

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2021**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom for the regular board meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

PRESENT

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked Superintendent Valenzuela to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. York made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Mr. Kelly shared he was recently at North Valley HS and loved the energy of the staff. He is looking forward to Monday with kids coming back! Ms. Searle commented she was able to hear the excitement in all of the teachers voices today – looking forward to Monday. The kids are so excited! It's the first day of school all over again. Mr. Halsted shared he kept thinking about the efforts since last year March when everything shut down – our teachers, our staff and everybody has put in to get the schools as open as humanly possible with all of the regulations that they have. People don't understand how hard these regulations are. He is deeply appreciative that we have pushed this as far as we can humanly push it. He is totally appreciative of the herculean effort. Mr. York commented that when you talk to the public, they truly do not understand the chokehold that has been put on the district and when given some insight as to what's going on and what we are having to overcome to get kids back in the class, they are super-appreciative of all of the work that's gone into it. If we can keep pushing the envelope and getting them in class more and more, and returning things to semi-normal, he believes our public will be overwhelmed with gratitude for that work. Ms. Johnstun is excited that we are able to send all grades back starting on Monday. She then recognized the two students that sent testimony to the board letting them know how important it was to them and the students in the schools that we reopen. She appreciated the effort from those students to reach out to the Board. It's good to hear that the kids want to come back too. Superintendent Valenzuela commented that he was inspired by the *Say Something Positive's* that he has heard from the Board. The Three Rivers School District staff appreciates the Board's support. While the work is difficult, it makes it a lot easier when we know we have five people behind us pushing us up that hill! Thank you to the School Board for allowing them to do that incredibly important work. He then said that the district will be opening big doors on Monday for 6th through 12th grades and are coming to the tail end of week three for K-5 being in-person and there's two big reasons why that is happening – Jessica Durrant and Stephanie Allen-Hart! Without those two people on our staff, we would not be doing the things we are doing. Those two ladies work tirelessly, including weekends. We would not be opening up without those two ladies. Hats off and hearts out to those two ladies - they are as dedicated as a human gets!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Return to Schools Update*
 - *In-Person Instruction* – On February 1st K-5 returned to in-person instruction. We are open to every student, every day. Not a lot districts are able to do this. This is due to an incredible amount of work from our elementary teams. They are tired and it is wearing on them, but they are energized by the fact that those kids keep coming. There are a few exposures that we are dealing with, but they are coming from out of the building. Positives are not a result of school exposures. We have a safe, controlled school environment to help stop the spread of this virus.
 - *Tales from the field* – He shared some comments from students in elementary schools around the district expressing their happiness and excitement with being back at school in person.
 - *6th-12th* – Reviewed our current county case counts. On Monday the district will open 6th-12th grades to in-person instruction in a hybrid model. Half the students will come on Monday/Wednesday and the other half on Tuesday/Thursday. Until the regulation around the square foot per person is changed, we don't know how to get around that. We want to open up more opportunities, but the 35 square foot per person hinders our ability to do that. Because of their size, Applegate was able to bring back their 6th-8th graders last week.
- *SB 238*– This bill prohibits the Board or superintendent from entering into an agreement with local law enforcement agencies. In recent years the testimony he has shared with the board regarding the relationship the district has with the Josephine County Sheriff's department, and the support that Dave Daniel has provided and our work with Juvenile Justice has made profound impacts in a positive way in this district. Deputy Robby Konieczny is like a staff member. He knows every staff member's name and our students' names. He is positive force in our district. The relationship we have with them is invaluable to the district. It adds a layer of safety that he otherwise could not ensure the Board that we have. The district outreach officers have made countless home visits and have worked with students and had a huge impact on our student attendance and graduation rates. He believes it is a disastrous bill that would have devastating impacts on Three Rivers School District.
 - There was discussion by board members and suggested that Superintendent Valenzuela and Board Chair Johnstun draft a letter of opposition to the bill for them to cosign and send to all of our local representatives, peers, and also up to Salem.
 - Mr. Halsted made a motion for Superintendent Valenzuela Johnstun and Board Chair Johnstun to go forward with the letter. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

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 – February 2021
- Athletic Coaches – February 2021
- Grant Request (1)
- Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Searle seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- The following comments were read by Superintendent Valenzuela:
 - Natalie Sandeen/Student – shared difficulties of being at home and online learning. Students need to be back in school – and need it now.
 - Cheyenne Gleason/Student – If one grade goes back to school all grades should go back. Two days a week is better than no in-person at all.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **21st Century Report**
 - Director Durrant provided an overview of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Three Rivers School District which provide after school programming for our students. It is a five-year federally funded competitive grant that provides \$2.4 million total over five years. We currently have four centers in our district located at Evergreen Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle School, Hidden Valley High School and North Valley High School. Each center (school) is expected to provide: After school opportunities for academic enrichment, a broad array of programming to promote positive youth development, meaningful family engagement activities and high-quality programs and offerings. We are currently in year three of the five-year grant.
 - Board members questions and comments included: their own kids have participated over the years – great program; when the world goes back to normal some virtual options may be good and open it up to more students; Shout out to Mr. Gerten at Lorna Byrne MS who teaches cooking, and he provides enough food for a family of four. He sends home a bag with a recipe and teaches the family how to make it together.

- **TRSD Consolidated Improvement Plan (CIP)**
 - Director Durrant provided an overview of the 2020-2021 Three Rivers School District Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). The plan is required by ODE. It is a good road map for curriculum and keeps the district centered and focused.
 - Goal 1: Academic Growth and Achievement: All students will demonstrate typical growth and achievement in all academic areas, especially in math and ELA. (3 strategies)
 - Goal 2: Culture: All students will develop the social-emotional skills to be successful learners in TRSD through the development and implementation of a district-wide coordinated plan. (2 strategies)
 - It is required for each school to have a plan. The work and engagement with the community will be picked back up in the fall of 2021.

- **Student Performance and Achievement Data – First Semester**
 - Director Alderson shared an overview of the district achievement data from the first semester by grade and by school (6th through 12th grades). The data is in context comparing last year to this year's to see either growth or where the district is falling short compared to last year. One of the challenges is in comparing the two, we have a different schedule this year – kids are taking less classes at a time. This information from this data will be used by the schools to determine where we need to place the supports. Some of the numbers in the reports are staggering. The students are struggling.
 - Board members questions and comments included: in the 9th grade, noticing a big difference between the schools in the percentage of students with a failing grade; we are still working with students that have 'F's or 'I's and could still turn in to a passing grade; request for the report to be updated and sent out to the board every couple of weeks; have we seen a shift in kids moving from distance learning to TVOS?; more students coming into the building from TVOS – a renewed interest in student coming back to the classroom; how does this compare to last year?; is it possible if students don't want to come back to do the hybrid model at home?; possibility of an online instructional model for some students in the future – some students have done amazing things online; how we compare to other districts; board would like a chart like this at the end of every semester – if there is a hole somewhere in the district, it identifies it.

- **Board Policies – First Reading**
 - Director Durrant presented the following policies for a first reading:
 - IGBBA – *Identification – Talented and Gifted Students*
 - IGBBA-AR – *Appeal Procedure for Talented and Gifted Student ID and Placement*
 - IGBBC – *Programs and Services – Talented and Gifted*
 - IGBBC-AR – *Complaints Regarding Talented and Gifted Program*
 - IGBC – *Title IA/Parental and Family Involvement*
 - IGBC-AR – *Title IA/Parental and Family Involvement (DELETE)*
 - Ms. Durrant explained that the policies deal with Talented and Gifted (TAG) and Title IA. The

- changes reflect Three Rivers and align us with the recommendations from ODE and OSBA.
- Board member questions and comments included: the process for determining if a student is TAG-who triggers that?; concurrent enrollment option.
- **Board Policies – First Reading**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela presented the following policies for a first reading:
 - BCB – *Officers of the Board*
 - BBAA – *Individual Board Member’s Authority and Responsibilities*
 - BD/BDA – *Board Meetings*
 - BDC – *Executive Sessions*
 - DBC-AR – *Executive Sessions-News Media* (DELETE)
 - BFC – *Adoption and Revision of Policies*
 - BBC – *Board Member Resignation*
 - Mr. Valenzuela explained that these are general updates. On policy BCB-*Officers of the Board*, we are reversing the time you could serve as Board Chair back to two years, as recommended by OSBA. We are looking to delete DCB-AR around news media in executive sessions. The board policy BDC now references the Oregon Attorney General’s opinion number 8291 dealing with representatives of the news media, so the AR is no longer needed.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Resolution (#03) Call for General Obligation Bond Election**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela reviewed the bond development process. We have had several meetings with the board to get where we are currently at. Going back years, the district completed the long-range facility assessment and had lots of meetings that included community and school engagement to try to really determine what the actual needs were at each building and facility. Tonight’s resolution reflects the feedback and direction from the Board. Tonight, the Board is representing the accurate and critical needs of the district as they know them. This resolution is honest, fair, and well researched. It then becomes the will of the voters to support or not support what the Board recommends as critical needs for the district going into the future.
 - District accountant Lisa Cross provided a review of the bond history. She then reviewed the Josephine County property tax statement and clarified actual value versus assessed value and explained the permanent tax rate, which is different than the bond rate. She then addressed some misconceptions about school funding:
 - “*The district receives \$16,000 per student.*” The district currently receives \$9,256 per student for K-12 education – NOT \$16,000. Youth Correction Facilities receive approximately \$16,000 per student.
 - “*The district probably receives over \$1,000 a year per student from the gross receipts tax.*” These funds are called Student Success Act funds, for the 2021 school year, the district received \$211.68 per ADM.
 - “*Measure 98 gives \$800 per student.*” True, but for high school students only. This measure was passed by voters to support CTE programs, which the measure does.
 - “*The district gets ‘construction excise tax’ on all construction.*” On all new construction, the district receives construction excise taxes (CET) on both private and commercial property. CET is one of the few funding sources the district can spend on capital improvements. Annual receipts (from the last three years) was \$338,000. That would re-roof ¼ of North Valley High School.
 - Mr. York made a motion to approve Resolution #2021-03 – a resolution of the Three Rivers/Josephine County Unit Joint School District calling a measure election to submit to the electors of the district the question of contracting a general obligation bonded indebtedness in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$81,770,000 to finance capital costs; declaring intent to reimburse expenditures; and related matters. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. There was some discussion.
 - Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- **SOESD Local Service Plan**

- Superintendent Valenzuela explained that the Southern Oregon Education Local Service Plan is an annual agreement and went on to explain how the district relies on SOESD for special education services, technology and media services, and school improvement services. Mr. Valenzuela commented that SOESD, like all of us, is trying to make the most out of what we are dealing with and recommended approval.
- Mr. York made a motion to approve the SOESD Local Service Plan. Ms. Searle seconded the motion.
- Board members questions and comments included: is there anything that is dramatically different about this plan from previous years?; explanation of the model to meet the needs of the district;
- Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Mr. York is interested to hear how the partnership is going with Aramark in maintenance. Has it added value for us? How's it going?
- Mr. Kelly asked for a recap of the enrollment numbers in March and how it looks with students coming back to campus.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Regular Session, Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. – VIRTUAL
 - Budget Hearing at 5:30, prior to regular session.
- Board Work Session, Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
- Board Regular Session, Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
 - Executive session for superintendent evaluation prior to regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Jennifer Johnstun
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk