

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
8550 NEW HOPE ROAD
GRANTS PASS, OR 97527

BOARD MEETING

REGULAR SESSION

October 18, 2010

Page 1

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, October 18, 2010 at North Valley High School, 6741 Monument Dr., Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dave Strahan, Chairperson of the Board, Zone IV
Bob Litak, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone I
Jim Weaver, Member of the Board, Zone II
Ron Lengwin, Member of the Board, Zone V
Leslie Meier, Member of the Board, Zone III
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of Student Services
John George, Director of Secondary Education
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education

PRESENT

Also Present: Sherry Zottola, Dan Schilberg, Karen Schilberg, James Early,
Karen Cole, Nancy Johnston, Jackie Gray, Camille McManus,
Kimberly Fashing, Bonnie Cameron, Devon Dorn, Diane
Carlton, Mike McManus, Claudia Dow, DJ Edmonds, Tiffany
Converse, Diana Tonnesen, Kari O'Brien, Lisa Gutierrez, Leslie
Clark, Dave Bracken/Aramark, Van Granger, Sean McKee,
Jennifer Parsons, Cassie Banuelos, Pamela Katz, Owen
Peterson, Michael Morris/Sodexo Food Service Director, Carol
Hickey, Dave Marks, Tammy Canady, Phil Biencourt, Jim
Stublefield, Sally Clements, Lisa Kramer, Jeff Weiss/North
Valley High School Principal, Linda McClanahan/North Valley
High School Asst. Principal, Jeff Conard and Shelly Berry/
Recording Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT

Board Chair Strahan called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and amended the agenda as follows: Item 4A—Recognition of Excellence/Todd Kaberline was moved to the November meeting agenda; and item 9A was added as an action item under New Business—Classified Memorandum of Understanding. Board Chair Strahan then introduced the North Valley High School Free Design Group which sang the National Anthem and performed another song for the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Huber-Kantola announced the schools that are now confirmed to be designated by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) as 'Outstanding' in our school district. They include: North Valley High School, Fleming Middle School, Hidden Valley High School, Applegate School, Williams Elementary School and Manzanita Elementary school. Three Rivers School District has the highest percentage of 'Outstanding' secondary schools in the state.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola provided a visual demonstration utilizing kitchen pots to illustrate the different funds provided to the district and what the funds can and cannot be used for; specifically funds that cannot be mixed into the General Fund 'pot', which represents about \$40 million that we get from the state. Examples of

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)	funds that cannot be mixed into the General Fund include: Title I, IDEA, ARRA, and Gear Up as well as grants the district has received for things such as the new boilers, lighting and the Applegate School retrofit upgrade. The district also has about \$400,00 left from the Construction Bond money. This money cannot be used for anything other than construction-type projects. The district also receives money from the construction excise tax that was passed last year. This year that represented about \$112,000 collected from Josephine and Jackson Counties that goes into the district construction 'pot'.
CONSENT AGENDA	Member Weaver moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
COMMUNITY COMMENTS	<p>North Valley High School teacher Devon Dorn invited the Board to attend a free screening presented by PFLAG of a documentary film called "Out in the Silence". The film is about bullying in small town America in the schools. The screening is taking place on November 11th at 6:30 at Anne Basker Auditorium. Ms. Dorn stated they plan to invite the School Board, the district leadership team, the Grants Pass School Board and leadership team, the police, mental health, DHS and the faith communities.</p> <p>Hidden Valley teacher James Early thanked Superintendent Huber-Kantola for the careful use of the Federal funds and infra-structure funds. He has noticed a big improvement in the schools over the last year. Mr. Early questioned Superintendent Huber-Kantola regarding budget figures that he researched. Superintendent Huber-Kantola invited Mr. Early to set up an appointment for them to meet and discuss actual figures.</p> <p>Board Chair Strahan commented on the statement that was made referring to actions made by a Budget Committee Member that writes <i>Letters to the Editor</i>. The Budget Committee is just like the Board, it is made up of unpaid volunteers; when we become volunteers we don't give up our right to free speech. The person that has those <i>Letters to the Editor</i> does not run them by the Board for approval. The Board sees them when the public sees them. Please don't make that association; his opinions have nothing to do with this Board.</p>
SUNNY WOLF CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE	<p>Federal Programs Director Peter Maluk reported that last month the Sunny Wolf transportation was brought up as an issue due to the fact that an entire route was made up completely of students attending Sunny Wolf Charter School. Three Rivers School District is not responsible for their students transportation. For the past few weeks we have been negotiating with the Charter School and have come up with an agreement. A route was cut, saving the District about \$300/day. First Student will service the Charter somewhat; through some arrangements they have made with the Charter, and the Charter will pay us on a monthly basis for that service. Things otherwise are running pretty well.</p> <p>Mike McManus commented that the community is coming together to try to make it work. Today was the first day of the new busing.</p> <p>Director Maluk also reported that today the District received a proposal from Woodland Charter School in Williams. They introduced themselves to the Board last February at our monthly Board meeting. The District has 15 days to look at the application to see that everything is in place. Director Maluk will then be sending it on to the Board. The District has sixty days for the Board to review it and hold a public meeting.</p> <p>Member Meier asked, other than busing, how are things going with the Charter School? Jackie Gray reported that their enrollment is currently at 43.</p>

