

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2021**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom for the regular board meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Kate Dwyer, 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 Secretar

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and had Superintendent Valenzuela lead the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call vote was taken, and all board members were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Mr. York thanked Chartwell's for the chocolate cake and flowers that were dropped off at his home as part of Board Appreciation Month. It was completely unexpected and very much appreciated! Addison Pate reported that about an hour ago he got a new nephew, and he is very excited about that. Mr. Kelly thanked everybody in the district in regard to some great news coming later in the meeting. He recognized everybody in the school district and parents who have stayed positive about their kids staying in school during this strange and weird time. Ms. Searle shared that she helped her daughter with her 21st Century after school baking class and they all had so much fun baking! The teacher had all of the kids super-involved, and they were so excited to be doing it. The chocolate chip banana bread was amazing! Mr. Halsted shared that there has been a lot of change over the last 10-12 months. The attitudes across the board have been awesome! The professionalism shown across the district is second to none. He can't thank everyone enough. Ms. Johnstun expressed real excitement that now in Josephine County this weekend there is a big event where we will be able to begin vaccinating our teachers and school staff. Each person's decision on vaccination is a personal one, but this is something moving us in the right direction of getting our schools reopened. Mr. Valenzuela recognized our three Illinois Valley area principals, Jenny Jones, Danny Pratt and Tanner Smith. They were set up at an old bank location in the center of Cave Junction all week with the "Cougar I" mobile hotspot van. They partnered with Dutch Bros to get drinks and getting kids down there to do homework and connect online and get with their teachers. It has been a really cool engagement event for the students in the Illinois Valley.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

- Superintendent Valenzuela announced that January is School Board Recognition Month. The school board for Three Rivers School District has been absolutely incredible! The district has been dealing with some pretty massive issues, but the board's communication, support and steadfast dedication to making sure we are doing everything we can for students, in the right way, has been amazing. He emphasized how meaningful it is to him and the leadership team to know that they have the board's support and that they are in their corner and working towards the same goals. In these trying times, it is not the case everywhere across the state. It makes a difference to the work they are doing, and it makes a difference to the kids that we serve. Thanks so much for the work

that they do! This year we are sending our thanks directly to them virtually with this great 'Board Thank You Video'. . . .

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Return to school plans for Three Rivers School District. Provided a Ready Schools Safe Learners update: the revised metrics, new requirements and anticipated opening timeline. Currently the district plans to bring K-5 back to in-person learning by February 1st. Grades 6-12 will remain in comprehensive distance learning for now. Our secondary administrative teams are working on updating blueprints, which is required prior to students returning. They will be returning to onsite as soon as the metrics allow.
- Covered the vaccine roll out in Josephine County as well as the vaccination town hall event on January 21st open to both Three Rivers and District 7 staff.
- Emphasized that even though the metrics are advisory, all of the requirements are still in place and required: 35 square feet/person, social distancing, masks, etc. It is important for us to do everything right to make sure that once the doors are open – we can keep them open and we don't have to go back into a shutdown.

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 – January 2020
- Athletic Coaches – January 2020
- Grant Request (1)
- Draft Minutes of previous meetings:
 - Board Regular Session – November 18, 2020
 - Board Regular Session – December 16, 2020
- Rescind board policy GCBDAAGDBAA – COVID-19 Related Leave
- 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

- Superintendent Valenzuela commented that the board has been meeting virtually for some time and a couple of folks have asked the district return to live meetings. If we were to conduct our meetings in person then we have to allow for the public to come in. It's not a good time to introduce a bunch of people into a small space for an extended period of time. As the metrics improve, we will re-evaluate.
- Judy Ahrens(Via written comment) – Asked when will board meetings be open to the public? How many students are attending in person and will all students be allowed to attend? How many students in TRSD have contacted COVID-19 recently and what is the status of their health?

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **Bond Discussion**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela provided an overview of information as a result of the board work session last week to prepare for the bond discussion this evening. He reminded the board that after the completion of the long-range facility assessment over two years ago, which covers everything, the capital improvement cost was over \$158 million, and costs are continuing to go up. Our fundamental improvement needs include roofing, water supply and disposal, HVAC and healthy air for our kids and then paving, parking and concrete structure walkway structures that are safe. This about keeping our assets intact, keeping our students safe, warm and dry, keeping our buildings standing for years to come, and that number is \$84,710,000.
 - The board asked the question of how we get there? The cost of a 20-year bond is about

\$.96c per \$1000 – or about \$211 a year on the average home (\$220,000) or \$17.59 a month. He covered how the bond would compare to other district in Southern Oregon that have bonds. Our old bond started off at .74c/\$1000 and over time the rate has gone down and is now at .47c/\$1000. Many other districts have bonds that exceed a dollar. We have more clear information coming in with estimates on costs and also a survey going out to our voters. At the February 17th board meeting the board can decide the direction and at what level we would go for.

- Board member questions and comments included: a request for a chart/graph to show the gradual drop in the cost of the bond over time (.74c to .47c); to explain the timing and match funds the district qualifies for; the fact that Josephine County taxpayers are paying off their last payment and this tax is going away and this new bond would be a replacement for that; the matching \$4.9 million OSCIM grant; if the district had to borrow about the .74c bond amount would the interest be fixed and would it be a good time to do that while interest rates are so low?
- A decision on the bond and project list would need to be decided by the board at the February board meeting. A tentative board work session is scheduled for February 10th instead of February 3rd.
- **Annual English Language Learners (ELL) Report**
 - Director Durrant presented the annual English Language Learners (ELL) report. Ms. Durrant informed the board that report is prepared by the Oregon Department of Education and advised them where to find the web link to access the complete report on the district and ODE website. The focus of the report is about the funding for English Language Learner programs and the intended student outcomes. The report summarizes the state and district level progress from 2018-2019 school year.
 - Ms. Durrant also shared an overview of the 'ELL Services' page of the district website which has a lot of information for our ELL parents, which includes many "How-To" videos to assist our parents. The district currently has 75 ELL students across the district.
- **Cyber Security Incident Response Plan**
 - Rob Saunders expressed how thankful he was for our tech team. They are amazing individuals that have done an amazing job during this challenging time and are passionate about providing support to our students, staff and parents.
 - Mr. Saunders stated that the Cyber Security and Response Plan was created in an effort to be prepared in the event of any kind of cyber security breach or potential data compromise. The goal with the plan is to create resilience and be prepared. The written plan was prepared with our system analyst, Pete DeVaglio, taking the lead for research and also partnered with our ESD.
 - Mr. Saunders provided an overview of the district technology processes such as: utilizing the ESD to host our services, cloud-based storage and email, initiating staff training and protocols around security and the multi-state information sharing and analysis center.
 - Highlights of the plan include: clearly defined roles if an incident occurs; technical and legal contacts page; communications plan – guidelines and confidentiality; phases; forms/logs to collect data; and evaluation of current practice to continually improve.
- **Food Service Update**
 - Rob Saunders gave a shout out to the district food service staff. There have been continuous changes, adjustments and many challenges, and they have responded in an amazing way!
 - The district has successfully transitioned to a new food service partner. Chartwells staff Cathy Cusack and executive chef Lindsay Homewood-Levine have been great assets. The district has received a lot of positive feedback from staff, students and parents about the menus and the food that they are receiving. It is challenging to design menus in our current situation. When we do deliver meals, they are for multiple days, so we focus on high impact value items and foods that kids love to eat. He shared some pictures of the food items as well as the staging involved to prepare such a large quantity of food to be transported.
 - The partnership with First Student has been amazing! The packaging is a bit challenging. They work closely with our kitchen staff managing and loading all of the food items for

delivery.

- Explained the “Nutrislice” app for menus. It can be viewed online on the computer or the app can be downloaded to a phone. You can view menu items by school, nutrition, allergy concerns and many languages are supported.
- Provided meal counts and participation numbers by school for breakfast and lunch. The districts goal is to increase the participation numbers in the meal program.
- Board members questions and comments included: have heard positive feedback from families about the food; families grateful for the ability to receive meals vis the bus drops; recognition of the “logistical masterpiece” working with two contracted vendors, plus our food service folks to get our students fed; applauded Mr. Saunders and everybody involved with this – this is a big deal!

- **2020 Graduation Rates**

- Director Alderson shared that he can’t think of a better time to talk about graduation rates than Board Appreciation Month! We appreciate the support and commitment from the board members to support our district at every level to students across the stage on time and prepare them for what comes next. You will see some significant increases across our district.
- In 2017 our board committed to creating a consistent goal of getting to 85% by 2023. He shared the graduation number from the 2013 starting point:
 - Hidden Valley High School 67.48%
 - Illinois Valley High School 65.98%
 - North Valley High School 61.59%
 - Three Rivers School District 64.81%
- The 2020 graduation rates:
 - Hidden Valley High School 83.80%
 - Illinois Valley High School 86.25%
 - North Valley High School 84.56%
 - Three Rivers School District 82.63%
- The graduation rates seven-year growth:
 - Hidden Valley High School 16.32%
 - Illinois Valley High School 20.27%
 - North Valley High School 22.97%
 - Three Rivers School District 19.12%
- Mr. Alderson also explained that these numbers are not common in any district in Oregon, or our region. They are significant when you look at where we were and now where we are at. This last spring was difficult in trying to reach students through distant learning but were credit deficient. Huge kudos to our high school staff for supporting our students through that time and meeting students where they were academically and personally. The state did not change anything for last year around credit requirements.
- He then shared data on dropout rates. Six years ago, the TRSD dropout rate was 6.55%; 2019-20 dropout rate for the district was 2.38%.
- The amount of work, at all three of our high schools, that has gone in to getting kids across the stage is remarkable! He thanked the board for their commitment to staying steady in that graduation goal. We will keep going until our entire district is at 85%.
- Board member comments included: incredible news and makes them so happy; this was a real team effort by everybody involved from kindergarten forward to get them there; it only takes one adult to make a connection with a kid to put them on a path toward graduation; the training we have down with our staff around ACES over the last 4-5 years has made a huge difference in all of our staff; incredible and hard to believe this much time has passed and that we are this close to that goal; couldn’t be more proud of the effort that has been put forth by everyone.

ACTION ITEMS

- **TRSD 2020 Audited Financial Statements**
 - District Accountant Lisa Cross presented the June 30, 2020 audited financial statements for approval by the board. In summary the auditor's report expressed an unmodified opinion. This means these financial statements are presented fairly and they comply with accounting standards and regulations. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and there were no instances of non-compliance.
 - She highlighted on page one the district's net position was approximately \$500,000 less than the prior year. That was due mostly to an increase of the net pension liability (PERS unfunded liability). The fund balances increased by over \$1.5 million (general fund, special revenue and capital projects). In addition, our capital assets were reduced by about \$1.1 million due to depreciation outpacing what's investing in equipment and upgrades. There is a very good summary on pages B1 through B6 that gives more detailed information.
 - Mr. York made a motion to approve the TRSD 2020 Audited Financial Statements. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Three Rivers Education Association/SOBC (Licensed Contract 2020-2023)**
 - Director Alderson explained that this contract is a culmination of the last twelve months of bargaining and working with our licensed staff and their bargaining team to complete a contract that was started before the shutdown in the spring. This contract will continue through the 2022-2023 school year. The highlighted areas are the changes. There was a focus on cleaning up a lot of the language pieces. Many of the changes were due to the conversion from a five-day week to a four-day week.
 - Mr. York made a motion to approve the Three Rivers Education Association/SOBC 2020-2023 contract. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. There were some comments/thanks from the board members. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 4-0, Member Halsted abstaining as his wife is a licensed employee.

- **Temporary Licensed Evaluation Handbook for 2020-2021**
 - Director Alderson explained that ORS 342850 states that the school board shall develop an evaluation process with administrators and licensed staff. It was recognized early on this year that teaching in a CDL model looks different. There are things that we had in our evaluation handbook that would not match up with what we are seeing in a hybrid or CDL situation. It was written more for when students are in their seats in the classrooms. This updated evaluation handbook was done in collaboration with licensed and administrative staff and will fit with any model, in-person, hybrid or comprehensive distance learning. This evaluation will be used for the current year and will be reevaluated for next year. Board approval is one of the steps outlined in the ORS.
 - Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve the Temporary Licensed Evaluation Handbook for 2020-2021. Ms. Searle seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items

- Mr. York is looking forward to the second quarter data. It will be presented at the February meeting.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Work Session, Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. - VIRTUAL
- Board Regular Session, Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. – VIRTUAL

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Jennifer Johnstun
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk