

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, February 13, 2012 at Applegate School, 14188 Highway 238, Applegate, Jackson County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ron Lengwin, Chairperson of the Board, Zone V
Bob Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I PRESENT
Jadd Horban, Member of the Board, Zone II
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III
Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of Student Services
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education

Also Present: Debbie Yerby, Linda Kappen, Stephanie Allen/Applegate School Principal, Scott Perry/SOESD Superintendent, Jim Bunge/Aramark, Peggy Sue Bunge, Camille McManus, Mike McManus/SWCS Board Member, Peg Cowens, Dave Bracken/Aramark, Kirsten Valenzuela, Dave Valenzuela/Evergreen Elementary Principal, Janie Burstein, Shawn Hardy, Patti Richter/The Daily Courier, Renee Hults, heather Yount/Fruitdale Elementary Principal, Jessica Durrant/Manzanita Elementary Principal, Mike Durrant, Nancy and David Sutton, Pereira Family, Lisa Cross/District Accountant, Michael Morris/Sodexo, Jim Kriz, Kevin Marr, Ryan Melnychuk, Hailey Colangelli, Neil DeForrest and Shelly Quick/Recording Secretary. ALSO PRESENT

Board Chair Ron Lengwin called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. CALL TO ORDER

Applegate School principal Stephanie Allen-Hart welcomed attendees to the 'old' building which is still getting renovated, but approaching completion. They hope to have it ready for students in September. She then recognized Educational Assistant Linda Kappan and Rotary Students of the Year Sayge Pereira (5th grade) and Rachael Sutton (8th grade). RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that Toys for Tots is a program that we participate in by lending space in the schools for collection and distribution of toys. Superintendent Huber-Kantola read a letter from the Young Marines, who oversees the program, thanking the district and especially Michael Morris, for support of the annual Toys for Tots campaign. The program provided toys to 1402 children in Josephine County. The district was also presented with a 'Commander's Award' certificate from the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated his report tonight will touch on some items that will be discussed in tonight's meeting: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum—
 - Common Core Standards. In the past Oregon had its own standard as to what each student is supposed to know at each grade level. 44 states in the nation have now changed and gone to

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

the 'Common Core' standards. The common core standards are more difficult than the one's that were adopted and approved by Oregon previously. In mathematics for example, it's almost like moving down a whole year; so the things that were taught in first grade will become kindergarten material. One of the issues this presents is a lack of materials at the elementary grades, especially in the area of mathematics.

- Credit by Proficiency—In previous years you got credit by making sure that you were in school a certain amount of time, passing tests and turning in school work. Credit by proficiency says that you will measure kids on how well they can do something—not just by whether or not they turn in their homework, come to class on time, etc. The district is making huge strides in moving towards credit by proficiency. The district will need to develop a common grading system so that the student is able to earn the same grade in any of the same classes offered in the district if they perform at the same level. A lot of the grade will now hinge on how well the student did on assessments and less on how well they did their assignments and turned in their homework. Possibly heading to a place where about 85% of the grade will be how well the student did on the project or test and about 15% of the grade may be based on homework, coming to class on time, participation, etc. The district's challenge will be to get it all aligned and make sure it is communicated well, especially to parents.
- Woodland Charter School—the charter school was approved at the last board meeting and we are still working out some issues with the lease. The biggest issue being the termination clause—which means if it was determined that the charter was a disruption to the high school and the district decides it isn't going to work, what's an appropriate termination clause? If we do terminate it, what would be the appropriate reimbursement for the investment they have put into the property?
- Director Positions—Two director recommendations are being brought in front of the board for approval tonight. Superintendent Huber-Kantola commented that the top candidates were two in-house people. They weren't chosen because they were in-house people, they were chosen because they were the best people available.
 - Doug Ely—Director of High School education, Athletics and Maintenance
 - Dave Valenzuela—Director of K-8 Education, Federal Programs and Technology.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

District Accountant Lisa Cross stated that the estimated ending fund balance for June 30 of \$1.62 million has gone down from last month to this month approximately \$70,000. The reason for this is almost completely due to an error that was in the First Student billing that has been corrected. It was a year-long calculation increase of about \$60,000.

BOARD MEMBER
COMMENTS

Member Meier asked to make a comment while there was still a full audience. She commented on how thrilled she was to be back in the old building. Applegate has a very special place in her heart because both of her children went through eighth grade there. She is glad to see it thriving and glad to see what's happening with the historic building.

Member Litak asked Superintendent Huber-Kantola to elaborate on the 85/15% comment that he made while discussing credit by proficiency.

Member Meier requested that the minutes for the meetings on December 12, 2011 and January 9, 2012 be pulled and voted on separately.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Meier moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the minutes. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Member Crume moved to approve the December 12, 2011 and January 9, 2012 minutes as presented. Member seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Member Meier abstaining due to the fact that she didn't have an opportunity to read through them.

APPROVED

Board Chair Lengwin opened up the meeting for Community Comments and there were none.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

North Valley Leadership student Ryan Menychuk reported that the adult exercise equipment was removed from North Valley three months ago. It has been their job to find a permanent home for it that would fit the original purpose which was to get people outside and exercise. At North Valley it wasn't being used the way it was planned. They have narrowed it down to three locations: Fleming Middle School, the Merlin Alternative Center and somewhere in the Grants Pass City Park system. After talking with Fleming it was determined there were too many liability issues and people trafficking through the school could create a problem. They also checked in with Manzanita and the equipment was too large for their use. The Merlin Alternative Center did not have an appropriate place for it as well as no access for the community. Ryan then began conversations with Mr. Seybold in the Grants Pass City Parks System and found a location at the All Sports Park which is within Three Rivers School District boundaries. The city will also pay for moving and installation of the equipment to the new location. The Leadership class and advisor Mr. DeForrest are in agreement that the city is the best place for the equipment.

NORTH VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The last step will be to contact the Wes Family Foundation, which provided the original grant to assist with the purchasing of the equipment. They want to make sure the foundation is okay with the new placement of the equipment.

The Board requested a written report back to them at the April meeting.

Director Peter Maluk stated that the Sunny Wolf Charter School (SWCS) is in their second year of the initial three-year agreement. By our contract with them they are required to give a status report to the Board annually in February.

SUNNY WOLF
CHARTER SCHOOL
UPDATE

Sunny Wolf Board Member Mike McManus presented a written progress report and highlighted the following:

- All curriculum adopted by the SWCS is closely aligned with the Oregon State standards in the areas of math, language arts, science and social studies.
- SWCS utilizes DIBBELS, CBM Math and OAKS testing as their assessment instruments.
- Because of numerous technological challenges and elimination of their second year implementation grant funding (a loss of \$225,000) the SWCS is requesting that MAPS testing be eliminated. They will also not be planning to expand to grades 6 and 7.
- Policy development is continually in progress utilizing Three Rivers School District policies that already exist as guides.
- SWCS has established Positive Behavior policies and procedures (copy submitted).
- Student attendance averaging 94% during the 2011-12 school year.
- Facility
 - Major problems with the roof. They have done patch work to get by and are currently looking for grant funding.

SUNNY WOLF CHARTER
SCHOOL UPDATE
(CONTINUED)

- In the spring of this last year they were awarded an \$8,250 grant from the Four Way Foundation which allowed them to bring food services back into the school. They are now able to handle their own meals and nutrition program which is an all volunteer program which received high accolades when visited by the State.
- Heating system—the boiler continues to function but just barely. Repairs last month cost \$1,050.
- Interior of school looks pristine. It has been completely painted by a professional painter who lives in the community who completely volunteered his time.
- SWCS Board of Directors are very interested in the recently adopted legislation, SB 453, that the Legislature approved for remote elementary schools. This legislation has a correction factor that increases the ADM formula for remote elementary school funding. SWCS requests that Three Rivers School District administration meet with several of their board members to determine their eligibility and equitable financial adjustments and corrections to their ADM funding. Superintendent Huber-Kantola added that Michael Elliott, who is the new Director of Finance for the State, has been contacted. We believe, due to a memo we received, that he will make an adjustment for the remote small school funding for Wolf Creek. Right now the remote small school funding we have does not include SWCS. We believe that he will adjust that in February estimate. Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that if his calculations are correct, and it is granted to the district, it could mean as much as 30 ADMw adjustment (\$150-175,000). Both boards need to determine and equitable distribution. Member Meier commented that she is willing to represent the Board in discussions with SWCS.
- SWCS enrollment has gone from 44 students in 2010 to 61 currently. An increase of 39% this year.

