

MINUTES

5/ A Regular Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on October 13, 2008.

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. Others identified in attendance included Nancy Golden, Marshall Curry, Kyle Barley, Cassidy Peterson, Logan Lewis, Julia Spencer, Torii Phillips, Sal Echeverria, Alisha Whitehurst, Sara Ticer, Matt Coleman, Dawn Strong, Karen Lewis, Judy & John, Svoboda, Yvonne Atteberry, Lottie Duey, Judy Burton, Sheryl Ott, Jim Tyser, Jim Keegan, Chris Reiersgaard, Laura Jessen, Sheryl Cramer, Keith Hollenbeck, Derin Bradford, Joshua Richardson, Hunter Lewis, Andrew Swendsen, Matthew Pettijohn, Jacob Richardson, Avery Gordon, Anne Goff, and Hillary Galloway.

Board Member Laurie Adams was excused from the meeting. Board Member Garry Weber stated his need to leave the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Superintendent Nancy Golden introduced new student board representatives from Gateways High School, Sal Echeverria and Alisha Whitehurst, and the Academy of Arts and Academics, Julia Spencer and Torii Phillips.

Chair Bigley welcomed Boy Scout Troop 55, who reported they were working toward their Citizenship and Community merit badges by attending the board meeting.

2. RECOGNITION

• International Alpha Delta Kappa Month Proclamation

Garry Weber read the following proclamation in recognition of International Alpha Delta Kappa Month:

WHEREAS: Women in education constitute a great portion of the nation's working force, and are constantly striving to serve their communities and nations in education, civic, cultural, and charitable programs leading to harmony, happiness, and peace among all people, and

WHEREAS: Major goals of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary sorority for women educators, are:

- to give recognition to outstanding educators
- to build a fraternal fellowship among educators adding to their effectiveness in the promoting of excellence in education
- to establish high standards of education
- to promote educational and charitable projects and activities enriching the lives of individuals everywhere and assisting these individuals into a happy, constructive, and fulfilling life.

NOW, THEREFORE: We, elected board members of the Springfield Public Schools, of Springfield, Oregon, by the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim the month of October as

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

E. Final Enrollment Report

Jonathan Light asked how this year's enrollment compared to that of the previous year. Matt Coleman responded that attendance was down 120 from last year, which was expected. Mr. Light noted that since the District received \$6200 per student, state funding would be down approximately \$600,000.

Dr. Coleman reported that the elementary level enrollment was essentially even with last year, while 6th and 10th grades had lower enrollment. He said that birth rates were low in the years of the 6th and 10th graders, so that these classes had experienced lower enrollment since kindergarten. With the closing of Hynix, he continued, approximately 100 families were expected to be affected, potentially resulting in lowered enrollment.

6. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items for the board to consider.

7. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Financial Statement

Director of Business Services Brett Yancey provided an overview of the 2008-2009 Revenue/Expenditure Forecast as of September 30, 2008. He reported a loss in collections from property taxes as a direct result of the current housing market woes. Because of Oregon's equalization formula, he said, theoretically state school fund money should increase to offset the lower collections from property taxes, although with the current nationwide economic problems, and with increased unemployment causing less income tax revenue, the State could possibly have difficulty meeting this agreement.

Mr. Yancey noted that expenditure projections were tighter heading to year's end than had been the case in the past, which was due to moving from an average salary budget base to an actual salary budget base. The good news was that projected expenditures had been tighter than in the past, so that projected income and expenditures were very close. He also noted the projected net fund balance at the end of the school year of a little over \$4 million, which would be a net fund balance of about 4.3%, close to the 4% originally proposed when the budget was being developed. He said this was pretty much the limit that the Budget Committee had set, so that it was time to bring revenues and expenditures in line to create a sustainable budget. Although there would be challenges this year, he felt they would not be of the magnitude of the 2003-2004 school year.

In response to a question as to when the state economic forecast could be expected, Mr. Yancey said the forecast was issued quarterly, with the last one at the end of September and the next one due the end of December. He said the state's ending fund balance was drawn down \$120 million from June to September, due to the economic downturn and lowered income tax revenues. He added that the Rainy Day Fund had stayed intact, currently in excess of \$300 million, which would help avoid the kind of big dips that had been experienced in the past.

