

Unofficial Minutes
Morrow County School District
Work Session
May 26, 2005

These are minutes of a work session of the Morrow County School District Board of Directors held on May 26th, 2005 at the district office in Lexington, OR.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Miles, Bill Kuhn, Ken Matlack, Barney Lindsay

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Renfro, Berto Hernandez, Pat McNamee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Burrows, Rhonda Lorenz, Julie Ashbeck and Wade Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Local Patrons

Call to Order

The work session was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice Chairman, Craig Miles; the flag was saluted and a quorum was established. The purpose of the work session was to discuss: Vo-Ag program at HHS; PTE Building at Irrigon; Distance Ed and Advanced Placement Courses; Legal Issues.

The Board allowed district patrons to voice their interest in reinstating a Vocational Agriculture program at Heppner High School. Bill Broderick spoke highly of Dave Fowler's Technology Program, and expressed concern that adding other electives may jeopardize what is currently there. He also felt that the two programs should compliment each other to be viable. Dave Fowler was present and gave a brief overview of his program noting that he often teaches several courses within the same class period due to the number of kids. Cliff Green was present to support vo-ag being reinstated to the curriculum, citing not only the agriculture piece, but the leadership and public speaking components.

The board discussion centered around course offerings; doing justice to and serving the ag community; agri-business education; staffing. The superintendent will appoint a committee of administrators, staff, and a board member (Barney Lindsay) to work on the particulars of reinstating Vo-Ag (staffing, course offerings, schedules, resources, program costs, etc.), and will report back at the June board meeting.

Discussion was held relating to Elementary PE programs. Victor Vander Does from the Health District was present and stated that perhaps there might be something that the health district would be able to do for the elementary PE program. Mr. Burrows noted that he approached the principals about an elementary physical education specialist to oversee a district program, with the program being delivered by paraprofessionals. He got mixed reviews on this plan, but will continue to research the plan.

Mr. Burrows reported that the bids on the Irrigon Professional/Technical Building came in way over estimate – roughly at \$122 per square foot for the plain concrete building. The superintendent had several suggestions on what to do next, including – 1) value reengineering – however they did not think they could get down to the \$880,000 figure. 2) remove the multi-purpose room (3000 sq ft) with an option to build later; 3) add 2 classrooms and shop to the end of the building – this is the cheapest option, but it has some problems; 4) add a pole building to the back of the building; 5) move the ag program to RHS where they have a shop. Mr. Burrows recommended Option 2 and had Ned provide some pictures. After much discussion, Mark will move ahead with Sargent to get new bids. In a related matter, the board gave the go-ahead on the WRE classroom additions, with an expected completion date of Fall of 2006.

Mr. Smith provided information on Distance Ed and the new Plato software that was recently installed. He indicated that this is cutting edge curriculum and can be used for credit recovery, TAG students, etc., up through grade 14. Copy of report attached to the official minutes.

Mr. Smith also reported on the Advanced Placement program and explained the difference between that and the dual credit program. BMCC offers a dual credit program, which requires that a teacher have a masters degree in their field, not just in education. There are only a handful of teachers who have that credential. Advanced Placement is a program – you take a class and pass a rigorous test. When you go to college the university will recognize that AP class and grant college credit for it. Copy of report attached to the official minutes.

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Mr. Lindsay brought up a possible resolution to OSBA relating to the election of officers and legislative issues. He requested that this be placed on the June agenda for action.

Since there is a conflict for the June work session, it has been changed to Tuesday, June 28th by polycom between IES and the DO.

Mr. Miles adjourned the work session at 9:15 p.m..

At 9:22 pm Vice Chairman Miles called executive session to order under ORS 192.660(2)(h) – legal. At 9:30 pm, executive session closed and the meeting was immediately adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Julie Ashbeck
Board Secretary

Craig Miles
Board Vice Chair

Date Approved: _____