

MINUTES

9/ A Regular Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on January 12, 2009.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

The Springfield Board of Education meeting was called to order in the boardroom of the Administration Center at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Nancy Bigley and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board members in attendance included Nancy Bigley, Al King, Jonathan Light, and Garry Weber. Laurie Adams was excused from the meeting due to illness. Others identified in attendance included Nancy Golden, Logan Lewis, Cassidy Peterson, Sal Echeverria, Julia Spencer, Marshall Curry, Kyle Barley, Brett Yancey, Dawn Strong, Jeff DeFranco, Karen Lewis, Tom Lindly, Keith Hollenbeck, Matt Coleman, Sara Ticer, Judy & John Svoboda, Yvonne Atteberry, Judy Burton, Sheryl Cramer, Sheryl Ott, Kenny Allen, Will Lewis, Joan Bolls, Sheila Turner, Bill Davis, Chris Reiersgaard, Terry Bengé, Daniel Bengé, Bill Lewellen, Kim Hanson, Laura Jessen, Mike Fisher, Michael Garcia, Stacy McKee and members of the Springfield High Concert Chorale, Craig Murphy of the *Springfield Times*, and Anne Williams of *The Register-Guard*.

Superintendent Golden introduced Bill Lewellen, retired Springfield Public Schools Superintendent, who was attending tonight to hear the Springfield High School concert.

2. PERFORMANCE

• **Springfield High School Concert Chorale**

Members of the Springfield High School Concert Chorale, led by Stacy McKee, performed a number of pieces.

3. RECOGNITION

• **School Board Appreciation Month**

Superintendent Nancy Golden read the following proclamation in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month:

**School Board Recognition Month
Proclamation**

WHEREAS, school boards create a vision for what students should know and be able to do;

WHEREAS, school boards establish clear standards for student performance;

WHEREAS, school boards ensure that student assessments are tied to established standards;

WHEREAS, school boards are accountable to the community for operating schools that support student achievement;

WHEREAS, school boards align school district resources to ensure that students meet standards;

WHEREAS, school boards create a climate that supports the philosophy that all children can learn at high levels;

WHEREAS, school boards build collaborative relationships based on trust, teamwork and shared accountability; and

WHEREAS, school boards are committed to continuous education and training on issues related to student achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, we hereby declare our appreciation to the members of the *Springfield School District Board of Education* and proclaim the month of January to be School Board Recognition Month.

We urge all citizens to join us in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board

members in preparing today's students for tomorrow's world.

Dated this 12th day of January 2009.

Kim Hanson, coordinator of the *Arts Matter* initiative, presented board members with boxes of greeting cards created by Springfield students participating in the program.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Bigley called for public comment. There was none.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. December 8, 2008 Board Minutes

B. Personnel Action, Resolution #08-09.022

Dawn Strong recommended that the Board of Directors approve the personnel action for licensed employees as reflected in Resolution #08-09.022 as listed below:

New Hire

Cailey Harlacher

Change of Contract Status

Janet Lichenstein

Sheila Low

Rescinded Retirement

Helen Fast

Retirement

Jonathan Siegle

Joy Van Vactor

Motion: Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Light, moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

6. FIRST READING

A. Early School Closure, Maple & Thurston Elementary

Jeff DeFranco provided information on plans for transitioning from the old to the new elementary schools over the course of the coming summer. He noted that demolition and asbestos abatement work needed to be done, teachers needed extra time to close down their old classrooms, preparing to move, and then teachers wanted to set up their new classrooms early at the beginning of the next school year in the fall. Mr. DeFranco said that after assessing all the needs, the Leadership Team in conjunction with other staff were proposing to shorten the current school year by four days.

Sara Ticer noted that the proposal to shorten the school year would be okay by law, with instructional hours falling within lawful limits. Regarding what would happen for the students during those four days, she said that conversations were happening with Willamalane for breakfast and lunch and perhaps some recreation for students. She added that plans should be more solid in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. DeFranco outlined the new timeline, saying that Friday, June 5 would be the last day of school, Monday, June 8 would be grading day, June 9 and 10 would be packing days. He said that staff would be differently impacted, though they would all work within their contract year.

Dawn Strong added that district administrators would work with staff during the transition time to adjust hours so that no working hours were lost. Teachers would work one extra day that week, and would probably work over the weekend as well, and would have the option to return to work on August 31, a day earlier than the September 1 starting day for the next school year.

Mr. DeFranco explained that through talks with the planner and the Fire Marshall, plans were being made for some flexibility in getting maintenance and technology staff, school principals and secretaries into the new

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facilities early to do necessary setup work. Until the occupancy permit was received, however, very few would be allowed access to the sites. He noted two different completion days: substantial completion date for the buildings was mid-June, with the site substantial completion date of September 1, with such things as roadways and fire lanes completed. Plans would also be made, he said, for holding elementary school registration at alternate sites, to keep the community away from the new schools until they were ready.

Mr. DeFranco said he had done some research into how often early closures had taken place historically in the district, and discovered it was approximately once in a half century. He said that if it was okay with the board to move forward with the early closure, a joint letter would be going out to parents later in the week from Mr. DeFranco and the school principals, letting them know the direction of current thinking, and that the school board would be reviewing this for action later in the month.

Garry Weber thanked Mr. DeFranco for the information. He noticed that both of the schools had differences in their instructional hours in grades 1-3, and thought it would be interesting to learn more about that in a later report. Ms. Ticer noted that the Thurston kindergarten program was doing an innovative project this year where all kindergarten students had morning classes and were staying for an extra hour each day. She added that in grades 1-3 there was a minimum standard of 90 minutes for reading, which was the only minimum time established at this point.

The board indicated agreement with the plan to put out an initial letter to parents, letting them know that the school year may be shortened by four days.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2007-2008 Audit Report, Resolution #08-09.023

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors accept the audited financial reports for 2007-2008 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC. He clarified for the audience that the audit was done by an auditor that the board contracted with to ensure that the district maintained fiscal compliance, the firm being represented tonight by Kenny Allen. Mr. Yancey acknowledged Joan Bolls, the district's internal auditor, Will Lewis and Allison Covy, who were primarily responsible for putting together the document and financial statements presented to the board.

Ms. Bolls explained that the report was divided into four sections: 1) introduction, 2) the financial section, which is the bulk of the report, 3) statistical section, and 4) single audit section, dealing with federal grants received by the district. She commented that an actuarial evaluation had been done this year, which would be good for two years.

Kenny Allen noted there were two reports handed out, a management report and an executive summary. He said the results of the audit on the overall financial statements were an unqualified opinion, which was the highest-level opinion possible. Secondly, on the state minimum standards for audits, no exceptions or issues requiring comment were found. And third, regarding federal financial assistance, no issues of noncompliance or questioned costs were found. He noted there were no difficulties found in performing the audit, nor disagreements with management found. He commended the Springfield staff for doing a good job with their preparation for the audit.

Mr. Allen continued, regarding the management report, that no new significant deficiencies were noted during the 2007-08 audit. He remarked that the district had no written internal control policy, which was a new auditing requirement in the past few years. He had suggested that the district adopt formal policies and procedures for all areas and document them in writing. The current status was that the district was in the process of changing their general ledger system and would be updating written internal controls when that system was put in place.

Mr. Allen reported that the district's Food Service Department reconciled the food service deposits to the WinSnap software that recorded all the meal data. He said it was very difficult for the District Office staff to reconcile these items and recommended that the individual schools reconcile the deposits to the WinSnap program. The current status, he said, was that the District had changed in 2008-09 year from a contracted food services model to an in-house food services program, and had hired a bookkeeper for this program.

Next Mr. Allen noted it was recommended that payroll staff not create new employees within the general ledger system, and that Human Resources should handle this process. The current status of this situation was that, as part of the financial accounting software implementation, these duties would be shifted to Human Resources.

Mr. Allen said that due to difficult economic times, it was recommended that the District pay extra close attention to all revenues and expenditures, especially those revenues subject to uncertainty, such as property tax collections and interest. If those monies fell short of projections, it was recommended that the District consider reducing expenditures to maintain an appropriate ending fund balance.

Mr. King asked, regarding formal internal controls being required, what strategy and timeline the district might have. He also wanted to know what timing strategy there would be for the transfer of payroll duties to Human Resources.

Mr. Yancey responded that as of January 1, 2009, the new system was online, and that the January 15 payroll would be run on the new financial system. He reminded the board that this audit was as of June 30, 2008, and that in the past six months the conversion had been in process. Written internal control documents were being created, including the payroll shift issue, he said. He noted that documentation of all controls and processes and procedures was being done now so that by next year all current issues should be documented in writing.

Mr. Yancey recommended that the board accept the audit as presented.

Motion: Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Light, moved to accept the audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

B. Director of Business Operations Contract Agreement, Resolution #08-09.024

Dawn Strong recommended that the Board of Directors approve the contract and compensation agreement for the Director of Business Operations for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Dawn Strong explained this resolution was a simple change because of a new law requirement to have a separate contract for the Business Operations Manager. She said that Mr. Yancey now had a contract for the current school year, which would roll over the following year. She recommended approval of the contract.

Motion: Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Light, moved to accept Resolution #08-09.024. The motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

8. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. 2009-2010 Academic Calendar Process and Timeline

Sara Ticer, pinch-hitting for Rob Hess, shared the process and timeline the district would use to finalize the 2009-2010 academic calendar. She noted that three different models of the calendar would be presented to the board, hopefully in the near future. There would be a change in the calendar format, she remarked, making it more user friendly. The goal was to have a first reading for the board next month, and to have the calendar ready in February.

B. OSAA Classification and Districting Committee Update

Matt Coleman provided information on the Oregon School Activities Association Classification and Districting committee's work. He remarked that every four years OSAA takes a look at classification, establishing the leagues for the athletic programs that the OSAA supports. The last time this group met, he commented, the number of classifications increased from four to six, which turned out to be a contentious process which was litigated by some of the larger schools, including Eugene's 4J.

The committee was currently convening, Dr. Coleman continued, and was considering a proposal to increase the size of leagues. The proposal would consolidate some leagues and would impact the Springfield District league. Specifically, it would include the addition of Marist, Crater, Eagle Point and Ashland. This proposal, he said, was the first step in a process that would play itself out in the next four or five months, which would result in the committee's sending to the executive board of the OSAA a suggestion for action in October, not to be implemented until a year from then. One thing Dr. Coleman heard this morning at the meeting was that there would probably be more proposals coming out, including one suggesting that a five classification system be considered.

Dr. Coleman asked the board and student representatives for feedback regarding this proposal that would add the four schools to the district league.

In response to a question by Mr. Weber, Dr. Coleman said that the size of leagues would increase if the proposed change from six to five classifications occurred. He said there were several proposals presented at the meeting, one of which had Springfield and Thurston still in the same classification, and another one had Thurston in 5A and Springfield in 4A. He was fairly confident that a five classification system would go forward. Mr. Weber noted that changing boundaries and initial enrollments in the two schools would make it surprising to have them end up in different leagues.

Mr. Light wondered about the intention for reclassification, if it was to be more competitive. Dr. Coleman said this was the original intent, though it did not always play out that way. Another real impact, he commented, was that with smaller leagues, districts paid higher league dues. Gate receipts created another significant impact, providing a portion of what was used to run programs, he explained. He said he had heard George Russell at the 4J school board meeting say there would be a few more districts with dogs in this fight, referencing the fight of four years ago.

Dr. Coleman continued that this morning Carl Kemper, speaking on behalf of Ashland, said that Ashland, Crater and Eagle Point did not support the proposal, citing the cost of transportation for teams up and down the state, which was basically \$1000 per trip. Besides financial cost, loss of instructional time was also significant, both for students and teachers. Mr. Light remarked that the academic loss was his biggest reservation. He asked about the possibility of split leagues for football. Dr. Coleman responded that there was some talk about five leagues splitting to six for football.

The cost to families was a major issue, both in financial and social terms, he said. When players had to be transported to other cities for games, families were significantly impacted, especially in tough economic times. Mr. Light asked if other high schools in the area missed the opportunity for rivalry with their sister schools. Dr. Coleman said yes, that the missed rivalry with sister schools was important, though the academic impact was the key issue. He recommended that the board provide some feedback specific to the initial proposal.

Chair Bigley asked which districts were happy with the proposal as presented. Dr. Coleman said he thought those districts would be 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A and a lot of 5A schools. Salem schools were okay with the proposal, especially since they would not be traveling over the mountain for games, and also a number of schools in the Portland area would not be greatly impacted. The geographical challenges were much greater for the Eugene-Springfield area and Southern Oregon.

Mr. King expressed that he would like to hear from the athletic directors, as they were closer to the line. He said he supported balance, though there was a responsibility to support the district's constituents, so that it was important to communicate the concerns of families. He felt that the loss of academics was more important than financial concerns, and that the cost of equity was more travel.

Springfield High's Marshall Curry said he would be opposed to the proposal because of the necessity of traveling. He remarked that most parents he knew would be opposed to traveling to Ashland, Eagle Point or Crater, although he thought travel to Marist would be fine. Thurston High's Cassidy Peterson commented that being able to get homework done and missing class time was the hardest thing for athletes when they had to travel so far for games. Logan Lewis, Thurston High, agreed that traveling such distances would be extremely difficult, remarking that it was impossible to make up AP classes. He felt the current division was much better.

Dr. Coleman asked the students how the proposed division would impact their ability to participate in activities outside of athletics, such as the performing arts. Marshall Curry said it would just make participation in other activities more difficult. Logan Lewis remarked he could not participate in as many activities with increased travel for athletics, and he would miss out on important activities.

C. Monthly New Schools Construction Update

Jeff DeFranco reported on the construction at the Academy of Arts and Academics (A3), explaining that sheetrock was being put up, doors were framed in, and much of the electrical wiring was pulled. He showed photos of the clear stories, which would bring in light, and noted that each classroom had two color accent walls and two white walls. Fortunately at A3, he said, the roof was on and was all sealed up before bad weather hit. He said that masons were working on the front of the building and had tented it up to make it possible to use heaters to help cure their work. Some of the brick outlines were present now so that it could be seen where windows would go. Furniture and fixtures had been ordered for A3, which were all funded through a congressional earmark. These funds would pay approximately 95% of costs for computers, teachers' desks, classroom desks and chairs and all the way down to trash cans and paper towel holders.

For the new school construction, Mr. DeFranco said that because the roofing was not on before the rain and snow started, progress was substantially slowed. Windows were tarped up and internal heaters had been brought in to try to catch up, he added. At Maple Elementary he noted, some of the steel framing was in and roof decking on. The contractor had reported being one week or more behind schedule, and Mr. DeFranco had referred them to the contract language, which stated that the onus was on them to finish within their substantial completion dates. There was confidence that the September 1, 2009 date would be met, which was the Phase 2 substantial completion. They were also required to meet the first date, Mr. DeFranco noted.

He added that the district was in the process of procuring an asbestos abatement firm. The previous low bidder had withdrawn due to a bid error, and new bids would be received as of January 20, 2009, he reported.

In response to a question by Mr. Weber, Mr. DeFranco responded that there was no bonus for an early finish. His sense was that the work would be going on down to the last minute of the contracted time.

D. Elementary and Secondary School Assurance Standards

Sara Ticer presented the Elementary and Secondary School Assurance Standards report that must be completed and presented to the community by January 15 of each school year. Ms. Ticer noted that the report served as the district's report to the community as required by OAR 581-022-1610(4) and that Springfield Public Schools met all standards as listed in OAR 581, Chapter 22.

E. Student Communication

- **Thurston High**

Logan Lewis reported that Thurston's *Ye Olde Holiday Feast* for their choir had been rescheduled from December because of snow, and was held the past weekend, including the singing of Christmas carols. He said that coming up on January 31 was Big and Buff, men's volleyball, where the junior and senior men competed against each other.

Cassidy Peterson reported that preparations for Mr. THS had officially started and the first committee meeting would be the following Wednesday. A theme had been selected, but it needed to be kept confidential until the boys were selected. She said the kick-off meeting had gone well, where they received fundraising suggestions. The pageant would be held, she noted, on April 11.

- **Gateways High School**

Sal Echeverria reported that Gateways had to reschedule their holiday dinner from December, because of snow, to February 13 from 12:00–1:00 in the gym. He said that 10th graders were participating in OAKS testing. There was a focus for seniors, he said, on getting caught up to where they needed to be, doing senior projects and job shadows. Students who arrived late to school, Sal said, were required to pick up litter around the school.

- **Springfield High School**

Marshall Curry reported that in the previous week a purchase order for new band uniforms had been signed and sent out. There were two basketball games and a wrestling meet coming up, he noted, later in the week. He said the holiday band concert, which had been postponed due to snow in December, would be performed January 22. There would be an MLK assembly during school hours on January 23, Marshall noted, probably around 9:00 a.m. He remarked that last week the ASB had met and revamped for the upcoming year. One of the ideas that came up was to spend some of their money to host a mock scholarship application to encourage freshmen and sophomores to start doing some college preparation work. Students would fill out applications and later receive feedback about them. Marshall remarked that if the board would want to judge the applications or have any other involvement in the project, they would be welcomed. In April a teacher appreciation event would be presented, he added.

Chair Bigley asked if students would be encouraged to start building their résumés for an actual college scholarship process later. Marshall said yes, and that there would be a prize awarded to help motivate students.

Kyle Barley shared that it would be good for students to prepare for college applications in this way, because by the time they became seniors, they could feel completely swamped with all there was to accomplish that last year. He noted the project would be voluntary. He reported that earlier in the day he and six other students had attended the kick-off ceremony for the Children's Miracle Network for the Mr. SHS and Miss Miller pageant that would be held on April 25. They received ideas and organizational tips on how to run the program. This would probably be the biggest event that the ASB would sponsor during the year, he said.

- **Academy of Arts and Academics**

Julia Spencer reported that students had begun "J Term" the previous week, which was a month-long term of two classes per day, each 3.5 hours long. She also mentioned that juniors and seniors were doing internships at local businesses.

F. Board Communications

Garry Weber offered thanks for the magazine given to board members, called *Converges: Strategy and Leadership for Technology in Education*.

Jonathan Light thanked Laurie Adams, although she was absent from tonight's meeting, for putting together the work session meeting with legislators held at Superintendent Golden's house a week earlier. He felt that both board members and the legislators had learned a good deal, and he expressed a desire to continue having

such meetings. He also pointed out about the choir that performed earlier in the meeting, that they were scheduled to be one of the featured performances at the upcoming Oregon Music Educators Conference, which was quite an honor.

Chair Bigley remarked that the board's meeting with the legislators was a great opportunity. She noted that the legislative conference in Salem was coming up Sunday and Monday, February 15 and February 16. Sunday would be a round table discussion with hot topics, and Monday afternoon there would be meetings with legislative staff. She asked if there was interest among board members in attending on those dates, reminding the board that they had talked about going up each day and not staying overnight. Karen Lewis noted there were no refunds for registration after February 6, so that it would be good to register before February 1.

Chair Bigley also noted a TEAM Springfield meeting on January 24 from 8:00-11:30 a.m. at SUB, and SUB would be issuing some packets in preparation for that meeting that should arrive next week. A Willamalane joint work session was scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Willamalane Recreation Center, she concluded.

G. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Golden reported about the virtual school proposal that she, Al King, Tom Lindly, and Lynn Lary had traveled to the State Department. They came away even more committed to the idea that virtual learning should be available for all students as part of their course of study. There was concern from all about the inequity with the current virtual school system, so the state was looking into this, and Lane ESD was also concerned. It was decided to join other ESD superintendents to draft a proposal, which had been done. She said that on January 20 she would find out if all 16 districts supported the drafted proposal. The overall concept was that all students could access virtual learning from the same place and that it was easy for students to do so. If all 16 districts agreed, then they could work with their legislators, building greater power as the legislative session proceeded, she said. This would be the first step. Later she would be interested to meet with some of the vendors to see their virtual learning products. The decision about who would coordinate the program was still up for conversation, she noted.

Mr. King commented that he felt it was important for Superintendent Golden and Bethel Superintendent Colt Gill to see what was being done statewide in Washington State, which he considered to be a very effective model. Although they had statewide coordination, it was not necessarily the State Board of Education that did it, he added.

Mr. Weber said it would be good to contrast Washington's program with that of Florida, as another model.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. NEXT MEETING

Chair Bigley announced that the next regular board meeting would be held on January 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Judy Burton)