Al King suggested that it might be good to make an inquiry to the county assessor's office because there could be a number of appeals this year regarding property taxes, which would mean those taxes would not be collected until two or three years later. Mr. Yancey responded that Hynix had appealed to the County to have their property re-evaluated, which would impact the District.

Mr. Yancey added, regarding Federal Forest Fees, which were part of the federal \$700 billion bailout plan, that it was not yet known what the District's share would be. About \$1.2 million in revenue had been budgeted, and now about \$1.5 million was being assumed.

Regarding investment income, Mr. Yancey said the District had approximately \$50 million in the market currently with bond proceeds, with an average of about 3% being earned, which was congruent with earlier projections. He said there had been no losses realized on investments to date. Fanny Mae and Freddy Mac investments had been sold off, with no loss on principal. He said conversations were now being held about what to do for the future with money in the state pool because of government notes that might be impacted by what was happening on the federal level.

B. New Schools Construction

Jeff DeFranco presented the monthly new schools construction report. He characterized the current situation at both Maple and Thurston Elementary as being the calm before the storm, as tilt-up framing panels would be going up within the next two weeks. He described necessary short-term road closures and playground restrictions during the tilt-up process. He also reported progress on researching and ordering furniture, fixtures and equipment, including everything from classroom furniture to technology-based equipment to smaller furnishings and consumable products. Responding to a question about playground, music, art, and PA sound equipment, Mr. DeFranco responded that these were covered under separate budgets, except for actual furniture items.

Mr. DeFranco showed pictures of current aspects of the construction projects. He reported that the Welcome Walls had arrived on September 29, 2008. He detailed how the wall for Maple Elementary contained such elements as the Franklin Bridge, the Depot, and a school bus while the wall for Thurston Elementary had a more rural setting with the peaks of the Three Sisters, a covered bridge, and tractors.

Mr. DeFranco reported that at the Academy of Arts & Academics (A3) construction was slightly ahead of schedule, with framing, CV block, and asbestos abatement work currently being done.

Marshall Curry, Springfield High student board representative, asked if there was any budget for improvement projects at the high schools, such as new doors for bathroom stalls. Jonathan Light added that he would like to see the concrete façade around Springfield High pressure-washed. Mr. DeFranco responded that through the bond measure there were substantially more than \$1 million of projects in line for Springfield High School, most notably the new track surface, security and front office, and elevator upgrades, and new windows. Mr. King noted that the bathroom stall doors had already been upgraded, following advocacy by students and the board, and that students may have unfortunately recreated the problem. Mr. DeFranco said he would check into the situation with the bathroom stall doors, and that pressure washing was planned for the summer of 2009. He continued that at Thurston High School the most notable projects were the new stadium, roof repairs and new baseball facility.

Mr. Yancey added that a wireless survey had been completed in preparation for providing wireless network at both high schools.

C. 2008 Senior Exit Survey

Rob Hess, Assistant Superintendent for Achievement and Process, reviewed the Senior Exit Survey for the Class of 2008, in which 495 senior students from Springfield, Thurston and Gateways high schools were asked to participate. He explained that the survey would be presented to the same group of seniors both three years and five years after graduation. Eighty percent of graduating students reported having completed all four years at the same high school. Dr. Hess noted that mobility was a more important predictor of high school dropout rates than skills or grades. Students also responded very favorably to high expectations by teachers, to having multiple opportunities to learn about careers, and to the level of

challenge for the course work they had received during high school. He noted that it would be interesting to compare their responses three and five years later, after students had some college experience.

Chair Bigley asked how the students would be tracked after leaving high school. Dr. Hess responded that Life Track would send out letters with cards to fill out and return, and that better than a 50% return was usual. He said cost for the tracking out to five years was \$10,000.

Marshall Curry said he personally found the survey to be not very meaningful. Mr. King suggested that as the district became more digital, that more data analysis could be done.

D. Student Communication

- **Springfield High School**

Marshall Curry reported that Springfield's pep rally had occurred the previous week, as well as a penny drive which raised \$1000, with \$250 going to a Christmas fund to provide clothes for students of low income families. Springfield's Homecoming Dance was held last Saturday, October 11, 2008.

- **Thurston High**

Logan Lewis reported that an extremely successful Coats for Kids drive had been completed the previous week. The first year over 600 coats were collected, and over 400 the second year, but this year 1007 coats were collected, largely due to class rivalry with the project. He said this was Spirit Week at Thurston, culminating with their Homecoming game on Friday.