Member Meier asked if the students at SWCS were meeting all of the state standards? Director Maluk responded that they had difficulty with their math scores last year, but they did very well in reading and language arts. Their math scores are in need of improvement, which they recognize. They have adopted an accepted program and he believes they will have success. Their staffing has stabilized. Shawn Hardy was hired last March to take over the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade program and as a result it is in better shape than it was last year. Their K through 2 program has the same teacher. It has been an impressive start and the school has come together and is definitely serving that community. They have not done as much with their original plan to include service learning, but they have had to invest a lot of their energy in getting started and developing their program. What they have accomplished is impressive and fits the need of that community.

SWCS teacher Shawn Hardy gave a visual presentation outlining various aspects of the charter school. Some of which included: the personal education plan developed for each child, service learning at the Wolf Creek Senior Center, partnering programs, the school philosophy, staff, statistics, standardized test scores and the new playground they were able to get due to a grant.

K-5 MATH PROGRAM

Director Maluk commented that there were several elementary principals and two of the district instructional coaches that specialize in mathematics present at the board meeting. Math has been the district's biggest challenge as far as curriculum is concerned. In 2009, before the common core standards, Oregon decided to adopt new state standards in mathematics. In 2009 to address the new standards the district created a committee that participated in workshops during the summer of 2009. We hired Peggy Cowens as our K-5 math instructional coach and hired Mike Durrant as our

secondary math coach and have some part-time people that we pay a portion of their salary to act as math coaches. We have taken the old standards and looked at the new standards and we have started to transition. In 2010 we found out that the new standards that we were just beginning to adopt would be changed again to the common core standards. In that same year we were also presented with the challenge of the state raising the cut scores—meaning the percentage of kids that have to ‘meet’ or ‘exceed’ math standards for a school to be considered making ‘adequate yearly progress.

K-5 MATH PROGRAM
(CONTINUED)

Director Maluk stated that there is a lot of work ahead and a lot of changes—a lot of needs have developed. In the last three years there is no subject that we have done more professional development in than mathematics. The whole K-12 math department has spent a lot of energy with our coaches and our schools getting to do a better job of teaching math. As a result, we are at a point where we need to address the board with needs that are developing. Last year, in response to the growing need for materials, we decided to pilot a K-2 math program, Envision Mathematics, which cost \$40,000. Envision Mathematics was chosen due to positive evaluations from ODE, other school districts and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. We were able to use what funds were left for curriculum to purchase that. The next step will either be a reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) or Oregon is going to get a waiver from NCLB. What this will result in is a new accountability system for Oregon, but there still will be math testing and it will be math common core standards that we will be responsible for. To best prepare our students and to best give our teachers the tools that they need, he will come forward with a request to adopt envision math for grades K-5. In our board policy it states that the school board needs to be notified at least a month ahead about a formal request for any adoptions. The last adoption was in 2002 and the text we are currently using are 2002 standards which is problematic because they are not matching up and as a result teachers have had to create their own materials, and collaborate and provide materials through teacher teams. The district will be asking for a full K-5 math adoption starting next year with an anticipated cost of \$100,000 for next year. This would replenish what has to be replenished in K-2, which has a lot of consumable materials. The investment for grades 3-5 will be for permanent textbooks and online materials that would not have to be replaced. Of the \$100,000 for next year \$70,000 of it is for grades 3-5 which would not have to be duplicated thereafter.

Director Maluk stated that he had Peggy Cowens come to the meeting to reinforce what he has been speaking about and also to hear from a teachers perspective how important the need is for our staff.

Ms. Cowens gave a brief background on her teaching history, then shared some of the struggles that the teachers face in raising achievement in mathematics, reasons to adopt the new curriculum and comments from teachers.

Director Maluk noted that typically textbooks last between five to ten years. With all of the programs there is a lot more online and we are accessing technology more and more in our classrooms. He believes it will cost \$30-40,000 a year to maintain the program for grades K-5. In the past we have spent approximately \$6-7,000 on math programs to replenish workbooks for the schools. He believes the technology piece is what makes the cost higher.

Member Meier asked if we still need to go through the old textbook adoption process? Director Maluk responded that they have looked at other programs. It used to be that you would have five or six publishers that would supply free materials, supplies and professional development. That world doesn't exist any more. If we were to do a full blown pilot it would require \$100,000 just for that. Right now there are such a finite number of adopted programs that match up with common core standards, 'Envisions' is one of the best acknowledged at this period of time. We have covered all of the steps of the board policy and feels strongly that we have the support of the staff.

WOODLAND CHARTER
SCHOOL CONDITIONAL
AGREEMENT

Director Maluk reported that at the last meeting an agreement was reached to conditionally approve a charter for Woodland Charter School contingent upon working out a lease and the agreement. As the agreement was being discussed there were a couple of modifications. They added a date so that it is clearly stated that at the March board meeting the Three Rivers School Board would make a decision one way or the other to approve the lease or not approve the lease.

Member Meier asked what happens in March if we do not reach an agreement regarding the lease? Director Maluk responded that it would be up to the Woodland Charter people. They could come back with another application or go back to the state.

Stacey Denton commented that the other change that was made to the document was that there was a request on the part of Three Rivers School District to affix a time frame for when the maximum of \$18,000 in a lease fee would be paid. It now has a date defined and included. Ms. Denton added that they would have to cross that bridge when they come to it. The intention for the dates being included is to give them some specific parameters for creating a relationship that achieves its intended purpose of getting the charter agreement in place and getting the district its payment.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola added that it is a “reality check”. If we aren’t able to negotiate a lease and get things squared away by March, then how would the school be able to open in September?

Member Meier requested that the agreement be amended to state ‘*at the March board meeting*’ as opposed to ‘*at the March 12th board meeting*’ in case the March board meeting would by chance be moved due to inclement weather or something. She again expressed her concern as to what would happen if an agreement could not be reached—as ‘back to square one’ doesn’t seem to benefit the Woodland Charter. Ms. Denton responded that her hopes is that everyone will agree and get it done.

Member Meier moved to approve the Woodland Charter School Conditional Agreement to include the changed in dates outlined in items #1 and #6 of the agreement. Member Litak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that he provided a written recommendation to the board members. There have been a lot of discussions surrounding the open enrollment issue; we have a workshop that was open to the public and a couple of our board members have met with a couple of the board members from Grants Pass School District; there have been discussions at area superintendent meetings about what different school districts are doing. After all of the input his recommendation is that we do not go to an open enrollment policy next year, but that we continue our cooperative practices with Grants Pass School District, Medford School District, Rogue River School District, and other neighboring districts to refine our current transfer policies. Specifically he recommends that we look seriously at changing the timeline for applications and decisions and that we look at increasing the flexibility of our policies while still working to maintain the viability and integrity of the programs of all surrounding districts. Right now we have a policy that states you apply and then you would find out whether or not would get to make the transfer somewhere in the first part of August. We are finding that to be stressful for families. We would like to refine the process so that people apply earlier, and would know by the time school is out whether or not the transfer has been approved. At the current time we also have very tight guidelines for transfers. We don’t want to free it up completely, but would like to create a little more flexibility in regards to items such as: a program at District 7 that a student wants to participate in and they are not able to do so in our district because Three Rivers doesn’t offer it. Conversely, he shared that he regularly hears that a parent

would like their child to attend a smaller school. There are opportunities you can get from being in a small school setting that you don't necessarily get at a larger school. Working together to allow some of those transfers to take place in a timely manner is what he is requesting the board to do. Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated he would like to be directed to work with Grants Pass and Rogue River to look at our current policies and see if there are some places that make sense to be more flexible. He then explained that the reason he wants to hold off on open enrollment are: he believes it was a last-minute legislative decision—it did not get processed, researched or debated; the legislation that came out of it left districts with as many unanswered questions as it had answers to those questions. We are also uncertain between open enrollment and athletic and activity participation. With our old policy, if both district allowed the transfer to take place, the kids can participate in athletics. We also don't know what all of the ramifications are for special education. We don't know what happens about siblings and kids who are already allowed to transfer. There are also questions about transportation and reimbursement.

OPEN ENROLLMENT
(CONTINUED)

Superintendent Huber-Kantola again stated that it is his recommendation, as long as the vast majority of the neighboring districts continue to keep their enrollment closed, that it's a prudent recommendation for us to do the same. He asked the board to keep it closed but allow us to work with our neighboring district to allow some more flexibility.

Member Meier moved to keep enrollment closed at this time but directed the Superintendent to continue to refine our current transfer policy. Member Crume seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hidden Valley High School teacher Mike Durrant commented on the change in standards. In math, content is moving down in some areas as much as three grade levels. He proposed a new algebra 1.5 course, which would require a new Planned Course Statement to be drafted. There are some changes at the high school level that they are going to need, but compared to the third, fourth and fifth grade it's pretty minor to what they will have to deal with.

ALGEBRA 1.5 COURSE

Mr. Durrant presented some important math facts regarding standards. Currently there are 40 Oregon high school math standards. We could get all 40 of those in a two-year math program—algebra and geometry courses. With the common core there are 103. A lot of those are coming from our advanced math standards. Our algebra classes are now going to have to contain a lot of our algebra 2 material. The plan is to have 'common core' taught next year at sixth through eight and then at some of the high school levels. He would like to create a syllabus that would help RCC and common core with a new course called 'Algebra 1.5'. Our current graduation requirements include three years of math at algebra or better and according to high school administrators math seems to be the biggest hurdle for our students to graduate. Mr. Durrant explained our current math offerings versus proposed math offerings and how the algebra 1.5 would fit in.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that the reason we are doing this now is for a couple of reasons. First, we have the common core standards and the other big reason is that our policy states that in June we would bring forth a Planned Course Statement and either approve it or disapprove it. We are caught in that they are currently try to work out the articulation stuff with Rogue Community College, where students can get college credit for certain classes, but we have to have the articulation in place sooner than June. So, we really asking permission for Mr. Durrant to bring back a Planned Course Statement earlier than our normal policy for the algebra 1.5 course.

Member Litak stated he was a little uncomfortable with it. It appears that a lot of the motivation for this is that kids are having a hard time passing algebra 2, which they need in order to graduate. If that's what we are looking to do then why not just have six

ALGEBRA 1.5 COURSE
(CONTINUED)

trimesters of Algebra 1? It appears we are wedging that in to get the students to pass the requirements.

There was significant discussion regarding the topic of adding the additional algebra class. The Board requested Mr. Durrant come back with a Planned Course Statement next month for comparison purposes.

SOESD LOCAL SERVICE
PLAN

Southern Oregon ESD (SOESD) Superintendent Scott Perry presented an overview of the core services they provide:

- Administrative and support services
- School improvement services
- Programs for children with special needs
- Technology support

Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that we participate minimally in special education services (braille) but utilize lots of technology services. We get \$700,000 flow-through for services we don't access and recommended approval.

APPROVED

Member Litak moved to approve the SOESD Local Service Plan. Member Horban seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

JACKSON COUNTY CON-
STRUCTION EXCISE TAX

District Accountant Lisa Cross explained that only one tax rate can be charged by Jackson County, so they have to get approval from all the boards to increase to the 2011-12 rate. So far three boards have approved the increase and two more are going to approve the new rates. The board has the following options:

- Leave the rate at the original 2009-10 rate, currently charged \$1.00/square foot residential and \$.50/square foot non-residential.
- Pass a resolution to increase the rate to the 2011-12 rate of \$1.07/square foot residential and \$.54/square foot non-residential
- Pass a resolution stating that for years beginning after June 30, 2010 the tax rates stated in this resolution shall be adjusted for changes on School Construction Tax Limits, issued by the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Member Meier expressed concern that if changed we would be charging more in Jackson than Josephine County. After lengthy discussion the Board requested that Ms. Cross find out more information, and specifically if Three Rivers School District could offer rebates back and what issues that could cause.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Dave Bracken stated he had nothing to add to his report and asked if there were questions? Member Meier asked how the Burn to Learn went at Hidden Valley? Mr. Bunge reported that it went great. Mr. Bracken added that the actual burning won't take place for another two weeks.

FOOD SERVICE REPORT

Michael Morris stated he had nothing to add to his written report and asked if there were questions? Member Crume commented on what a great lunch he provided for the staff at Evergreen.

OTHER

Member Meier asked Superintendent Huber-Kantola if he knew the reason for the drop of 35 students and more specifically, the loss of 14 students at Lincoln Savage? He responded that we would look into it and report back.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 9:45

Ron Lengwin
Chairperson of the Board

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk