

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session, Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at the District Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Rd., Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Danny York, Board Chair, Zone II  
Kate Dwyer, Member of the Board, Zone I PRESENT  
Kara Olmo, Member of the Board, Zone III  
David Holmes, Superintendent-Clerk  
Dave Valenzuela, Director of K-8 Education & Technology  
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director of Student Services  
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources  
Casey Alderson, Director of Secondary Ed., Athletics & Alt. Ed.

ABSENT: Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV  
Ron Lengwin, Vice-Chair of the Board, Zone V ABSENT

Also Present: Kurt Ramme, Debbie Yerby, Ray Yarbrough, Jamie Ongman/  
Illinois Valley HS Principal, Bethany Rice, Lindsey Coffee-  
Johnson, Liz Baum, Brent Workley/New Bridge HS Principal, ALSO PRESENT  
Sally Yarbrough, Patricia Krauss, Deborah Acosta, Luke  
Tomlinson, Cassie Banuelos, Brian Hershey/Sodexo Food  
Service Manager, Jim Bunge/Aramark Custodial Manager,  
Linda Kappen, Dave Marks/TREA, Liz Landon/Madrona  
Elementary Principal, Damian Crowson/Lincoln Savage MS  
Principal, Jack Dwyer, Keith Haley, Dennis Misner/North Valley  
HS Principal, Kevin Marr, Julia Richardson, Dale Matthews, and  
Lisa Cross/Recording Secretary. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Danny York called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. He then stated the Board would go into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(f) to review records exempt by law from public inspection EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was recessed at 6:04 PM.

Open Session was reconvened at 6:14 PM and Board Chair York led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. OPEN SESSION

Board Member Olmo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Dwyer seconded and the motion passed 3-0 (Members Crume and Lengwin absent). APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Chair York asked for Superintendent Holmes to start the *Say Something Positive*. Mr. Holmes stated he had the opportunity to attend the Manzanita second and third grade concert and congratulated Karen Hegdahl who is their music instructor. It was very entertaining and a packed gym. He also went to Applegate School to experience a square dance instruction community event. It was really nice to see because of the community involvement that was there. Member Dwyer said it's a time of year when one particular unsung department is working incredibly hard. She thanked Ms. Breckner and her team for all of the work they do this time of year around renewals and personnel work. It's done with tremendous professionalism and she SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

SAY SOMETHING  
POSITIVE (CONTINUED)

thanked them. Member Olmo said she had the opportunity to meet with a parent associated with the Josephine County Foster Parents Association and identifying some ideas of how, as community members, they might be able to get together and support some of the foster kids in our community. Really having access to some financial support so that they can participate in all of the extra-curricular sports, music, plays, FBLA, speech—programs that we have at our different schools. In the process of doing that she has spent some time looking at the different programs we have at our schools. Although we spend a great deal of time talking about what we have lost, what we're rebuilding is impressive. The programs at our different schools are certainly room for more. What we have today we should be proud of. Board Chair York shared that he and his wife were visiting her grandfather at Redwood Terrace and in reading their newsletter found that the Woodland Charter School is bringing their seventh and eighth graders down and they're interviewing the members of the great generation and the kids the learning the history of the people who live there and they're compiling a report on that individual's life and then they present the report in their classroom and they present the report to the individuals. Kudos to Woodland Charter for putting that together. Director Allen took a moment to appreciate the special education teachers and assistants in our district. She has had a few things come up lately that remind her how amazing they are and the work that they do on a daily basis to support our students and families is pretty phenomenal. She also gave a shout out to Dennis DeCasas at Hidden Valley Lifeskills for delivering coffee. He has the capacity with the new espresso machine there—reaching out and getting students out and about. Director Alderson said that he spent today doing some learning walks with the high school vice principals out at North Valley and got to go through some really cool classrooms; got to watch some great teaching and learning going on; got to see some volunteers active in the classroom in a self-defense class. There were a lot of kids engaged and a lot of teachers really working hard. It was fun to see. New Bridge Principal Brent Workley said a few weeks ago his manufacturing teacher took two of their young men, who are aspiring cad/cam students, gave them a model that was useable in a standard Barbie dollhouse. They upscaled it to real size and demonstrated the chair. Kevin Marr said he had the opportunity to attend Mock Trial and watch the kids from Hidden Valley compete. It was quite remarkable. He also had the opportunity to observe the FBLA kids at Hidden Valley. It was very impressive. There are so many great things going on in this district and thanked the directors, board, Mr. Holmes, teachers and administrators for doing a great job. Lincoln Savage Principal Damian Crowson said that Lincoln Savage had some vandalism two Sunday's ago and he thanked the maintenance crew for what they did to make his school presentable on Monday and by Tuesday morning it was completely done. Mr. Holmes stated that the vandals were caught and will be held accountable. One of the primary reasons they were caught is that members of his student body stepped up to inform him of who was responsible. That shows a nice culture that Mr. Crowson has established in that school.

Liz Baum commented on Hidden Valley basketball. The coach had his young men wear slacks, ties and sweaters. They feel good about their team. She could see the comradery. Mr. Alderson added, on the same note, North Valley is tipping off this Thursday night at the state tournament. Dale Matthews stated that we all know the embarrassment suffered by District 7 and little Hunter. There was a bit of a feeding frenzy in Medford from the television stations that wanted to come here and get people on tv talking about this. He knows that one of the tv stations tried to contact at least one of the principals in this district and they said no thanks—that's a positive. When they asked him if they could potentially help from their point of view he said no. North Valley Principal Dennis Misner said they have some really interesting things going on. They have an emerging FBLA program. They had an eye clinic not too long ago at their school and it was very successful. They have a student-led production that's called 'The Election'. It's a great comedy. It was put together by students and overseen by a couple of their staff. Mr. Misner said it's really important to have their culture that's good for kids and on

Thursday's when they have intervention, all of their folks are eating lunch at the same time. A group of his music students have put together kind of a sing-along karaoke. The Lifeskills kids are included and blend right in with their school and he appreciates his students for doing that. Hidden Valley Principal Daye Stone shared about the commitment from our community. His field turf baseball facility will be completed tomorrow after an incredible amount of volunteer labor. The kids will play a home baseball game on that on Monday. It's really special. Our community has really stepped up and done what was necessary to pull that off. Illinois Valley Principal Jamie Ongman said that a couple of Saturday's ago Megan Brown and Trudy Stehelin took five of Cougar Nation to the Battle of the Books competition in Medford. They entered the competition as the number four seed and ended up beating a number two seed and were able to compete for an opportunity to go on to the state competition and missed it by four points to North Medford.

SAY SOMETHING  
POSITIVE  
(CONTINUED)

Superintendent Holmes said most of his work over the last week to ten days has revolved around the upcoming state budget and the state school fund and what we are going to receive in terms of our budget for next year. He shared a PowerPoint presentation. He went to Salem last Friday and met with about 45 of the superintendents from across the state and the COSA (*Confederation of School Administrators*) Board. He provided a list of all of our local senators and representatives from our districts that are representative of all of our schools in Josephine County with their email addresses, phone numbers, and their slow mail addresses in Salem. He encouraged anybody and everybody to take a little time and connect with those people with some of the information he is going to give. Right now the two co-chairs have proposed a budget that is about \$7.235 billion for the next biennium. He and Ms. Cross have spent a lot of the last two weeks taking that budget and those numbers and plugging it in to our current budget and what they find is based on that number we're about \$600,000 short of our current program. What that means is, going into next year, if that's the way the state school fund ends up we will be cutting \$600,000 out of our current staff resources and materials for students or programs for students to match that budget. The portion of the state budget that K-12 has received over the past ten years has fallen from 44.8% to 39.7% of the total budget. What he is not telling them is that that we need to advocate for more taxes. What we need to advocate for is a bigger share of the taxes that are already being collected. Over the last ten years the portion that K-12 is receiving has been shifting to other interest areas such as transportation, human health services and a variety of other places that is not K-12. Historically over the last ten years, other programs have risen, while K-12 and total education has fallen. It's not about raising taxes and collecting more money, it's about distributing it in a better way and giving more to K-12 education for our kids.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Mr. Holmes addressed the instructional time gap and stated that based on our current budget and the state of Oregon over the last period of time we have one year less than the national average grades one through twelve. That's because of student days that are cut, the length of the student day, that we as a state have an average of one whole year. When our students graduate twelfth grade they have had one full year less time in the classroom than the national average and we are expected to produce the same capable citizen as the rest of the nation in one less year than the rest of the nation, on average. In class size we rank 49th in the nation in student to teacher ratio, nearly six more students per teacher than the national average. In regards to funding to provide basic programs and supports, Oregon spends about 88% of the national average per pupil. Oregon is 46th in the state expenditures as a percent of the state taxable resources.

Mr. Holmes shared that COSA, along with the superintendent created this priority listing of what our goals are. They arrived at three levels of funding: \$7.235, \$7.5 and \$7.875 billion. \$7.235 is the low level that the co-chairs of the House and the Senate are at right now. At \$7.235 billion it would significantly reduce funding per students, \$87 per student statewide and \$94 per student in Three Rivers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT (CONTINUED)

This would mean teacher and staff layoffs, fewer school days, higher class sizes and reduced programs. You will hear that the \$7.235 is supposed to include funding for all day, full day kindergarten and in fact it does not do that. We are a full \$300 million short statewide to do full day, all day kindergarten across the state. He explained how based on the funding formula schools will lose overall funding by not offering full day kindergarten.

The next level of funding is \$7.5 billion and that's a number that is being kicked around that you hear some legislators talk about that they might be able to get to. What that means is they're going to try to have hard conversations around what gets cut. \$7.5 is the place where most districts can maintain current programs and add full day kindergarten. It's not an investment level to move things forward in terms of really attacking graduation rates and overall performance to make an impact on those instructional hours.

At \$7.875 is the funding level that superintendents and COSA group have put together that they believe makes the investment in education that really gives us the dollars to reduce class sizes and put into place programs that move all kids forward. Our CTE programs in this district have been devastated over the last so many years and they are almost non-existent and that is a huge portion of our student body that would be attracted to that type of program to be successful as they move out of high school and either into some kind of technical training in the work world and we are not addressing that. We have just cut those programs because of lack of funding. That's one example of the types of things we would be adding back.

Mr. Holmes provided a list of all of the email addresses and phone numbers and all of the snail mail addresses. He encouraged everyone to make an attempt to at least reach out to one of their local reps and say that the funding level at \$7.235 is going to hurt the Three Rivers School District. If we, as an educational community, don't take the time to advocate for what we do and who we are and who we represent, nobody else is going to and somebody else will make a better case that we do for some of those other programs and our students will be left out.

STUDENT BODY REPORT  
-HIDDEN VALLEY HS

Hidden Valley FBLA students Bethany Rice and Lindsey Coffee-Johnson introduced themselves, the FBLA program and provided some highlights of their community service and fundraising activities which included: Winterfest at the Bear Hotel, gift wrapping at TapRock, Science Night at Fruitdale and the Soup for the Soul. Their main community service project this year was the backpack project where they distribute backpacks to homeless teens and at-risk students. One of the ways they build leadership is by going to conferences and competing. They recently attended the regional skills conference where they compete against 13 schools across the region. They also went to the Oregon Leadership Institute where their chapter members got to participate in business and leadership workshops. Their two main conferences they attend are the State Business Leadership Conference and the National Leadership Conference coming up in April and July. Last year at the State Conference they had over 50 members of their chapter attend and for the thirteenth year in a row they achieved Chapter of the Year. Last year they had 27 members attend Nationals.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Board Chair York brought forward the revised 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. Mr. York advised the personnel report has been revised. Member Dwyer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. Member Olmo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Board Chair York opened up the meeting for community comments. He only had one completed card requesting to speak.

Teacher Dave Marks stated that in talking with their members they wanted him to speak to the board about some of the opinions and directions of the teachers of the district. They have 220+ members and they are concerned about some of the changes that have come out of the state of Oregon. One of the more pressing issues is the Smarter Balanced test. They are opposed to that. It is really not a useful tool—it's a waste of time. Their administrators have pressed them to teach to this test and make sure they are getting the kids ready. He would like to see more support outside of the classroom for this. As an association they no longer support the Common Core any more. There is a lot of really good stuff in it, but there are some things that are very troubling. Specifically, they are very concerned about the kindergarten and first grade level. They don't support the 40/40/20. It sounds like a great plan but Oregon doesn't fund education that includes the college level and by committing a child to go to college, they are saying commit to a \$50,000 debt. Response to Intervention—it's a good program but we really need to get teachers involved in creating it and crafting it so that it works for our staff in our setting with our staff. We don't have as many people as many of these other districts, such as support staff. Another issue is insurance. We have had the same insurance broker for eons and they are working on an issue where they didn't give them what they asked for. He wonders if there is some other person who could maybe do it better? He urged the board to look at alternatives, possibly someone local. Work on a potential grant.

COMMUNITY COMMENT  
(CONTINUED)

Dale Matthews stated he works with an organization called Bad County.com and they track what the county commissioners are up to on a daily basis. One of the things he gets to hear that most of the board doesn't as he sits in on all of their meetings and video tape everything according to state law is they have a lot of negative things to say about Three Rivers School District (TRSD). They say these things in open public meetings. Their biggest gripe about this district is that the district is not getting with their program for the Merlin/North Valley Sanitary District. They have had said several times that the district just doesn't understand what's good for them and the district is running a disastrous operation with the sanitary district. Cheryl Walker had reported to the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) that TRSD was fully on board and that's one of the reasons that the Josephine County Commissioners were asking for money from the IFA. She also said in that meeting that TRSD was not fully on board. The case is that they have now decided not to go with that any more, partly because he believes somebody from this district talked with the IFA and partly because Bad County.com did and they shared with them video tapes that they posted on You Tube showing them saying the district wasn't fully on board. Today they had a meeting with some of the larger companies out there and the companies said that before they vote to establish this district they requested more time to soak in the details. The commissioners said they will not give them more time and then they decided to pass it anyway. Unfortunately they passed something that is supposed to go through two public hearings and it has only gone through one. They are really intent on getting this money and what they said in public meetings is that as soon as the money arrives TRSD will see the light and will join them. Mr. Matthews wanted the board to know what the commissioners are saying behind their back. He wants them to understand there is a big push to get this money and they were fraudulently added to the list when TRSD wasn't on the list. Mr. Matthews also expressed an interest in seeing positive things in our district to share on his channel. He would like to see kids singing or sports and things. He provided his telephone number: 541-244-1092. They have 212,000 views.

Kurt Ramme stated at the last board meeting they talked about volunteers getting fingerprinted and background checks. He gave Board Chair York a letter he received from Dr. Dobson in January 2012. It talks about abuse. He referenced the Penn State scandal, but more alarming is 137 separate Baptist churches whose clergy were arrested, convicted or sued for sexual abuse of boys or girls. It just shouldn't be volunteers that should be fingerprinted. It should be everybody that's involved with children at the schools. He also provided Mr. York with four DVD's called "War on Kids" and provided information about the DVD's. He then asked why they want kindergarten children in school all day long—

indoctrination probably.

## FOOD SERVICE

Director Breckner started with a couple of positives for the board. The district has started making connections with local farms in the area. Beginning with this month schools will be receiving kale, parsnips and carrots. The district is pretty much in the same place in terms of where we are at. We are 67% of the way through the year and we have made up more than 85% of the loss. That's another way of taking a look at where we started the year at \$235,000 in the hole in July. We've got that narrowed down to almost all of that.

Ms. Breckner pointed out that one of the things she and Sodexo are doing, particularly given the fact that they have four months left, is really taking a look at narrowing down specific categories of money. Where is it coming in, what are their expenses, and really narrowing down how things are being spent. She explained how the overall revenue is up 12.34%. District labor costs are high. There is an increase in labor costs which is not a Sodexo problem, it's the district's problem. That cost the district 5.71% more than what we were paying last year. The other expense that the district is starting to see is equipment. She received a list from maintenance of things identified as broken (refrigerators, walk-ins, etc.). In the Sodexo contract from July, Sodexo will donate \$50,000 of equipment. They will be finalizing what that \$50,000 will be going to so they can maximize that over Spring vacation. That \$50,000 is not going to be enough to fix all of the district's equipment needs.

POLICY KL & KL-AR  
PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Superintendent Holmes brought forward policies KL and KL-AR *Public Complaints* for the first reading. Back in January we presented the Division 22 Standards report. At that time he reported to the board that we were in compliance with all of the standards with the exception of asbestos. As part of that process the next month we had to go online, there were five areas that the state required us to take more specific looks at online and report on those five areas. It is a very lengthy process in terms of what we needed to go through to determine everything. In that process he found that there were some specific things missing in our KL and KL-AR Public Complaints policy. That is what he did report to the state, and along with that submitted that we would have a first reading of a new policy that would be within compliance in March and then a second reading in April. The policy the board has in front of them has the changes that meet all of those requirements per state law. A number of those had to do with specific deadlines that had to be followed that were specific in the manner in which certain things were reported. Those are the changes that he made. It is a first reading. If they have things that they would like to suggest that they could wordsmith or add. In some cases there is not an option to delete without being out of compliance. As usual, we have reached out and talked to other districts. We did reach out to District 7 as they have just updated their policy and in that process we were able to point out to them that their new policy that had just adopted was not in compliance because they missed a couple of things. Between the two of us we now both have policies that moving forward should be in full compliance. Outside of the perspective of just being in compliance, this is a good policy. It is very clear to anybody that is a stakeholder in the district if they wanted to file a formal complaint it's very clear what the process is and should be. He asked that they approve the first reading and let him know if there is anything they would like to tweak and we can go from there.

Member Olmo stated she would be happy to vote on this policy tonight. It is straight forward and she is comfortable voting on it and approving it.

Member Dwyer made a motion to approve policies KL and KL-AR. Ms. Olmo seconded the motion. Ms. Dwyer stated she didn't have any problems with the way the policy is written. It is straight forward and simple. She doesn't see anything that could be deemed controversial.

Mr. York said that the addition of the timeline helps a lot. The stakeholders know what to expect.

Board Chair York called for a vote to approve policy KL and KL-AR and the motion passed unanimously.

POLICY KL & KL-AR  
(CONTINUED)

Board Chair York asked if there was anything they would like to add as future agenda items? Mr. Holmes stated that he has two things. The first is that he sent a board update to the entire board with his concern over needing a second portable at Fruitdale and asked that board members either get back to him or Mr. York concerning that second portable. He needs to know whether the board wants that as a presentation for discussion at the next board meeting or not in need of that discussion and his proposal was that we would go forward with that second portable. Mr. Holmes explained that it is the approval piece as the funds would come from our CET budget and we are in a position right now where Fruitdale has two kindergarten classes of 30 students each, which will obviously then become first grade. Based on the numbers we are getting from the county and historical data for kindergarten moving in—just that move alone will fill one portable. We are already short a classroom that we have converted a book storage room that we're using. There is a need right now for three, the second portable would provide four and should give us a bit of breathing room should we incur any kind of growth over the summer. There are three schools districtwide that are growing very quickly: Fruitdale, Madrona and Fleming Middle School. As of this last month, we are up three students for the month. That puts us up a total of ten since December, which counts the 45 students we lost to early graduation. We lost 45 and we are still up ten from December and historically speaking, in the last ten years we have never, ever been up December through February in this district in the last ten years. He has real concerns going in to next year still being short one classroom and if we incur any kind of growth we have no place to put them. He would rather go into it planning ahead. The funds are there to provide for that and it's not a waste of money in his opinion. That building can and would be moved and used elsewhere when we get to the point of putting a more permanent structure that that building is designed to have. There is just no time to plan accordingly and get that construction done, nor is there a budget to provide for that type of construction.

SUGGESTED FUTURE  
AGENDA ITEMS

Member Olmo suggested this be a future agenda item. It's not something they should approve. She would want the Fruitdale community to have a chance to weigh in. Mr. Holmes said it would be on the agenda for the April 7th work session.

Mr. Holmes said the second item, as was mentioned in his update, he asked if the board would be supportive of him creating a resolution from the board concerning state school funding levels? If they would like he would put that together for the 7th as well if that is something they feel the board members here could support. Whether it passes or not is not relative at this time. The board members in attendance were supportive of Mr. Holmes drafting a resolution.

Board Chair York asked if the board members wanted to have a discussion about the Smarter Balanced resolution that Dave Marks sent to them? Ms. Olmo wasn't sure without having a chance to look at it. They will be in touch with Board Chair York if that is something they want to pursue.

ADJOURN

Board Chair York adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.