

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, April 20, 2009 at Hidden Valley High School, 651 Murphy Creek Road, Grants Pass, Oregon, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dave Strahan, Chairperson of the Board, Zone IV
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III
Phil Stephens, 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

PRESENT

ABSENT: Jim Weaver Member of the Board, Zone II
John George, Director of Secondary Education

Also Present: Jim Tehan, Elly Lengwin, Chris Bristow and Craig Volz/
McKinstry, Susan Calvert, Ron Lengwin, Dale Fisher, Patti
Richter/Daily Courier, Gordon Longhurst, John Chmelir, Ralph
Henderson, Lloyd Russell/Maintenance Director, Tom Wiley,
John Wiley, Michelle Sesock/Williams Principal, Kelly
Christensen/Fruitdale Principal, Susie Biller, Wanda Reynolds,
Wayne Brown, Davie Fuller/Newbridge Principal, Dennis
Misner/Hidden Valley Principal and Shelly Berry/Recording
Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT

Chairperson Strahan called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that he has been visiting schools and classrooms, with a goal of visiting nearly every classroom. Have started out with the elementary classrooms. The visitations have been going well and the teachers do a great job of engaging kids. He expressed his concern about future class sizes due to potential budget cuts. He received a letter from Governor Kulingoski jointly written with State Superintendent Castillo and they are asking districts to develop a range of scenarios in their budgets from a \$5.4 billion to \$5.9 state school funding. The level \$5.4 billion range would mean a reduction in services to Three Rivers School District around \$5.1 million. There would be a huge difference if it gets to the \$5.9 billion range; the reduction to Three Rivers School District is somewhere around \$2.9 million.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola thanked the teachers, classified, administrators and confidential staff which volunteered to engage in talks with the district about what we can collectively do to mitigate the financial problems that we're facing.

Board Chair Strahan opened up the meeting for community comments and there were none.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

- ESIS UPDATE Director Breckner stated the there is a trainer coming from AAL the week of May 11th to provide training for secondary schools on scheduling. Administrators, counselors and registrars will be attending. The cost is \$6,000 for the three-day training. Eagle Point will share the financial responsibility. Working on a new server deployment that will go out this summer with the ESD. The ESD is working with us on remapping our network to resolve issues this summer, so that we do not repeat some of the struggles that we experienced this year. We are also talking with Hunter about Phase II of the fiber project.
- TRIMESTER UPDATE Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented survey results from the student and parent second trimester surveys and reviewed the results for each of the high schools. He then presented high school grade comparisons for the second trimester.
- Member Meier expressed a concern with the trimester system in that they fulfill their requirements and there is not a lot of requirements for the third trimester. Director Breckner stated that staff is reviewing the schedule to make the appropriate changes for next year.
- QZAB Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated there is good news regarding the QZAB, interest-free loan which will be used to fund some of our energy projects. McKinstry has been very helpful in assisting us secure the best option for our district. One of the leading bidders was a 5% charge on a QZAB, which meant for a \$2 million QZAB, it would cost us \$100,000. At the last look we have hired Paul Collings out of Colorado and the fee for the QZAB set-up and everything is about \$25,000.
- SELMA ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL LEASE Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated there have been conversations between Jim Tehan and himself regarding the lease, and the lease presented tonight is acceptable to the district and Selma. There is a question of how to handle the Selma renovations, specifically the pole building and the solar installation. Board Chair Strahan stated that he would like the photo voltake array and electrical equipment to remain the property of the SCEC folks and should the lease be terminated, would like to have language in the lease state that they have permission to remove that equipment, and if the equipment is removed, that the structure will be left in a weather-tight condition with holes and openings repaired. Jim Tehan stated that if they were ever required to leave, the solar panels would probably be left with the building, due to the extensive underground wiring.
- Board Chair Strahan concluded that the presented lease addressed the issues of concern that were raised by Member Meier.
- Member Meier requested wording in the lease to allow the district to re-acquire the building for district reasons or educational reasons.
- APPROVED Member Meier moved to approve the Selma ten-year lease with the addition of the noted changes, 'other district reasons'. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- REVISED BUDGET
CALENDAR Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented a revised budget calendar, which would change the first budget committee meeting from May 11th to May 27th. An economic forecast comes out on May 15th and within a couple of days the Ways and Means committee should be able to tell what the education budget is tentatively going to look like, and within a week we should get a forecast of what that means to Three Rivers School District. The positive side of moving the meeting to May 27th would be that we would be working with a real number at the time. The downside of moving it back is that the budget has to be approved by June 15th at our Board meeting in order to meet

all of our legal obligations.

Member Litak expressed his desire to have the earlier meeting on May 11th. Would like to go ahead and plan the budget, utilizing scenarios developed by the SAFR committee.

BUDGET CALENDAR
(CON'T)

Member Meier agreed with Member Litak in wanting to keep the earlier meeting date. She wants to avoid the rush at the last minute to approve the budget.

Board Chair Strahan favors streamlining the process and working with the actual numbers, meeting on the May 27th date.

Director Stephens stated he favors the 27th date, as he would prefer knowing the dollars we have to work with, and working with actual numbers.

The first meeting of the Budget Committee will remain as May 11, 2009.

Craig Volz with McKinstry presented the Project Development Plan for the first phase of the 2009 energy project. The first phase consists of lighting upgrades at four schools (Evergreen, Illinois Valley H.S., Madrona and North Valley H.S.) and also demand control ventilation upgrades at the same four schools. The project cost is \$445,000, guaranteed maximum price. There is a guaranteed savings of almost \$31,000. The net payback after incentives is just 11.8 years.

MCKINSTRY PHASE I
ENERGY PROJECT

Craig Volz stated that last week applications were submitted to the Oregon Department of Energy for their state energy program (\$3.8 million stimulus money). Applications were submitted for both the biomass and photovoltaic projects, requesting \$730,000 for the biomass project and about \$3.0 million for solar projects.

Member Stephens moved to approve awarding design and construction of Phase I. Member Meier seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Sue Calvert, Fruitdale Elementary volunteer gave a presentation of the Fruitdale Community Garden Project. She has a background in recreation and horticulture and has lived in the Grants Pass area for four years. She approached the school and the community about the venture and was pleased how everyone came through. Her dream was to have a children's garden that's a part of the curriculum and have it continue through the summer. Community businesses stepped up to donate or provide items at a discounted rate. This past Saturday was the first work day, and all the gravel was spread and the planter boxes were filled with compost. Next Saturday they will do the planting. Each classroom will have their own box and there will be seven additional boxes for the Food Bank. The garden will be open during the summer, and next fall there will be a garden party, and the sponsors will be recognized. The goal is to be self-supporting and continue from year-to-year.

FRUITDALE GARDEN
PROJECT

Board Chair Strahan thanked Ms. Calvert for her hard work and dedication to the project.

John Chmelir, President of the Home Builders of Josephine County commented on the construction excise tax, and a request for support from Ralph Henderson to provide busing and provide tools for the "Southern Oregon Construction Training Alliance". This program helps high school students learn construction technology.

Ralph Henderson, Department Head of construction technology at RCC explained that the Southern Oregon Construction Training Alliance was formed to increase the number

HOME BUILDERS ASSO-
CIATION REQUEST

of qualified applicants to fill the current and future workforce needs of the construction industry. The program trains students in various aspects of construction training (finish floors, electrical, concrete form and structural). The high school students earn both high school and college credit for this course.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that this program involves only Three Rivers School District at this time, and there is a partnership in this grant. The request is for some of the dollars from the construction tax to help support this program, for our kids that are in it, by potentially buying some tools and those types of things. He asked for a commitment from the Board to support this program.

Gordy Longhurst stated that they are not requesting any money at this time. He foresees coming to the Board in the future with specific needs. The Homebuilders Association will be making a contribution to this project.

Board Chair Strahan stated his support for the project and encourages more talk between the groups.

SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT

Board Chair Strahan stated that Superintendent Huber-Kantola has requested renegotiation of his contract. The primary issue is that he has asked that the District freeze his salary at the 2009-2010 rate, and that his contract be extended for another two years. Member Meier added that we need to reinstate the early retirement that was inadvertently left off of his previous contract when he changed positions.

APPROVED

Member Meier moved to approve the contract with the two year extension, salary freeze, and the reinstatement of the early retirement/medical benefit. She expressed her appreciation to Superintendent Huber-Kantola for approaching the Board requesting the salary freeze and has deep regret due to the sacrifice and leadership he has shown. As a Board, they feel that he is doing a fantastic job, and should be recognized for his performance. Member Stephens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2009-2010 DISTRICT
CALENDAR

Director Breckner presented the 2009-2010 District calendar for approval. She pointed out that the calendar is "financially tentative" based on the potential changes that could occur due to the financial situation. Director Breckner shared that all four employee groups recognize that it may be necessary to reduce days. This calendar has been reviewed by all administrators and staff, requesting their input. Next fall creates problems at both ends due to when Labor Day falls.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola asked where the calendar originated from? Director Breckner responded that it was an idea brought forward by a teacher on the trimester committee in an effort to end the trimesters at a more natural break, such as winter and spring breaks. It also improves the amount of class time in November.

Member Meier asked if the calendar had been presented to Site Councils? As a parent she was concerned about starting school before Labor Day. Historically our district always starts after Labor Day.

Director Breckner explained that due to the fact that Labor Day is so late, that if school were to start a week later the breaks would be very disruptive.

Board Chair Strahan stated that he understands how some will see the start date as a problem, but others would find problems with the alternative. The reality is that anything that has happened traditionally is out the window in terms of budgeting and in terms of

our calendar, because we are on unchartered ground.

Member Meier asked to hear from any principals in the audience.

Hidden Valley Principal Dennis Misner stated that at the high school level, due to athletics, students and families are already geared up to return to school in August. He also stated that after Memorial Day it is like 'driving horses' to keep students working hard and ending June 9th is much superior to ending June 16th.

2009-2010
DISTRICT CALENDAR

Principal Dave Fuller stated he shared the calendar with parents on his Site Council at Jerome Prairie. There was a little bit said about starting before Labor Day, but it was minimal.

Member Litak stated he feels parents, as well as staff should have input on the school calendar, recognizing that it may be too late to do that this year.

APPROVED

Member Litak moved to approve the calendar and Member Stephens seconded. The motion passed 3-1, Member Meier abstaining.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the following policies for the first reading:

- DFA—Investment of Funds
- DFA-AR—Investment Guidelines for General, Special Revenue and Capital Projects Funds
- DL—Payroll
- DL-AR—Payroll Advances
- DLB—Salary Deductions

POLICIES—FIRST
READING

These policies are for first reading only, and there is no action necessary at this time.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then stated that when the auditors were here they requested a more detailed report for the internal control guidelines. The report states who does what. The two major changes include the annual self-check performed by the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant, which then needs to be shared with the Board. Member Stephens moved to approve the Guidelines. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

INTERNAL CONTROL
GUIDELINES

Elementary Education Director Peter Maluk presented the Planned Course Statement for 'Futures Forum'. Currently our seniors do senior packets. Beginning next year, this would be a required course for all seniors.

FUTURES FORUM

Member Meier asked if this would impact seniors next year who have an idea of what they classes they need to take next year and will this be an added burden?

Hidden Valley Principal Dennis Misner stated that this is a viable opportunity for kids to be prepared for their adult life. He recommends that a change be made to allow students to take the course their junior or senior year.

Member Meier moved to approve the course with the junior/senior amendment. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Newbridge Principal Dave Fuller presented the Newbridge Project "READY" grant for approval. This is a transition program with University of Oregon. The University of Oregon is covering all expenses, there is no cost to the district. The curriculum is also provided. Member Stephens moved to approve. Member Meier seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT 'READY'

FINANCIAL REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola projected a \$2.8 million ending fund balance. That number includes an amount of \$440,000 from the School Day Restoration Fund that has not yet been received.

Member Litak inquired under the category of 'Other Revenue' why we are up by \$600,000 from what we had budgeted? We budgeted \$1.6 million and came in at \$2.2 million.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that they got more money in state school payments from previous years; there were fewer students statewide which made the per student dollar amount more, and so that increase our other revenue. We also never know what percentage of our high cost disability claims we are actually going to get paid on. There is a set pool of \$18 million statewide and depending on how many people put in for how much money in the high cost disability determines how much money you get back?

Member Litak then asked why the 'Employee Benefits' so much higher than what we had budgeted?

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that the health care costs were under-budgeted. When they were rolled up from last year they were not accurate. He stated that he met with Debbie earlier this week and went through person-by-person to ensure accuracy.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Maintenance Director Lloyd Russell stated that he did not have anything to add to his written report. He has been kept real busy with McKinstry.

CONSENT AGENDA

Superintendent Huber-Kantola asked that an item be added to the consent agenda. The FBLA National trip was approved at the March 2009 meeting for 13 students. We now have 15 students that have qualified. So the request is for the two additional kids to receive the \$300 stipend.

APPROVED

Member Meier moved to approve the consent agenda and member Meier Seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Dave Strahan
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT