education Director John George presented the status on transfers to and from our district. Our district has had 93 requests to enter our district and 176 requests to exit the school district. Director George explained that this year has been one of the most trying because of the numbers of requests received based upon the economic situation. A lot of families have to have been relocated due to loss of homes, jobs, income, etc.; which has made it very difficult to apply policy to. There are 52 special requests that go to Grants Pass (grandfathered, seniors, employees and Strings/Orchestra). Right now our district is at a 30 student deficit.

Member Litak stated that he hopes we judge these on what is best for the student but that it is disturbing that we are still at a net deficit of about 38 students, which is about \$230,000 to our district.

INTER-DISTRICT
TRANSFER UPDATE
(CONTINUED)

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that three years ago we were at a deficit of 80. So we have seen more of a trend to even it out. It will begin to get closer and closer as the 'grandfathered' kids go away.

Member Meier asked if we have any kind of verification or checking up in place? Director George explained that if we have denied a transfer, we follow up to see if they have enrolled in any of our schools. If they have not, we send out Deputy Geiger to visit the last known address and try to find the student.

Director George explained that for the past number of years the District has chosen to participate in the American Drug & Alcohol Survey (ADAS) rather than the Oregon Healthy Teen survey that the State of Oregon has sponsored. The ADAS survey was funded through Commission for Children and Families. The Oregon Healthy Teen survey has been revised and is now the Oregon Student Wellness Survey. The questions that are now in the survey are quite different than those that were in the Oregon Healthy Teen Survey. In the past we have surveyed our 8th, 9th and 11th graders. The Oregon Student Wellness survey asks us to survey our 6th, 8th and 11th graders to get a broader scope of the data to try to accurately pinpoint where drug and alcohol use begins. One of the reasons we are considering the move to the Oregon Student Wellness survey is because it also asks more academically focused questions and more parent involvement focused questions than either of the surveys in the past. The ADAS survey did not have a component that addressed academic needs or academic performance. The question to the Board is we can choose to participate in the 8th and 11th grade only; do we want to participate in the 6th grade survey? Director George stated information he received from Shawn Martinez, the local Prevention Coordinator for Josephine County, said the Addictions and Mental Health Division will provide grant opportunities for strategic prevention framework for the state incentive grant to be eligible to apply for grants, the schools must participate in the school wide survey this year. One of the things the district has worked diligently on over the last couple of years is our relationship with mental health and prevention providers in our community. We need to participate in the survey in order for the funding to come about.

OREGON STUDENT
WELLNESS SURVEY

Board Chair Meier asked when the district proposes to put the survey out to the students? Director George responded that the survey will take place in March.

There was discussion as to whether or not to include the sixth grade in the survey. Director George stated that it was the District's position to not survey the sixth graders at this time. It was recommended that the we speak with the middle school principals and get their feedback on the survey and 6th grade participation. It was also suggested that the district administer a scaled-down version of the survey on our own to the 6th graders to determine what level of alcohol and drug use we have at that level.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated the ending fund balance hasn't significantly changed over the last couple of months. The ending fund balance should end up some at about \$2 million. He expressed the fear in that the district is being paid as if we were going to receive \$6 billion this biennium from the state government, and based on the economic forecast, not sure how reasonable that is. We may end up in decent shape this year, it may indicate substantial problems next year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Bracken stated that as per his written report the work order count was up to 206 in January which is quite an increase. They are at about 89.5% completion for January.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

MAINTENANCE REPORT
(CON'T)

Mr. Bracken also reported the energy consumption is still showing a decrease, coming in to the third year. This is due in large part to our building principals and staff conserving energy, turning down thermostats and turning the lights off.

FOOD SERVICE REPORT

Food Service Manager Michael Morris presented a \$1500 check to the district to provide a \$500 scholarship from Sodexo to a student at each area high school. Mr. Morris reported that there is a new program with chopsticks at Illinois Valley High School in the cafeteria. They have gone from serving approximately 175 students a day to a height last week of 301 students. All of the students are eating free lunch for the month of February. Director Breckner stated that Mr. Morris and Principal Bethany have made every effort possible to get IVHS qualified as a Provision school. They have done every incentive possible to get the students to eat.

Mr. Morris reported that the tin can recycling program will be taking place soon. The special education students will pick them up at all of the schools. As a precautionary safety measure the lids are removed and not turned over to the students for recycling.

Member Strahan asked if we knew the reason for the significant decrease in student enrollment (18 students) at North Valley High School? Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that the Merlin Alternative Center students are included in the enrollment of their 'home' high school. We had eight student that completed their GED program; there were six students that went to the Oregon Youth Challenge Program, which accounts for 14 of the 18 students at North Valley. Hidden Valley was similar, about six of the students were GED graduates as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Meier moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Strahan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Jim Weaver
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT