

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, September 21, 2009 at the Three Rivers District Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, 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
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
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of Student Services
John George, Director of Secondary Education

PRESENT

Also Present: Steve Boyarsky, Dave Bracken/Maintenance Director, Jim, Bunge/Maintenance Director, Jim Figoni, Janice Ventrella, Nellie Wildey, Lori Purves, Blair Bluford, Kimberly Watson, Patti Richter/Daily Courier, Jackie Gray, Sherri Armstrong, Gayle Luckey, Lisa Cross/Accounting Manager, Paul Overly/Aramark, Steve Jones, Bonnie Cameron, Shawn Treen, Devon Dorn, Rebecca Farmer, Tim Mohr, Ric Ross, Dave Quick, Kelly Schuler, Wanda Reynolds, Michael McNally, Don Hiler, Eric Hiler, Mark Hiler, Ken Hiler, JoAnn Bethany/Illinois Valley High School Principal, Don Farmer, Wayne Brown, Michael Morris, Food Service Director, and Shelly Berry/Recording Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT

Chairperson Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Secondary Education Director John George recognized 34 Three Rivers School District staff members that assisted with the start-up of the Merlin Alternative Center after the Parkway Center fell through a week before school was scheduled to start. The staff from TRACT, maintenance and the Alternative Centers went above and beyond by doing things to set up the new facility such as painting, moving, maintenance and grounds keeping. Superintendent Huber-Kantola expressed his amazement as to what 34 people can do in one week's period of time. Merlin is a great location now, thanks to their efforts. He also recognized the Young Marines for allowing us to share the facility, and have been very cooperative working with us and allowing us to occupy that space. Certificates were then presented to the staff members.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Board Chair Weaver thanked the group for "rising to the occasion" of the eleventh hour change.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that the start up of the new school year has been smooth, with the exception of the tragedy that occurred the first day when we

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (CON'T)

lost a North Valley High Student in a vehicle accident. Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that this has been one of the smoothest starts in transportation that we have had since he has been involved in transportation.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the opening enrollment numbers for each of the schools. To summarize: Elementary is up 18 students from the projected number; down 45 student from September of last year. Middle school is up 28 from projected, down 32 from September of last year and the high school is up four from projected and down 22 from last year. Overall, the district is up 72 from what was projected and down 22 from September of 2008, which is great news for us due to the fact that the trend has been to lose approximately 100-150 student per year for the last several years.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that a couple of problems that they are looking at include: the Manzanita Kindergarten which have a class sizes of 30 and 32. Human Resources Director Debbie Breckner is looking at potentially changing the half-time kindergarten teacher at Williams to full-time and adding a third kindergarten class at Manzanita. Director Breckner then stated that Applegate Middle School has an issue caused by the blended classes and curriculum for the 6th through 8th grades. The grade level curriculum is vastly different for science and social studies. Director Breckner recommended that we add a half-time science and social studies teacher at the seventh grade level at Applegate.

Member Litak inquired as to why the four small second grade class sizes at Manzanita (17-17-17-16). Director Breckner explained that a class size reduction teacher was utilized at Manzanita. The rules on using a class size reduction teacher have changed. It used to be that you could only use them kindergarten through third grade to create a class of 20. Now the rules have changed that not only does the class have to be 17, but all classes at that grade level have to be 17 as well. Both teachers are not funded out of General Fund money, they are funded through a Title IIA grant written by Federal Programs Director Peter Maluk, as well as some carryover money from their school.

Board Member Strahan asked if we has a count as to how many students we lost to Glendale? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that we lost fifteen.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Hidden Valley High School coach Jim Figoni requested support from the Board in advocating for some "wobble-room" in the Memorandum of Understanding that was agreed upon for the funding of football coaching positions. He stated that one of the district high schools has 388 kids and has four paid coaching positions and has 45 students out for football; the second high school has 626 students, four paid coaching positions and between 55-60 students out for football; Hidden Valley has 825 students, four paid football coaching positions and over 90 students out for football, which is a huge disparity. This is the most number of students that Hidden Valley has ever had for football. The number of coaches have been reduced from eight in 1983; last year there were five and reduced to four this year. Currently they fundraise for four coaching positions and the district pays for four coaching positions. Last year they fundraised for three coaching positions as the district paid for five.

He then requested conversation among the Board to come to a consensus and possibly approach the union about allowing some wobble-room in the MOU to increase paid coaching positions when unique situations like these come up.

Member Meier inquired as to how, with the difference in size of the three high schools, all three schools have the same number of paid coaching positions and the number of positions not based on the size of the school? Director George responded that due to

the fact that football is a very position-specific sport, and there is a specific set of fundamentals that need to be taught at every position, the coaching positions were allotted equally.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS (CON'T)

Member Litak expressed his appreciation as to the importance of extra-curricular activities in keeping kids in school.

Member Strahan added that the Board members are advocates for extra-curricular activities all the way around.

Director Breckner stated that she also has a request from Music teachers who were reduced. So a change in the MOU could affect other situations. All programs have experienced cuts.

Member Litak asked where the money would come from to pay for an extra coaching position? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that the position, which is estimated to cost about \$5,000, would come from the district contingency funds.

Member Litak expressed concern that if the Board directs the Superintendent or Director Breckner to reopen this with the teacher's union, then we are somewhat committing ourselves to come up with the money from somewhere.

Board Chair Weaver directed the Superintendent and his staff to make a recommendation with regard to whether we should pursue discussion with the union; or the repercussions of pursuing it.

Human Resources Director presented the Memorandum of Understanding for the licensed staff that was negotiated last spring to be in position to reduce the school year for up to five days if the district financial situation dictates.

LICENSED MOU

Member Strahan moved to approve the MOU and Member Litak seconded.

Member Litak stated that some of the language in the contract "does not sit well". Particularly on page one of the agreement it states that "the parties agree that the employee compensation levels established by the current CBA are appropriate (based on CPI increases and competitive standards). Member Litak does not agree that 3-1/2% increase is appropriate as current CPI is down about 1-1/2%, and feels our pay is very competitive.

Board Chair Weaver called for a vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

Secondary Education Director John George presented the following contracts for renewal for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Boys and Girls Club (for middle school alternative program)
- Court School—Inn Sight
- Insight Online

2009-2010 CONTRACT
RENEWALS

Director George explained the focus and purpose of each setting. Member Meier moved to approve all three contracts. Member Strahan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented a revision of "DFA-AR". He explained that during the QZAB process there has been bond council review and a tax council review to make sure that everything is up to snuff. ORS 294.135 allows districts and other governmental entities to invest money for longer than a five year period. It was the council's

REVISED DFA-AR

REVISED DFA-AR
(CON'T)

recommendation that we amend our AR to include the provided exceptions so that there is no question about whether or not it is legal for us to invest the \$133,000 and \$50-68,000 in a sinking fund for the QZAB payment at the end of the term. By policy, the Board does not have to vote on whether or not to amend an Administrative Rule (AR), but in this particular situation thinks it is prudent to bring this before the Board. Member Litak moved to approve revised DFA-AR. Member Meier seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

RESOLUTION (#05) TO
ACCEPT TERMS OF
QZAB LOAN

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented Resolution (#05) to Approve Investment of Funds until September 24, 2024. The wording presented is from the legal council to make sure that this action is out in front of the community and School Board. Since the investment policy is amended, which gives us the ability to take the first payment which we would have had to make on the QZAB, which is \$133,000, and we will put it in to a government sink fund. We will also invest some money from capital projects not to exceed \$68,500; which we will put into a separate sinking fund so that we can pay the final payment of the QZAB out of the interest earned off of these two investments in the year 2024. The purpose of doing this is that we cover with today's money the expenditures that are going to come in 2024, so that no other Business Manager or Superintendent in the future had to take responsibility for a debt the current Board had incurred.

Board Chair Weaver asked if the interest rate we earn from the sinking funds is fixed—not subject to change. Superintendent Huber-Kantola confirmed that the interest is fixed and not subject to change.

Board Member Strahan moved to approve the resolution. Member Lengwin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

DISTRICT AND SUPERIN-
TENDENT GOALS

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the District and Superintendent goals for the 2009-2010 school year:

1. Deliver a high quality academic program that meets the individual needs of Three Rivers School District students.
2. Provide safe and respectful school learning environments.
3. Strengthen community connections.
4. Strengthen the working relationship amongst all employees of the Three Rivers School District.

Below each district goal, are specific Superintendent goals that include an action plan to meet the goals.

NAA FOUNDATION
GRANT

JoAnn Bethany, Illinois Valley High School Principal, requested permission for Gary Enoch to accept a grant through the NAA Foundation. This will assist Mr. Enoch with providing an online school newspaper. He will partner with the IV News and GP Daily Courier.

APPROVED

Member Meier approved to accept the grant. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OREGON YOUTH
AUTHORITY CONTRACT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented a contract for approval from the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to pay the district \$10,000 to provide some services to graduates whom we no longer serve. The main program will be to provide an after school employability skills training program utilizing the shop and a work skills program.

APPROVED

Member Litak moved to approve the OYA contract. Member Strahan seconded, and the motion carried 4-0, Member Meier abstaining.

Secondary Education Director John George gave an update as to the status of the new Merlin Alternative Center (MAC). Director George stated that the center is off to a great start. A new district requirement this year is that all students (GED, Diploma program, 12R, or alternative program) attend full time. There are currently 19 GED students. The biggest change is that it is now an instructional program. The full program is not yet in place as we are still working on some infrastructure issues such as wiring and phones. Once that is in place we will be providing some online instruction in Social Studies and Science. The Merlin students are currently receiving direct instruction in English, Language Arts and Mathematics. We have about 30 students that are currently attending.

MERLIN ALTERNATIVE
CENTER UPDATE

Board Chair Weaver asked if we expect any problems co-existing in the building with the Young Marines. Director George stated that the Young Marines have been exceptional to work with, and have kept the facility in as good of shape as possible. The Young Marines have been very generous in terms of space and time.

Director George then shared that the schools have done a great job implementing the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) programs. The student attitude and climate at our schools is great. Illinois Valley High School is the farthest along with their implementation; they had zero discipline referrals in their office the first week.

PBS

Director George reported that our inter-district transfers currently stand at about a thirty student deficit. A significant portion of the amount comes from those students that were grandfathered previously to go to Grants Pass. Director George thanked John Higgins, with the Grants Pass School District, for working with us in the transfer process.

INTER-DISTRICT
TRANSFERS

Member Meier asked if we do anything for follow-up or enforcement. Director George explained that through our Attendance Initiative we contract with the Josephine County Sheriff's Department for those students that have sporadic attendance and right now we have denied approximately 56 transfers, and serviced over 150 requests. Of the denials that we have, his department is beginning to check enrollment to make sure the students are attending, and if they are not there the district that they originally wanted to attend is contacted to see if they are in fact enrolled in their schools. If we are unable to locate them, or if they are enrolled in another school the Sheriff's Deputy will make phone contact and also visit the home if we don't get a response that we want.

Federal Programs Director Peter Maluk stated the current challenge with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and all of the programs that are partnered with it is to use the money in an effective fashion that stays within the spirit of the law and helps with the intent of the program. Presently we have Title I, Title I Stimulus money, Title IIA (Professional Development and Highly Qualified teachers), Title IID (Technology) Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools), Title VI (Rural Ed), Title X (Homeless Education) and Title V, which was a competitive grant for 21st Century programs; in addition there is IDEA money, which is handled by Student Services Director Doug Ely. The challenge is how to use the money as it was intended. The main rule is that the funds are to supplement and not supplant the programs. The past couple of years we have been trying to use as much money as we can for Professional Development. PBS Professional Development is funded at each of our schools by Title IV and Title I (in the Title I schools).

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT /
FEDERAL PROGRAMS

This year we have also gone to a coaching model. We are asking staffs to work together and are coaching each other, communicating with each other and supporting each other. This year we have several coaches in place. We have two teachers that we have pulled out of their regular assignments to help and support. Rob Saunders is a Technology coach

PROF DEVELOPMENT /
FEDERAL PROGRAMS
(CON'T)

coach that we are funding through various Federal programs. Peg Cowans, who was a teacher at Manzanita, is a math coach, working with our K through 6th grade teachers. The new math standards are now in effect for grades K-12 so math has a real important context for us due to that.

Director Maluk stated that he is really pleased to note that we are following the spirit of the law, getting as much Professional Development as we can, and also using these funds as creatively as possible to help reduce the impact of the economy on the school district.

Board Chair Weaver asked what is going to happen if No Child Left Behind isn't adjusted in a timely fashion? Director Maluk responded that each one of our schools will be in improvement next year. He then stated that he cannot imagine that they are not going to back off a little bit on the sanctions as they stand now.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
SUPPLEMENTARY
BUDGET AND APPROPRI-
ATE FUNDS

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented Resolution (#04) to Adopt Supplementary Budget and Appropriate Funds for approval. Last year we had multiple funds from the state. The district had anticipated that we would carryover money in the school improvement fund in to this year to pay for the alternative education contracts that were just approved, about \$164,000. When it was learned toward the end of last year, that anybody that had not expended their school improvement funds in OYA, would be taken away, the district feared that we would not be able to carry over any school improvement funds, so we transferred other eligible programs into the School Improvement Fund, mainly we paid for a lot of our alternative ed, vocational teachers, and GED teachers to get that fund to zero out. This allowed us to have \$164,000 extra dollars in the beginning fund balance in the General Fund, which is part of the \$350,000 in the resolution. The \$56,059 transfer is the Food Service deficit, which was not paid last year. The roughly \$130,000 represents additional savings that the schools had that we did not anticipate, and need to go in to the Contingency Fund until the end of the school year. Because it's a different number, we need to make a resolution to adopt the \$350,000 and then expend them in this manner.

Member Meier stated that it is important that it is made clear that we are not taking money that was saved and finding ways to spend it.

APPROVED

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then gave a financial update so that the public is clear where we are at. Earlier in July we appropriated money in to contingency. We had budgeted based on the estimate from the state that we would be paid on \$2.9 billion; then they came back and said we would get paid on \$2.94 billion. That gave us an additional \$300,000 that we have already appropriated. As we sit right now we have \$440,000 more than the 3% ending fund balance projected this year; we just put in about \$130,000 so we know that we have somewhere around \$570,000 above the 3% if everything goes really well the rest of the school year. We also have about \$200,000 in contingency that we purposely put there. So there is \$770,000 that would be used to purchase nearly all five of our school days back. The kicker to that is that there is going to be a vote in January on whether or not to approve the taxes that the legislature levied that said we are going to have a corporate tax increase and a tax increase on people that make more than \$250,000 a year. They are counting on that passing which will amount to \$730 million to the state revenue. If it passes, we are in good shape—if it does not pass it will have a devastating impact that will absorb more than the \$570,000 that we have above our 3%. The January vote is very crucial not only to Three Rivers School District, but to every school district in the state.

While we look good right now, there is still \$930 million out on the table that we won't know how will play out until probably May of next year.

Student Services Director Doug Ely presented a Resolution (#02) to Transfer for Building Improvements. He explained that the resolution centers around the repairs and upgrades that were needed at Madrona to accommodate the increase in multi-handicapped students from eight to sixteen. Director Ely introduced the two Madrona Multi-Handicapped teachers that were present: Kim Watson and Steve Jones. A regular classroom was converted to a multi-handicapped classroom utilizing ARRA IDEA Stimulus Funds with the current expenditures totaling \$21,000. Other improvements to accommodate the special needs students included: new carpet, fenced area specifically for multi-handicapped, new concrete sidewalk, new heat pump with air conditioning and office dividers. A Madrona parent group raised additional funds to extend the rest of the fence so the wooded area is now fenced off.

RESOLUTION TO
TRANSFER FOR
BUILDING IMPROVE-
MENT

Member Litak asked if we have less multi-handicapped students in the future what will happen to that space? Director Ely responded that we will maintain the number of students or they will increase. Also, one of the older multi-handicapped classrooms only has one divider in it and can easily be converted back in to a regular classroom.

Member Meier moved to approved the resolution. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

Superintendent Huber Kantola reported that he had contacted the state regarding the Glendale Charter School. Glendale changed their elementary school in to a K-6 charter school and the curriculum is to be defined this year. The main emphasis of the charter was that it was a small school setting. It was an approved contract through ODE so it is legal.

CHARTER SCHOOL
UPDATE

Member Meier asked how the language about charter schools in the ODE language and their regulations support what was approved? Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded that they met the letter of the law to get that charter up and running, which is ODE approval.

Member Meier feels we write a letter to ODE protesting the change of Glendale to a charter school to circumvent inter-district transfer policies. Either we will support the complete choice of parents to send their students to any school they want to, or we will abide by district attendance and transfer policies.

Member Litak agreed with Member Meier and stated we should let the state know that this is a decision that we feel is unwise.

Member Strahan would like to have our voices heard; is confused about the charter laws.

Member Meier stated that not only should the letter be in protest, but would like to ask for an explanation for the basis of approval.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that contracts with the ODE should be a public record, so there should not be a problem with us requesting the information.

Board Chair Weaver responded that we should not launch a protest. There are legitimate reasons for small school to apply for this. He does not see how this will improve or fix anything, it will just increase bad feeling between districts.

CHARTER SCHOOL
UPDATE (CON'T)

After much discussion it was agreed upon that we will not protest the decision, but Superintendent Huber-Kantola will contact ODE to request the information about the charter school to bring back to the Board.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that in our own district we have had some interest from a community group in Wolf Creek that is potentially looking at establishing a charter school. Director Maluk has also had some conversations with a group in Williams that is potentially looking at making some Charter School proposal around a Waldorf model; and Applegate has some interest about potentially looking at a charter school, which may allow them the flexibility to the programs they have started which will attract more of the home school population in Applegate area. In the next coming months, some of these may come up in front of the Board.

Member Meier requests a Board workshop be held soon to discuss the charter school process prior to groups approaching the Board.

ARAMARK CONTRACT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented an amended Aramark contract for approval for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. The contract is usually done in June or July, but the contract is late due to the fact that we approached Paul Overly with Aramark to look at reducing the contract and still maintain enough services that we can still maintain the schools and programs. The amended contract has been reduced by the amount of \$107,000 (23%).

APPROVED

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

Paul Overly with Aramark thanked the District and Board for the opportunity to continue to serve and appreciates the relationship with our district.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

In addition to his written report, Dave Bracken stated that the maintenance department started out the summer with the challenge at Wolf Creek and ended the summer with the challenge at Parkway and Merlin. He then expressed his gratitude to the TRACT, GED, and alternative center crews in working with the maintenance department without a negative word to get the job done. It was a privilege to work with that kind of staff and personnel.

The DLP work at Madrona should be completed within the month. Other summer projects included: contract work to put a walk-in cooler and freezer at Evergreen; some grounds work to get the football field up and presentable at Hidden Valley.

Member Litak stated that the written report indicated repairs were made to the boiler system at Fruitdale Elementary. Due to the fact that the school is fairly new, what is the issue? Mr. Bracken responded that there were issues with copper pipe; it was not constructed correctly. We brought in Western Oil & Burner to repair the work.

Member Litak asked if the original boiler system came with any type of warranty? Mr. Bracken responded that there was, but the warranty was limited and some-what shady. He offered to go back and look into it if requested. He then stated that if we were looking at extensive work, that would definitely be something we would want to go after, but the cost of repairs were only a couple of thousand dollars.

Member Meier asked if the Young Marines were invited to be recognized tonight or can we recognize them in some way in the future? They went out of there way to accommodate us and kept up the facility. Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded

that it was put off until next month because he believes that they will come before the Board next month to request an extension of the lease at Merlin.

Food Services Director Michael Morris reported that this summer they were awarded a grant for about \$48,000 to two of our schools: Illinois Valley High School and Evergreen Elementary where we had two new walk-in refrigerator and freezers installed.

FOOD SERVICE
REPORT

Board Chair Weaver asked Mr. Morris about the catering services that he provides. Mr. Morris explained that he provides numerous catering services where he cooks for employee and school functions (BBQ's, dinners, etc.). He also explained that per the district facility use policy, it is required to pay for a district employee to be present. Mr. Morris volunteers his efforts to save expenditures on labor as well as provide them with better service. Board Chair Weaver thanked Mr. Morris for his efforts.

Member Litak asked about the status of Free & Reduced lunches at Illinois Valley High School. Mr. Morris responded that the program numbers won't be known until October 1st.

Member Meier requested that the out-of-state travel request by Julie Bickle be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Strahan moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Lengwin seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Member Meier abstained as she had not read the minutes.

Member Meier stated that due to the nature of the trip, she questions the appropriateness of the district paying for the substitute teacher. Director Breckner confirmed that type of trip does not qualify as a professional day. Member Strahan moved that the trip be approved, but the district will not pay for the requested professional day. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair Weaver brought up the OSBA Annual Convention for discussion. Board Members need to let Shelly Berry know by October 1st if they plan on attending to complete the registration process. Ms. Berry will go ahead and reserve the rooms tomorrow, and then cancel if someone needs to back out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Jim Weaver
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT