

MINUTES

6/ A work session was held on October 27, 2008 in the First Floor Conference Room of the District Administration Center. Chair Nancy Bigley called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board members present included Chair Bigley, Garry Weber, Jonathan Light, and Al King. Others identified in attendance included Nancy Golden, Rob Hess, Matt Coleman, Sara Ticer, Brett Yancey, Tom Lindly, Keith Hollenbeck, Karen Lewis, Judy Burton, Lynn Lary, Kim Hanson, Sheryl Cramer, Ed Mendelssohn, Hanalei Rozen, and Lotie Duey. Laurie Adams joined the meeting in progress at 5:45 p.m.

• **Arts Matter Initiative Update**

Rob Hess provided an update on progress with the Arts Matter Initiative. First he introduced a document prepared by Bruce Smolnisky at the end of the 2007-8 school year detailing progress to that date. He responded to a question by Chair Bigley about funding for the 2008-9 school year, saying that a decision had been made to allocate \$6,000 for each high school, \$4,000 for each of the middle schools and \$3,000 for the elementary schools, plus some extra funding for elementary orchestra classes. He clarified that Kim Hanson, support teacher for the Arts, was working .25 FTE in Arts in Motion, a successful program begun in the 2007-8 school year, and another .25 FTE for basic coordination, doing program surveys, community contact, and supporting of teachers. A meeting was held with approximately 25 people to define the Arts Matter Initiative and plan next steps. Three goal areas defined creation of an arts core curriculum in the visual and performing arts, creation of arts experiences for students through art integration, and creation of career pathways in the arts through internships, volunteering and civic engagement.

Lynn Lary explained that she had been helping art teachers learn technologies as tools for teaching, such as the use of document cameras attached to projectors for the secondary school teachers to take photos and create movies. Laptop computers were also provided and online resources were being brought into the classrooms for those teachers volunteering to use these resources. She said that to date roughly \$15,000 has been spent to support the project, with funds coming from the Technology Services Equipment budget. She also reported that a group of eleven very dedicated elementary music teachers had signed on to participate with the music program and that online resources and karaoke were both being looked at for possible use in the music programs. To date between \$22,000 and \$23,000 had been spent for music program equipment.

Dr. Hess continued with detailed reports on the spread of teaching time for the Arts Matter program through the various schools. Responding to questions about whether the programs were mandated or chosen by the schools, he said that an arts core minimum had not been created, aside from some music minimums at the elementary level. Matt Coleman clarified that some schools had chosen to highlight other programs than the arts, depending on student needs and interests. Garry Weber expressed his hope that resources would be invested in art core because he believed that arts integration could never take the place of core, and that the district was not ready to move into a full arts integration across subject areas. Dr. Hess responded that at Briggs Middle School the arts integration schedule was proving to have added expenses, which required adjustments and choices, including the elimination of Spanish classes. Superintendent Golden remarked that sometimes the needed adjustment was to see things differently, looking at the overall picture to see what changes might be made, rather than simply adding new things to an old model, which could be quite expensive. Laurie Adams echoed that seeing things differently was of utmost importance in giving the middle schools the attention they needed.

Dr. Hess said that in moving forward two groups of teachers would be working on the arts core and another committee would be looking at expanding the integration model. As well, a committee to work on the art pathways model would be forthcoming. Al King noted that the current economic problems in the country and the state would test the sustainability of such programs. Dr. Coleman added that new state graduation requirements would also be creating an impact, noting that 25% of the current 9<sup>th</sup> graders were not in math classes that would count toward graduation. Superintendent Golden said she believed it was always important to create the ideal, so that even when times were hard, the goal was kept in sight. Jonathan Light noted that he would prefer to see the specific arts programs being offered rather than the amount of teacher time allotted. Dr. Hess responded that the spring report would reflect the programmatic information, following the completion of surveys. Mr. Light added that continuing to seek additional funding from federal and state levels was also important. Chair Bigley mentioned the importance of looking at the bigger picture to see what it would mean for the students to have the Arts Matter program in the district schools.

Jonathan Light noted the disparity in the allotted teaching time for the Arts Matter program in different schools, wondering if this also indicated disparity in program content. Al King responded that it would be natural for some schools to be more ready than others to move forward with a new program, and that it was important to support them. Mr. Light expressed that it might be more important to address the problems some schools were having in adopting the program so that parity could prevail. Mr. King stressed that each school was a community, and would reflect those people in its community, with some communities having more artistically or musically inclined people, thus being more ready to integrate the program. Superintendent Golden reflected that this was an important conversation to pursue, regarding how much schools would be allowed to be site-based and how much they would be directed by the district, with perhaps a core minimum approach. Garry Weber felt that Mr. King's point about some schools having more artistic expertise and therefore could move forward more readily would work more with the arts integration portion of the program. Superintendent Golden reiterated Chair Bigley's question about what was wanted for the students, whether it was for them to be creative thinkers, or to be prepared for artistic careers, or to learn appreciation for the arts; that the program needed to reflect the goal. Laurie Adams said she agreed that creating more specific goals was of utmost importance.

- **TAG Initiative Update**

Rob Hess introduced Renee Metcalf, curriculum specialist, Stephanie Lovdokken, elementary TAG specialist, and Sara Ticer, Director of Elementary Education. He then gave a quick overview of a document titled, "TAG Initiative Actions to Date 2008-09," which described two categories of services. The first category, direct services to the students, included expansion of math support groups, implementation of year one of Springfield High School Math & Science Academy, and expansion of implementation of Lego Robotics Competition Teams and integration of robotics opportunities in the curriculum. The second category, Administrative Services, included completion of a revised TAG coordinator's handbook, implementation of revised identification protocol, a progress check on revisions of TAG program from Summit, professional development opportunities for staff, and correct identification of TAG students.

Laurie Adam asked if clustering was similar to what used to be called homogeneous grouping. Ms. Lovdokken responded that clustering meant that if there were three TAG students identified at one grade level at a school, they would all go together into one classroom. This would ensure that the TAG students would have peers to work with at a similar level, and allow a teacher to create a deeper curriculum for those students. If there were 6 or 9 TAG students identified, they could be grouped in 3's rather than grouped all together, though she stressed that it was important to have students with teachers who were trained to meet their special needs.

Garry Weber asked what TAG activities for middle school would be like. Ms. Metcalf responded that in

middle and high school students received learning enrichment by being placed in accelerated classes according to their abilities, whereas for elementary students it was necessary to add on specific elements to the curriculum for TAG students. Superintendent Golden noted that TAG was about providing appropriate rate and level for students. Dr. Hess said that having the help of Ms. Lovdokken and Ms. Metcalf in coaching teachers and working directly with the TAG students was very exciting. Sara Ticer added that identification of TAG students was an important key, as well as training teachers to enrich the total learning experience with extra projects for these students. Mr. Weber said it might be important to educate parents about the current TAG program, since it was a notable update from earlier practices. Ms. Lovdokken responded that parents had asked why it was important to identify the TAG students, since they were accustomed to having few resources for acceleration and did not understand the new program. Dr. Hess noted that Ms. Lovdokken was creating a website which would eventually be a resource for parents and others.

Mr. King mentioned that TAG might be an area where the district could add resources through online programming in a cost effective way. Ms. Adams noted that TAG students had different ways of seeing things than other students, and often needed deeper understanding. Ms. Lovdokken responded that training for the teachers was greatly needed, since many teachers believed TAG simply meant giving more work, whereas the students often needed to move forward into next steps. Chair Bigley asked if a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader were to finish the grade level math before the end of the year, would the student be able to move to a 4<sup>th</sup> grade math class. Ms. Lovdokken responded that it depended on the school, as each school had a different system. Matt Coleman pointed out that at Briggs Middle School flex time was built into the schedule so that core teachers could give additional help to struggling students and offer deeper work for gifted students. He felt this flex time offered benefits far beyond the obvious investments. Ms. Ticer agreed, saying often students needed broader or deeper experiences rather than a faster pace. Superintendent Golden said that proficiency-based education offered more natural acceleration, and though there was some importance for schools to make individual choices about their programs, the proficiency-based system was important to consider. Ms. Lovdokken agreed, saying that not all TAG students worked at the same levels, and would best be served by being able to accelerate on an individual level. Mr. Weber remarked that he was favorably impressed with what was presented about the TAG program, and that it was important to keep in mind in terms of Budget Committee work.

A Regular Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on October 27, 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 Laurie Adams, Nancy Bigley, Al King, Jonathan Light, and Garry Weber. Others identified in attendance included Nancy Golden, Marshall Curry, Kyle Barley, Julia Spencer, Torii Phillips, Sal Echeverria, Alisha Whitehurst, Brett Yancey, Matt Coleman, Dawn Strong, Karen Lewis, John Svoboda, Lottie Duey, Judy Burton, Gloria Griffith, Mike Fisher, Janet Beckman, Shari Furtwangler, Sheryl Ott, Tom Lindly, Matt Coleman, Sara Ticer, Dawn Strong, Ed Mendelsohn, Christina Williams, Eva Torres, Chelsea Cordon, Cassia Fox, and Craig Murphy of the *Springfield Times*.

## **2. RECOGNITION**

### **• Janet Beckman**

Superintendent Nancy Golden introduced Janet Beckman, Homeless Liaison, who was recently recognized by the Springfield Alliance for Equity and Respect (SAfER). Board members presented Ms.

Beckman with a *Salute to Excellence* certificate and recognized her for her extraordinary leadership and advocacy for the children of Springfield and their families, and for making a difference in their lives.

### 3. WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Garry Weber provided a summary of the work session held prior to the board meeting on the Arts Matter and TAG Initiatives. He reported for the Springfield Arts Matter Initiative that progress on resources and expenditures had been updated and goals for the program had been set in three areas: core programs, integration and extension opportunities. For the TAG Initiative Mr. Weber reported that last year the Budget Committee had allocated \$100,000 for the 2008-09 school year and that the Board was happy to see the progress made in programs and expenditures for this program.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Bigley called for public comment. Craig Murphy was introduced as editor of the new newspaper, the Springfield Times, with its website at [www.springfieldtimes.net](http://www.springfieldtimes.net). He noted that the paper would be published weekly and it was hoped to be a part of the Springfield community for a long time.

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. October 13, 2008 Board Minutes

#### B. Personnel Action, Resolution #08-09.016

Dawn Strong recommended that the Board of Directors approve the personnel action for licensed employees as reflected in Resolution #08-09.016 as listed below:

#### New Hires

Garth Gerot

#### Retirements

Randy Gill

Marcella Sather

#### Rescind Retirements

Nancy Bray

#### Resignation

Sara Miller

#### C. Employee Update Report

**Motion:** Jonathan Light, seconded by Garry Weber, moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

### 6. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items for the board to consider.

### 7. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. State Report Card Results & Cohort Group Data

Rob Hess reported, for group cohort data, test results for students who were tested in both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Sixty-five percent of the students had been present and tested in both grades. Measurement of RIT Point Growth for reading showed Springfield district students at 9.74 with State scores at 11.17, and for math, Springfield district students were at 10.75 with the State at 13.23. He explained that the important thing was for these numbers to continue to increase. For 9<sup>th</sup> grade the tested cohort group was 76% of grades 6-8, with test gains in reading being 6.86 as compared to state gains of 7.43, and in math 8.69 compared to 8.70. He said that progress had been made so far, and continued growth was needed. He noted that the new state cohort graduation rate would track cohort groups of students all the way through high school. For the approximate 30% of students who left Springfield and Thurston High during high school, 11% were dropping out of school, 12% were moving to either Gateways High School or the Academy of Arts and Academics (A3), and 7% were going to GED and other programs. Jonathan Light asked if there was a way at the site level to determine why students were dropping out. Dr. Hess responded that new programs such as credit recovery and night school classes were targeting potential

dropout students, and that possibly some of Matt Coleman's work with student advisory groups was also addressing these at-risk students.

Dr. Hess reported there were currently five levels of State Report Card ratings: Exceptional, Strong, Satisfactory, Low and Unacceptable, while, starting with the 2008-09 school year, there would be only three ratings: Outstanding (10%), Satisfactory (85%) and Needs Improvement (5%). Responding to a question about how these scores helped students, Superintendent Golden said it was simply important to know how the district was doing, what interventions were being put into place, and were the students being helped to improve. Al King noted that the No Child Left Behind program was pretty seriously up for modification and that input would be asked from the district level. Dr. Hess said that the most effective way to help students was by local assessment within the district, and that the State Report Card type of assessment was a tool for public schools statewide and could be used as one piece of outside accountability. Laurie Adams asked the student representatives how seriously they took the state assessments. Kyle Barley questioned how the state testing affected the school, and said he did not take it very seriously.

Al King suggested that since the test results affected the Board's understanding of how schools were doing, if large numbers of students did not take the tests seriously, then the ability to measure would be lost. Kyle responded that he thought that most students answered test questions honestly, but were not concerned about the test results. Marshall Curry said there was competition during the tests, but was unlike the SAT's where there was advanced study and rewards for doing well. He said that general class work prepared students for the state testing, but students did not study specifically for the test. He felt the test scores would be realistic and helpful. Sal Echeverria said he now took all tests seriously because of his strong desire to graduate, though in the past he had been a less serious student. Alisha Whitehurst said she did her best on the tests, but did not take it seriously enough to study in advance. Torii Phillips reported that she got very stressed about all tests and took them seriously. Julia Spencer said she tried hard to answer the questions correctly, but she did not study beforehand.

## **B. Student Communication**

### **• Springfield High School**

Marshall Curry reported that two drama productions were coming up, with *Our Town* being presented the two weekends of November 6-8, 2008 and November 13-15, 2008, and *Hanging By Our Fingernails*, an impromptu comedy with every show being different, would be presented the weekend of November 20-22, 2008. On Friday, October 24, 2008, a college fair assembly was held, in which the Oregon public universities were represented. He reported that 90% of sophomores had taken the PSAT test, as well as approximately 60 juniors. Also a canned food drive would be coming up soon, and there would be well-advertised competition with Thurston High School for the most food collected. The ASB president and principal from the losing school would have to shave their heads in front of students from the other school. As a follow-up report from last board meeting about bathroom stall doors needing installation, he noted that all stall doors were intact except for those in the public restrooms near where school games were played and in the boys' locker room.

Kyle Barley reported that the boys' cross country team had qualified for state competition for the third year in a row, and that two girls would also participate in state competition. He said the State Cross Country would be at 1:50 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, 2008, at Lane Community College. He also reported that federal grants had been received for after school programs that would offer boxing and conditioning, music recording studio, mural and graffiti art, women's self-defense, and GED and Spanish for parents, the classes being chosen by a committee of teachers, the assistant principal, and volunteers from Willamalane. Out of 120 spots available, he noted, only 70 had been filled so far, though the classes

had not yet been well advertised. He felt it was good to have programs encouraging students to stay on campus after school hours.

- **Gateways High**

Sal Echeverria said he felt a cook was needed at Gateways High School because every day their school lunches came from Springfield Middle School, and that the food was nearly the same each day. He suggested that having better lunches served at the school could mean more students would stay on campus. For the Latin American cultural event, Day of the Dead celebration, he reported a corrected time of 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on November 6, 2008. He said that at 6:00 p.m. the Springfield Mariachi Band would perform, at 6:30 p.m. Jose Cruz, a dance teacher, would be performing, and at 7:00 p.m. food would be served.

Alisha Whitehurst reported that conferences were scheduled at the end of the week

- **Academy of Arts and Academics**

Torii Phillips reported a musical presentation coming up called Spokesong on November 7-8 and November 13-15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. for \$5/ person. She said that on Thursday and Friday, October 30 and 31, 2008, Reflection Papers, student-led conferences, would occur, in which students would present to their parents writings about three assignments that had been completed so far in the school year.

Julia Spencer reported that arts core classes would present “Artegration,” an overview of what the classes had been doing so far this school year, on Wednesday, October 29, 2008, at the Wildish Theater from 2:30–4:15 p.m.

### **C. Board Communication**

Laurie Adams congratulated Garry Weber for his daughter’s recent wedding. She reported that the Yes For Our Kids PAC had been making many phone calls on the Willamalane After School Levy and were doing pretty well. She also noted that several people had traveled to the State Board of Education meeting in Salem regarding Children’s Choice Montessori’s request for another hearing. Another hearing had not been allowed, and Ms. Adams hoped the process was at an end for this project.

Al King noted an article in the *Oregonian* about financial non-oversight of charter schools. He said that because of this lack of support, some charter schools had failed. Mr. King, Garry Weber and others would be attending the National School Boards Association Technology+Leadership Conference in Seattle. He reported that many emails had been received from vendors, indicating many exciting ideas that would be presented.

Garry Weber added that National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) ran the Technology+Leadership Conference annually, and that it often occurred on the East Coast. He was glad to have it occur in Seattle this year so that Springfield School District representatives could attend. This year the focus would be on 21<sup>st</sup> century schools.

### **D. Superintendent Communication**

- **Virtual Schools**

Superintendent Golden reported that she, Al King, Tom Lindly, and Lynn Lary had recently met with State Superintendent Susan Castillo and ODE Technology Department staff. She said there was much excitement about the prospect of every school district having virtual or online schools. This was a big issue also at an Off-the-Record meeting of district superintendents. At the Lane Education Service District the idea of virtual schools was brought up again, and much enthusiasm was expressed about the possibility of the state overseeing a program that could be accessed by all school districts. Dr. Golden said she would be part of a subcommittee to generate a proposal for a state virtual school and issues that

needed discussion. There was hope that Lane County could advocate for this program. The subcommittee would be meeting on November 10, 2008. Dr. Golden thanked Mr. King for initiating this topic. She mentioned that Salem-Keizer School District had used virtual environments for talented and gifted students for a long time, and that software already existed for endless possibilities in this realm.

#### **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Bigley reported a calendar item for a meeting with Springfield Education Foundation consultants on Monday, November 3, 2008 from 4:30-5:30 p.m., which she hoped all the board members could attend.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING**

Chair Bigley announced that the next regular board meeting would be held on November 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

*(Minutes recorded by Judy Burton)*