

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
8550 NEW HOPE ROAD
GRANTS PASS, OR 97527

BOARD MEETING

REGULAR SESSION

October 17, 2011

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Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, October 17, 2011 at Fleming Middle School, 6001 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Ron Lengwin, Chairperson of the Board, Zone V Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III Bob Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources Doug Ely, Director of Student Services Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education	PRESENT
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ABSENT:	Jadd Horban, Member of the Board, Zone II Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV	ABSENT
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Also Present:	Dave Bracken/Aramark, Nancy Johnston/Sunny Wolf Charter School, Debbie Roberts/Sunny Wolf Charter School, Jackie Gray/Sunny Wolf Charter School, Jim Bunge/Aramark, Wensdae Davis/Woodland Charter, Stacey Denton/Woodland Charter, Richard Ziff/Woodland Charter, Devon Dorn, Bonnie Cameron, Michael Morris/Sodexo, Patti Richter/Daily Courier, Marjorie Wiley, Daniel Wiley, Patty Dickens-Turk/Hidden Valley HS Assistant Principal, Rachael Huish/Lorna Byrne MS Principal, John George/Fleming Principal, Mark Higgins/Fleming Assistant Principal and Shelly Quick/Recording Secretary.	ALSO PRESENT
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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
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Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that we would like to have a sustainability follow-up meeting on Wednesday, November 9th. We will invite people back that were part of the original Sustainability Committee and additionally include some people from last month who expressed an interest in participating.	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
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Superintendent Huber-Kantola provided follow-up information on previous recommendations:

- ◆ On-Line and Live C classes: We currently have AP History and AP Calculus going Live C. We have online credit make-up happening at all of the high schools; online tutoring at Merlin Alternative Center and the District Office; and additional online alternative education opportunities.
- ◆ Consolidating Elementary Schools: There has been some work done in looking at this area. Principals and Director Maluk will meet on Wednesday and one of their tasks is to look at the space at their schools and see what kind of rooms are available. Enrollment projections should be done by Friday, which will be another piece that is needed. We have done a preliminary busing analysis to see if and what would be possible. An update will be provided at the November Board Meeting. Right now the only one that seems to be discussable is Jerome Prairie. A cost analysis needs to be done to see if it is even worth considering.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(CONTINUED)

- ♦ Consolidation of the three Illinois Valley Schools: The principals and Director Breckner will meet on Wednesday to look at space; enrollment projections will come out Friday and the preliminary busing analysis is easy because the schools are all so close. The Principals in that area have met and will be preparing a report that includes the pros and cons, feasibility, etc., from their perspective.
- ♦ Special Education Services (Steps, etc.): Director Ely is helping the ESD in terms of looking at the STEPS program and whether or not it is more or less economical for STEPS to run the extreme handicap classrooms. We are also evaluating the placement of our multi-handicapped classrooms and TRACT. This will be reported to the Board at the December meeting.
- ♦ Local Option Tax: We will invite people that have an interest in the tax (Ian Kassab, Kurt Krause and Aaron Ausland) to review the process and relevant information about how much money can be sought after and what it can be used for. The community would have to take over at that point. The school district cannot be a part of soliciting a local option tax.
- ♦ District Sponsored Charter Schools: The District is continuing to have meetings with the Woodland Charter School representatives. We will also discuss the community interest in other types of schools at the Sustainability meeting such as vocational, alternative and on-line.
- ♦ Additional Future Board Work: The whole Board will need to prepare goals for bargaining. Superintendent Huber-Kantola then requested that two Board members volunteer to look at the transfer policy in conjunction with Grants Pass. We need to make it a priority, due to the new law. Our current transfer policy will need to be completely re-written. This will need to take place late October, early November.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then announced that for the third consecutive year Fleming has been rated as an *Outstanding* school, and an *Exceptional* school the two years prior. Fleming has had the top ranking that you can have in the state for five consecutive years. He then recognized the great job done by the administrators and teachers at Fleming.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Litak requested the minutes to be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Member Meier moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the minutes. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Member Litak requested the following corrections on the September 19, 2011 minutes:

- Page 3—regarding the public comment by Tim Hart, his comments weren't exactly factual. Member Litak appreciated what he had to say, but we should add a note to reflect that *'the savings were closer to \$84,000 and involved all five Board members as well as a number of District personnel'*.
- Page 5—second paragraph 'in to' should be one word 'into'.
- Page 8—(Member Meier) first paragraph correction to last sentence to read *"Director Maluk stated he believes it would be in the best interest of the school district to request a delay from the SBE."*

APPROVED

Member Meier moved to approve the revised minutes. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Wensdae Davis, a founding member of the proposed Woodland Charter School thanked the District for the opportunity to continue exploring the process of developing the charter school. Ms. Davis believes the school would be successful due to the existing large population of home-school families that are already dedicated to Waldorf education. Ms. Davis stated that with the change in charter funding and the passing of House Bill 3417 Three Rivers School District would receive much needed revenue from

Woodland Charter School in the first year of operation. For a school district in enrollment decline and serious financial struggle, a charter school that would bring in many home-school students and bring back students currently going out of district to receive schooling seems like a win-win situation for both parties.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS
(CONTINUED)

Sunny Wolf Board Chair Nancy Johnston introduced herself to the Board. She wanted to report that they are up and running and doing really well. They currently have 56 students. Ms. Johnston introduced board members Jackie Gray and Debbie Roberts who were present. Member Meier asked how this year's numbers compare to last year? Ms. Johnston responded that last year there were 33 students. There are a lot of new kindergarteners this year. The teachers are happy and the students are learning; last year the test scores went up (40%). Director Maluk added that from the District's perspective they have done a good job in reading; they were struggling in math, but the third through fifth grade teacher was replaced and it seemed to bring up the scores. They are still unsatisfactory in the sense that they would not have made AYP, but some of our schools didn't make AYP in math last year due to the change in cut scores. In January we are due to have a report from Sunny Wolf that reports on how they are doing and their status. As far as the state is concerned they give brand new charter schools two years of AYP and test information before they can be evaluated. For the first year they have done pretty well.

SUNNY WOLF
CHARTER SCHOOL
UPDATE

Ms. Johnston reported they received a \$23,000 for a new playground and got a new dishwasher for the kitchen with a grant as well. They have a person on their Board that is looking into grants and grant-writing for them.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola asked if the charter school grant funding that Oregon lost impacted them? Ms. Johnston responded that they lost \$130,000 that they had planned to use for another classroom.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that we have asked ODE about House Bill 3417, which may change the way charter schools are funded; this might have an impact on Sunny Wolf as well in that they would pay them directly. The other thing that may have an impact is in regards to the Remote Small School Funding Bill that was passed. Sunny Wolf may qualify for additional funding.

Woodland Charter School Developers Stacey Denton and Richard Ziff presented an update on their proposal to create a Waldorf-methods charter to serve the small rural communities of Williams, Applegate, Provolt, Murphy and the outskirts of Grants Pass. They propose to start with grade levels kindergarten, a combined 1-2, combined 3-4 and a combined 5-6 in the first year with a new grade added every year until the school reaches grade 8. They are proposing a maximum of 85 students in the first year, increasing to 135 at full enrollment in the fifth year of operation, and would like to start in the fall of 2012.

WOODLANDS
CHARTER SCHOOL
UPDATE

Ms. Denton stated that there is a longstanding interest in alternative education options in the Applegate Valley. There is a large home-schooling population using Waldorf methods. There are also a lot of children leaving the area to attend schools out of district to access Waldorf education. Ms. Denton then reviewed the Waldorf education model.

Ms. Denton reported in terms of readiness that they have an academic and financial accountability plan that they have developed and they are ready to be used. They want a site on a rural campus in the Applegate Valley. They have secured a site in Williams, but would be happy to consider suggestions from the District on the location and facility, such as the Hidden Valley High School campus in Murphy. They have secured Oregon non-profit status and Federal tax-exempt status is pending waiting on a charter agreement.

Ms. Denton commented that Three Rivers School District (TRSD) previously denied their proposal at it's Board meetings based on the belief that the value of their school did not out

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL UPDATE

-weigh any potential adverse impact on the education of students and District schools. The decision was based primarily on the fact that the ADM for Woodland students would have been subtracted from the extended ADM weighted award TRSD receives from Oregon. However, significant changes were voted into law by the State Legislature this summer. House Bill 3417 went into effect July 1st of this year and this new law separates charter school ADM counts from district ADM counts, thus protecting declining enrollment districts from revenue loss upon a charter school's opening or increasing enrollment. This change in the law puts to rest the economic concern about adverse impact on the education of students in district schools. They now believe they have a win-win situation for both the supporters of Woodland Charter and Three Rivers School District. They have pre-enrolled 54 students which include 31 home-school students, 7 TRSD students and 16 out-of-district private/public school students. With the pre-enrollment numbers Woodland Charter would provide a significant increase in the number of students publicly educated and within the first year TRSD would see a net revenue gain of \$31,200 in State school support. Ms. Denton believes that there is a good working relationship between Woodland Charter and the District and would like to propose that the Board vote on sponsorship for Woodland at it's November or December meeting.

Member Meier asked where we are at in terms of the Charter at this time? Director Maluk reported that the State Board and ODE responded just last week and agreed to postpone the October decision. The district requested a decision be postponed until December and they agreed. Their first desire is to have district's sponsor charter schools rather than the State. Director Maluk stated that the District is expecting to get a new proposal in about a week and from there we will review the issues that the ODE review has looked at and any of the new content that they have added. Then they will also be looking at potential sites with the Superintendent. We will report back to the Board in November in regards to our progress and see if we could possibly bring it forward to the Board in December for a vote.

POLICY GCBDB—SECOND
READING
APPROVED

Human Resources Director Debbie Breckner brought forward policy GCBDB—*Fitness for Duty* for the second reading with the one highlighted change in wording from 'personnel leave' to 'contractual leave'. Member Litak moved to approve the policy. Member Meier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

POLICY JED—SECOND
READING
APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola brought forward policy JED—*Student Absences and Excuses* for the second reading. There were no changes from the first reading. Member Meier moved to approved the policy. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

POLICY GBA—FIRST
READING

Director Breckner brought forward policy GBA—*Equal Employment Opportunity* for the first reading. Director Breckner explained that the criteria for non-discrimination expanded. The updates include veteran status and sexual orientation. If there are any questions please get back to Ms. Breckner before next month's final reading.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Bracken stated he had nothing to add to his written report unless there were questions. Board Chair Lengwin asked what the status was regarding the roof at Lincoln Savage? Mr. Bracken responded that they are still working on items on the punch list, but it is pretty much done. Member Litak asked how disruptive it was replacing the roof while school was in session? Mr. Bracken responded that all of the construction was done prior to school starting. There was a little bit of material left on site—but there wasn't any disruption in the educational process. The project was pretty much complete a week or so prior to school starting, there were some metal flashing issues and some items that needed to be corrected that were identified by the inspector.

Member Meier commented that she went and toured the Applegate School retrofit last

week and it was amazing. They are doing a fantastic job.

MAINTENANCE REPORT
(CONTINUED)

Member Litak asked if the biomass boilers have been fired up yet this fall? Mr. Bunge responded that they are running now.

Food Service Director Michael Morris stated he had nothing to add unless there were questions—and there were none.

FOOD SERVICE REPORT

Member Litak asked Superintendent Huber-Kantola to comment on the enrollment picture from last month to this; specifically in respect to some of the elementary schools that were discussed last month.

OTHER

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that Manzanita, which was one of the concerns, now has fifth grade class sizes of 29 and 31 as opposed to 37 and 37 and a 4/5 blend at 29 students. The fourth grades each have 30. The second grades have class sizes of 25, 22 and 23. Fruitdale first grades now have class sizes of 24 and 22 and the second grades have 27 and 26, and no longer have a blend. The 4/5 blend teacher at Manzanita is getting some additional help from both Peg Cowens and Kelli Palmerton. Things are looking much better.

Adjourn at 8:00 PM

ADJOURN

Ron Lengwin
Chairperson of the Board

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk