

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL & REGULAR SESSION
July 28, 2021**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a special and regular session Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at the District Office Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Rich Halsted, Board Member
Danny York, Board Member
Jenn Searle, Board Member

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the board retreat to order at 8:05 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD RETREAT

The following items were reviewed and discussed in a workshop setting:

- Board Goals
- Superintendent Evaluation Workbook – Revised
- Property Projects
- PACE Board Coverage (by Geoff Sinclair, PACE)
- Summer School Report
- Open/Filled Positions – staffing update
- Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework (RSSLRf) for 2021-22 School Year
- Electronic Board Handbook
- BoardBook – updated version

Recess at 1:30 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

Board Chair Johnstun reconvened to regular session at 2:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Board Chair Johnstun amended the agenda to add the Oath of Office to be administered to all newly elected board members. Member Kelly made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Member Searle seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

Board Vice-Chair Paul Kelly led the Oath of Office for newly elected board members Jennifer Johnstun, Jenn Searle and Rich Halsted.

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 – July 2021
- Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 - Board Regular Session – May 19, 2021
 - Board Regular Session – June 16, 2021
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Halsted seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Board Chair Johnstun announced that typically we allow twenty minutes for community comment, given the large number requesting to speak we will expand that time to thirty minutes, but will limit each person to two minutes. We received about 30 comments via email and they have all been shared with the board. The majority of the letters were in favor of the Every Student Policy. All of the written communications will be posted to the online board packet. There was also one letter that was signed by 202 individuals that expressed concerns around masks, required COVID vaccines, political movements, gender-neutral restrooms and the need to maintain an open door and communication policy with parents. The letter also asked that we let them know what they, as a community, can do to make things better at school for our teachers and children.
- The following people were present at the meeting and given two minutes to address the Board on their specified topic:
 - Alysia McCrorey – Hours of board meetings, etc.
 - Amie Blore – masks, LGBTQ, bathrooms
 - Dove Oldham – masks, social distancing
 - Matt Morsa – Every Student Policy
 - Dianna Lund - CRT
 - John Chambers – Drug prevention
 - Jane Rubio – School policy
 - Tiara White – Policy ACAB and no bullying
 - Richard Emmons – Every Student Policy
 - Mariah Rossi – Every Student Policy
 - Rick Nelson – School policy
 - Judy Ahrens – Every Student Policy

ANNUAL BOARD ORGANIZATION

Election of Board Chair

- Member York nominated Jennifer Johnstun. Member Kelly seconded. All voted in favor of Jennifer Johnstun for Board Chair.

Election of Board Vice-Chair

- Member York nominated Paul Kelly, Member Halsted seconded. All voted in favor of Paul Kelly as Board Vice-Chair

Designation of meeting dates, times and places

- A draft meeting schedule was provided to the board designating the regular board meetings to be held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Work Sessions will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. if needed. The locations of the meeting are designated on the draft schedule. At this time there are four meetings to be held at our high schools to accommodate an opportunity for board members to meet with students at a student panel at an earlier time (1:45-2:00 p.m.), with the board meeting immediately following (3:30-4:00 p.m.).
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the recommended meeting calendar and locations. Member Searle seconded the motion. Member Halsted explained the reasoning for meetings being held at school locations. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Annual Board Organization Resolutions for 2021-2022:

- a. **Designate Administrative Officer:** Superintendent David Valenzuela is the Board's Administrative Officer. Oregon statute specifies that the Board shall designate the chief administrative officer of the district as district clerk.
- b. **Deputy Clerk:** Deputy Superintendent Casey Alderson is the designated Deputy Clerk.
- c. **Designate Budget Officer:** Superintendent David Valenzuela is the designated Budget Officer.
- d. **Designate Board's Official Agent:** Superintendent David Valenzuela will be the official agent for all matters dealing with federal, state and local government agencies and other education agencies. Policy and practice designates this authority to the superintendent.
- e. **Designate Depositories for School Funds:** Wells Fargo, Local Government Investment Pool, Washington Federal, Umpqua Bank, Evergreen Federal, Josephine County Treasurer, and Jackson County Treasurer and all other local financial institutions, which meet Oregon collateral requirements, are the designated depositories. These are the existing depositories and have been carried over to the new fiscal year.
- f. **Authorization to Invest Surplus Funds:** Superintendent David Valenzuela and Deputy Superintendent Casey Alderson will be authorized to invest surplus funds according to school district policy and state law at any of the above-mentioned authorized depositories.
- g. **Authorize Facsimile Signature of Custodian of Funds:** Superintendent David Valenzuela and Deputy Superintendent Casey Alderson facsimile signatures be authorized.
- h. **Designate Auditors:** Kosmatka, Donnelly, and Piels CPA, LLP is designated as our financial auditors for the 2021-2022 school year.
- i. **Designate Legal Counsel:** Hungerford Law Firm, LLP and Sorenson, Ransom & Ferguson, LLP are designated as our legal counsel for the 2021-2022 school year.
- j. **Review status of Local Public Contract Review Board and Rules:** The Three Rivers Board of Directors will act as the review board for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - o Member Searle made a motion to approve the Annual Board Organization Resolutions for 2021-2022. Member York seconded the motion; There was some discussion. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework (RSSRF)
 - o Superintendent Valenzuela explained the RSSL from last year has been modified a bit. This report advises the public on how schools will operate for the school year. Right now we are able to maintain local control on a lot of the decisions, but that could possibly change.
 - o It is the district's intention to open schools this year with masks being optional for students, but not required indoors. Masks will be required for transportation on busses.
 - o The district will be exercising social distancing in our classrooms. We will try to maintain a minimum distance of three feet.
 - o We will continue to follow the cleaning protocols and conduct contact tracing to help eliminate the spread in schools.
 - o If there are outbreaks the school will have to respond – quarantines, masks, or moving to CDL. Those things would happen in concert with our work with Josephine County Public Health.
 - o The district is still bound by taking direction from the Josephine County Public Health if there is

- a positive case identified. They inform us on how we are to respond – and we follow that directive.
- Board Chair Johnstun opened the floor and took impromptu questions from the audience about the opening of schools and RSSL guidelines.

ACTION ITEMS

- Board Policy – Third Reading, ACBA – *Every Student Policy*
 - Superintendent Valenzuela explained this is a third reading for a policy that was amended from May. The sections that were removed are more appropriate to be put as an administrative rule.
 - Member Halsted asked that the superintendent reiterate what happens if the district does not follow the state and federal laws. Superintendent Valenzuela explained that there is a Division 22 requirement that ensures the district is following all state laws and do all of the right things. If not followed, we are in jeopardy of losing state and federal funding. Our administrators put their license in jeopardy if they follow a policy that is contrary to state or federal law. We would also be open to lawsuits and the district's liability coverage is forfeited. Lastly, the law in Oregon provides that the Governor is the superintendent of public education and through her delegation the state superintendent, Colt Gill, has the general superintendency over all school districts. It is possible for the state to take over a district that is operating outside the law.
 - Member Halsted summarized by stating the two things the district is in jeopardy of are that the district would not have money and have to close the schools and the Governor becomes the district's superintendent. He is not willing to violate the law to put the Governor as the district's superintendent.
 - Superintendent Valenzuela stated that this policy is a culmination of several policies that we already have. We have over seven policies that basically state and guarantee the rights of students and staff. This policy is a tool for teachers and administrators to use on a daily basis when these things come up. This is not brand-new stuff.
 - He then addressed the issue around restrooms. We are in the process of creating single-use, unisex restrooms all across the district. We are beginning with the high schools and middle schools first and beginning right away.
 - Member Searle made a motion to approve the Every Student Policy. Member Kelly seconded the motion.
 - Board questions and comments included: the things removed were not typical of policy, it's typical of administrative rule or procedure; this policy is designed to create an umbrella to which all of the others are a part of; struggle with "equity"; would like to work on what the board definition of equity is; communication and family engagement – would like to add how we include the families in the conversation; it was suggested to table the policy and come up with an equity definition; adding something back to the policy to clarify our zero tolerance policy for bullying and harassment.
 - Member Kelly made a motion to table the policy and amend it to include a definition of equity, a statement of family inclusion and something related to zero tolerance for bullying and harassment. Member York seconded the motion.
 - Board Chair Johnstun allowed some questions from the audience.
 - Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously to table this policy until the next meeting (September).

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.