

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 19, 2022**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at the District Office Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. Due to the Coronavirus state-wide restrictions, county case rate, hospitalization rates, and in keeping with the efforts of social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was streamed online for the public.

**PRESENT**

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair  
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair  
Jenn Searle, Board Member (virtual)

Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent  
Casey Alderson, Deputy Superintendent  
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director  
Jessica Durrant, Director  
Rob Saunders, Director

**ABSENT:**

Rich Halsted, Board Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Member Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Searle seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously (3-0, member Halsted absent).

**SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE**

Member Kelly thanked all the TRSD staff. With all the people that are quarantined or sick, he knows that staff are doing everything in their power to keep the doors open for our schools and our staffing at a safe level. He also recognized community members that have reached out to him over the last several weeks. They had real questions about how mandates are enforced, why the school district does what we do as it relates to the mandates and other things along these lines. We responded to these questions by advising where they could go to get the answers and they went and did their research and found the correct answers concerning what happens if the district goes against the mandates (fines, loss of licensure, insurance, legal protection, etc.). Board Chair Johnstun also shared her gratitude with the TRSD staff. We are short a lot of people and there is a lot of readjustment every day to keep things open and she is grateful we have been able to remain open. She also thanked Director Durrant who has gone to a great deal of effort over the last few months to try to make sure that the new proposed health curriculum was presented and available to the community. Director Durrant recognized our office managers and office staff who are now responsible, along with everything else they do, for helping keep everyone safe at school and managing different COVID cases. They are behind the scenes working hard to support our principals, parents, and staff. Deputy Superintendent Alderson recognized Directors Durrant and Allen-Hart for the number of hours spent on phone calls, spreadsheets, contract tracing and all things COVID. They are working tirelessly to make sure our schools are a safe place. Director Allen-Hart recognized the front-line office staff as there have been a lot of significant changes that have come from CDC and OHA on down to us and trying to navigate and understand all of it. Superintendent Valenzuela reiterated that Directors Durrant and Allen-Hart are attentive to what is going on district-wide and working hard to keep kids in school and staff in place by tracking down and making sure we know exactly what the environment is presenting to us. He is truly thankful for the work that they are doing.

## **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION**

Superintendent Valenzuela acknowledged that the school board members are doing great work every day representing the school district and expressed his thanks for the work he gets to do based on the support from the board. This year board appreciation has a different meaning because it is rough times right now. He then read aloud the proclamation from the Governor proclaiming January 2022 to be School Board Recognition Month.

Board Chair Johnstun thanked the school for their treats, gifts and creative artwork from the students which makes her feel really appreciated. Member Kelly agreed and thanked the staff for what they do for them and our students.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- At this time, they are all inundated with feedback from the public and calling us to action in ways that are simply not feasible for a school district, superintendent, school board, or elected officials who have taken an oath to the state office to do away with masks. People are fed up with the masks, which he gets, but right now it is the thing required for us to do to keep our kids in school and it's not a choice. We are simply following the rules. There have been multiple cases where this has been challenged at the state and federal levels and they have all been summarily dismissed. We will continue to uphold the mandates as they are law, and he applauded the Board's support in doing so. He urged people to take their fight to where it could be heard – which is at the state level. We have had to close an occasional class due to staffing, but we are trying to keep the largest number of students in class and have the least disruption to the educational process.
- *Selma Center Update* – The sale, which he was authorized to negotiate for a price of \$325,000, is nearing the end of the process. The amount of \$325,000 has been accepted by the current buyer. We are working with our real estate agent and title company, and it should be closing fairly soon.
- *Other Projects* – There is discussion about single use restrooms in the district and we are investigating single use restroom retrofits throughout the district, specifically focused on middle and high schools. He explained some of the many reasons for the single use restrooms which include safety factors, supervision, social distancing, and fear from students to enter the large group restrooms. We would be creating safe, private, dignified spaces for our students to use the restroom. This should be a great thing for our students and this district. The project should start very soon, beginning with the high schools.
- *Staff Wellness Days* – a proposal to award two additional days off to staff to extend Spring Break (March 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) to show the district's appreciation to our staff for all the additional work they have done due to the pandemic. The board member's expressed support for this proposal. A modified calendar will be brought to the board for approval in February that reflects those two days off.

## **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 2022
- Athletic Coaches – January 2022
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Searle seconded the motion; Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

It was explained that we now have the ability to hear public comment virtually. There is a form to complete that is available on our district website. A link to the Zoom will be emailed back so they can provide their public comment virtually.

- Rick Nelson – expressed concern that a TRSD high school teacher used the January riot in a lesson plan and the proposed new health curriculum.

## **REPORTS – NO ACTION**

- **Oregon Student Health Survey Analysis**
  - Dr. Tamara Medley, an OB/GYN at Women's Health Center, presented a slide deck sharing results of the Healthy Teens survey, which was taken anonymously online by about 600 sixth, eighth and

eleventh grade students in our district. Dr. Medley also shared information, data and statistics relating to: the 2016 health mandates, sexual activity, birth control, sexually transmitted infection rates, abortions, mental health, suicide, COVID suicide changes, mandates for pre-teen, the profile of a pedophile, prevention of sexual abuse, sexual orientation (LGBT2SIA+) and bullying and harassment rates.

- Board Chair Johnstun thanked Dr. Medley for her very comprehensive evaluation regarding the results of the survey. It is substantially different than just having the numbers given to them. The district will continue to work hard to give the students the environment they need to be their best. We have a lot to do to protect the kids in this community.

- **Board Policy First Reading**

- JGE – *Expulsion*
- Director Allen-Hart brought forward the updated expulsion policy. There were a significant number of changes since 2006 so would like to just delete the old policy and go with the thoroughly revised updated policy.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- **Resolution (#04) Supplemental Budget**

- District Accountant Lisa Cross brought forward resolution (#04) to recognize and appropriate additional funds in the amount of \$1,290,000. These funds were mostly due to additional tax revenue and also reduced expenditures across the board. Notably the food service transfer was not needed last year so that was an expense we did not have to incur. There were also changes to Government Accounting Standards Board regarding leases, which does not affect the cash flow, but was not a budgeted item last year and we entered into a new lease agreement with our copiers this year.
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve resolution #04. Member Searle seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- **TRSD 2021 Audited Financial Statements**

- District Accountant Lisa Cross recommended the board accept the 2021 financial statements and independent auditors report. The auditors expressed an unmodified opinion – the statements were presented fairly and accurately. A nice summary of the audit can be found on page B1 through B6. She also shared additional information for the Board Members regarding the reason for the annual audit and the elements of an annual audit.
- Member Kelly made a motion to accept the 2021 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report as presented. Member Searle seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- **Design Services Contract Approval**

- District Accountant Lisa Cross requested the board approve two design service contracts:
  - 1) Fleming Middle School Seismic project (\$2.5 million) – recommend ZCS be awarded the contract.
  - 2) Fruitdale Elementary classroom addition (\$3.5 million) – recommend ORW be awarded the contract.
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve the two design services contracts. Member Searle seconded the motion; there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution (#05) to Approve Exemptions for Competitive Bidding**

- District Accountant Lisa Cross explained that the district is required to go out for bid for the contractor and engineer separately. This resolution is asking for an exemption from the competitive bidding requirements and use the CM/GC (construction manager/general contractor) contractor for a guaranteed maximum price for the Fruitdale Elementary additional classroom, Fleming Middle School seismic rehabilitation, and district-wide restroom renovation projects, and the CM/GC shall be selected by the RFP method in accordance with ORS 279C.337, the District's public contracting rules, and the process described in the Findings of Fact. This allows the process to be speeded up and allows the CM/GC contractor to start working with the design engineers early on.
- Member Kelly made a motion to approve resolution #05 Exemptions for Competitive Bidding. Member

Searle seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Member Kelly shared that he has a meeting with the Southern Oregon school boards group coming up. The group was originally found with the purpose of returning local control to the school districts relating to COVID matters. He can provide a follow up report in February.
- Superintendent Valenzuela provided a plan and timeline on filling the board vacancy. We also plan to have Mr. Alderson to provide a deep dive into the district graduation rates, which will become public tomorrow morning.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- Board Work Session - Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.  
*There is no topic as of yet for this work session – so it may be cancelled.*
- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. – Illinois Valley High School
  - Illinois Valley High School Student Panel at 2:00 p.m.  
*COVID conditions permitting.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.