Cassidy Peterson said the Homecoming Dance, with a theme of *A Time for All Seasons*, would be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

- **Gateways High**

Sal Echeverria reported that on November 6, 2008 at 7 p.m. Gateways would be hosting a special event for the Day of the Dead, and that he would be participating in this event for his senior project. He said there would be Latin American foods, cultural dances, and Day of the Dead skulls and other artifacts to view.

Alisha Whitehurst said that Gateways' spirit day would be at the end of October, with the date not known.

- **Academy of Arts and Academics**

Julia Spencer reported that seniors had been working on an election project, learning about views of the presidential candidates. Also their science group – consisting of sophomores, juniors and seniors – was planning a physics carnival as a fundraiser, with carnival games and with pizza and hotdogs for sale. On Wednesday, October 15, 2008, there would be a fundraiser at Roaring Rapids, with most of the fundraising money to be used for upcoming school dances.

E. Board Communication

Jonathan Light reported attending a great game at Thurston, and he was happy to see the new bleachers. Though it was a very wet day, even the dance team and band performed.

Al King reported that he, Laurie Adams and Garry Weber had attended the Springfield High rally. He also mentioned L-COG (Lane Council of Governments) and the importance of bringing more visibility to area policymakers about planning for the new bridge connecting Springfield and Eugene.

Mr. King congratulated Superintendent Nancy Golden for being honored with the 2008 Women of Achievement Award from the Oregon Commission for Women, emphasizing that it was a lifetime award.

Chair Bigley presented a lovely flower arrangement to Superintendent Golden in honor of her award, and added the congratulations of all present in the room.

F. Superintendent Communication

• Listening Groups

Superintendent Golden reported having held one listening group with administrators, and that on January 12, 2009 a more formal listening group would be held with key communicators. Approximately thirty community leaders would be invited, hoping for a turnout of about twelve, who would respond to questions concerning the district's vision of every student a graduate prepared for a bright and successful future and how to best accomplish this vision. Board members would listen to the various responses and have an opportunity to dialogue with the speakers individually.

• OSBA/COSA Legislative Conference in Salem

Superintendent Golden also reported that at the regional OSBA meeting she and other board members discussed the possibility of attending a conference planned for February 15-16, 2009, where there would be briefings about legislative needs and opportunities to speak with legislators about district needs. Board members agreed it was an important conference, and that they would respond later about availability to attend the conference.

• Legislative Work Session

She also expressed interest in getting legislators Bill Morrisette and Terry Beyer to attend a board work session. Mr. King noted it would be important to schedule this meeting before the end of the year, prior to the beginning of the legislative session.

Jonathan Light added that a review was given of the numerous resolutions that would be on the voting ballot, many of which affected education. Particularly for the legislative project for A3, he felt it would be interesting to look at their website. He encouraged the student representatives to check out what would be on the ballot regarding education that would impact their peers.

• Children's Choice Montessori

Superintendent Golden reported that the State Board of Education would be hearing the Children's Choice Montessori Public Charter School appeal, again. She noted that she and Laurie Adams would be attending and would have three minutes during Public Comments to communicate to the State Board why the district's choice had been made to not approve Children's Choice Montessori. A decision would follow directly after the session as to whether the previous decision would stand. Jonathan Light asked, since Bruce Smolnisky had retired, who would the point person be for the Children's Choice Montessori issue. Superintendent Golden responded that there was a contract with Mr. Smolnisky to help with special issues, and that he would be contacted about this project.

• Charter School

Dr. Golden reported that the State had passed a \$9.5 million grant for charter schools, and that today she had received a call from someone interested in placing a stand-alone, proficiency-based charter school in the community. Students would complete classes by demonstrating proficiency with the course work, rather than completing a certain period of time in a class, resulting in some students finishing high school more quickly than others. She said this was a model that the State was interested in replicating. If the district was not interested in working with this group, the State would probably be contacted directly for support of the project. Dr. Golden and Judy Svoboda recognized the need to be in front of the project so that the district would benefit in the best way possible. Chair Bigley asked that Dr. Golden keep the board informed of progress with this project.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

9. NEXT MEETING

Chair Bigley announced that the next regular board meeting would be held on October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Judy Burton)