Superintendent Huber-Kantola thanked Jackie Gray and Mike McManus for their efforts. Sunny Wolf Charter School would not be up and running without them. Jackie Gray responded that they have a lot of volunteers that have done a lot for their Charter school. The community has come together and worked very well to keep the school going.

SUNNY WOLF
CHARTER SCHOOL

Director Maluk reported that last month when Secondary Education Director John George presented the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report we knew that we were going to receive a district improvement sanction from ODE due to the fact that for the second year in a row in math our students in elementary, middle and high school did not meet AYP. This was primarily due to students with disabilities. Most districts in the state are struggling with this very issue. Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) this year we need to have 70% of our students meet or exceed as opposed to last year. The year after this it will be 80%, then 90% then 100%. This is becoming unobtainable for any district under any circumstances. This year the only sanction is we have to revise our Consolidated Improvement Plan. We were anticipating this so our plan addresses all of the issues as far as mathematics, students with disabilities, etc. Next year if we have to go into a second year of this and nothing changes, we will have additional sanctions. If we go into a third year we have to start looking at supplementary services and issues that get very complicated and expensive. We are hopeful that after this election, Congress will get serious about a new elementary and secondary education act that makes sense and that holds schools accountable and creates expectations for raising achievement, but also does not create conflicting information such as our 'Outstanding' schools also being designated as not meeting AYP. The district will be sending a letter out. The letter will go out in the school newsletters over the next couple of weeks.

TITLE I DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT

Member Meier expressed concern over the required letter and the fact that there was not enough clarification as to why we didn't meet AYP and what it means. Director Maluk explained that the letter was in a standard format that didn't allow for much to be changed, but he will see what he could do to make it more clear to the parents.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that one of the reasons that TRSD is in trouble is because we met the law and gave the opportunity for parents to opt-out their students from taking the test. The reason we got 'dinged' is because we did not meet the participation rate. You have to have a certain participation rate, yet the state says you have to provide the option to opt-out of the test. It is not because of anything teachers or administrators did—it is because we followed the law and allowed parents to opt their kids out.

Member Meier commented that when we did the goals last month, we did the Board goals and the Superintendent goals. Her issue was with the Superintendent goals, not the Board goals. She would like to add to the Superintendent goal of *Strengthening Community Connections* a) *increase the amount of effectiveness of the school to home communications* and b) *enhance the first impression impact of all schools and the District Office*. Ms. Meier would like to add an additional goal under that, that has to do with ongoing customer service; accountability to parents, responsiveness to parents and community members. Board Chair Strahan agreed and it was agreed to add it to the Superintendent goals and present them at next month's Board meeting.

BOARD GOALS

Human Resources Director Debbie Breckner announced that the District reached final agreement on the wording today. The reason she is asking for approval of the MOU tonight is so that we have time to process payroll. Typically an MOU would not be brought in front of the Board prior to it have been ratified by the membership. But, the classified are not having their ratification meeting until tomorrow; so Director Breckner requested 'approval pending ratification'. If they do not ratify it, then we don't have the agreement. Director Breckner stated they have spent the last 4-1/2 months with all employee groups,

CLASSIFIED MOU

CLASSIFIED MOU
(CONTINUED)

but particularly the classified staff; trying to deal with the financial situation we are in. As last year when we went to them and asked them to reduce days, their same concern this year is about the kids. Under *Section A* they state again that the interest of the Union is to first ensure that students needs are addressed. Our classified staff are non-exempt employees; which means they are the folks that we pay by the hour. They are most-typically our lowest income employees; and yet every chance when she has sat and met with them, their first concern has been “how are we going to meet the needs of Kids”? In the past the district has typically had a wait and see position in terms of how finances are going to shake out, and that position has done well in the past few years. Through June 30th of last year, our district is one of the only districts in Southern Oregon that was able to fully fund all employee contracts. Other districts have cut days, have cut salaries, have cut staff and have suffered major reductions in force. Our district had not had to do that until May 27th when the revenue forecast changed. Classified staff wanted to wait a couple of month hoping that things would change; but at this point in time it does not look like the financial information is going to change—if anything, it mat get worse before it gets better. The agreement presented for approval tonight is the result of collaborative problem solving with the Association. Due to the fact that they are currently under contract, they honestly do not have to work with the District. The agreement presented forgoes 2% of their salary increase; it freezes their steps and longevity; it cuts up to 15 days and it also has a clause in it that if financial conditions worsen, they are willing to come back to the table and look at what else could be done.

Director Breckner asked for the Board to approve the Classified MOU so that we can begin the process of spreading out the cut days from October to June, which will average about 1.6 days per month.

Member Litak asked Director Breckner how much of a salary increase the classified got last year? Director Breckner responded that last July 2009 they got a 2.75% increase. Everything but their longevity has been frozen since July 1, 2010.

Member Meier stated that she hates that we have to accept this, recognizing that these are our lowest paid employees. Most of them are not full-time and already struggling. Member Meier would like to see a comparison chart of pay for our classified employees in comparison to other districts. Member Meier expressed her appreciation that they understand the problems and are willing to forgo things that were in their contract.

Member Meier moved to approve the Classified Memorandum of Understanding with the change to the MOU that members which have received longevity pay will not have to repay it, and it will cease effective November payroll. Bob Litak seconded the motion.

Board Chair Strahan feels bad that we have to do this, but is grateful that we are able to come to these agreements and thanked the classified employees for the sacrifices they have made.

APPROVED

The motion passed unanimously. Director Breckner stated that she will notify the Board upon final ratification.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that there is no Ending Fund balance report due until the November meeting. This year will be more problematic than most years. We have three out of the four employee groups that have reached agreements. The Confidential staff, the Administrative staff and the Classified staff have very similar agreements to one another. Until we reach an agreement with the Certified staff, it is

difficult to determine an ending fund balance. There is no indication that we are going to receive any additional monies or any less monies than what we have been receiving. The early forecast is that we are still hoping to have at least a \$500,000 ending fund balance.

FINANCIAL REPORT
(CONTINUED)

Mr. Bracken stated he had nothing to add to his written report unless there are questions. Mr. Bracken added the biomass boilers are looking to be fired up around the first part of January, and in operation the first part of March. Superintendent Huber-Kantola added that our boilers are being made in Pennsylvania, and they will not be completed until the middle of February. We are also applying for additional ARRA dollars to help subsidize those boilers even further and it looks promising at this point.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Morris stated he had nothing to add to his written report unless there are questions. Member Meier asked if the number that qualified for free and reduced meals is down? Mr. Morris responded that the old numbers are based on our provision schools that were not included in the first figure. Evergreen, Williams and Lorna Byrne are not included in the number presented which skewed the number. If you add those schools in the number would be much higher.

FOOD SERVICE REPORT

Member Weaver expressed his appreciation to Mr. Morris for his innovations in food sourcing and the materials that are used in the kitchens and cafeterias. Mr. Morris stated that they will be contacting Fort Vannoy Farms to take a look at their program and see what can be purchased locally from them. He is working hard to look at options available locally.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 8:25

Dave Strahan
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT