

Corvallis School District #1
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING and
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

12/8/2015

Special Session Meeting in High School Library

1. *Called to order at 6:03 p.m.* by Wilbur Nisly, Chairman.

The School Board Trustees of Corvallis School District #1 met at a duly constituted and properly noticed meeting Tuesday evening in the High School Library.

Trustees

Present: Wilbur Nisly, Tonia Bloom, Dan Wolsky, Jennifer Channer (arrived at 7:00 pm), Kathi Harder-Brouwer Ginny Hoffman and Adam Sangster (left at 8:08 pm)

Absent: None

The Superintendent and District Clerk were present throughout the entire proceedings.

Others present: Administrators, employees and /or community members as listed on the sign in sheet.

2. *Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items*

No public comment was made.

3. *Dr. Suzanne Shope – Grant Writing*

Dr. Suzanne Shope has been hired as a grant writer for the district. Ms. Shope is an independent contractor. She works for the district 10 hours per week at \$30 an hour, with an eight month contract. This is her second year working for the district (contract started late last year).

Ms. Shope distributed a handout that included the following information and reviewed the information with the Board.

Working with staff and administration creating a grant writing and research mindset to strengthen CSD#1

Investment: Independent Contractor 10 hours per week \$30/hour- 8 months

Measurable Return: approx. \$19,500 (waiting to hear on proposal awards)

Long Term Impacts: Unify the district with common value based threads, i.e. relational leadership, teaching and learning. Facilitate communication strategies and professional development related to grants and PLCs. To empower teachers and departments by facilitating goal and value driven initiatives authored by them.

Broad Goals: To strengthen existing school departments, programs and initiatives by bolstering the district resources promoting relational leadership, teaching and learning. To research and locate funding sources matching the district mission, values and goals facilitating and meeting the needs of individual departments and teachers.

12/8/2015

Short Term Current Goals related to administration: .Develop and streamline internal communications relating to all grant writing and reporting across the district and use CSD1#

values and strategic plan to guide all grants in order facilitate a cohesive logical model for the district. Delegate one entity in charge of deliverables. Decide where the grant writer fits into the organizational flow chart. To research and write grants with staff and administration by the designated deadlines.

CSD Middle School

Department of Education "Skills for Success"

Outdoor Education Program- researching

Bridges After School Program **\$10,500**

Heman Foundation

Rapp Foundation

The Greater Ravalli Foundation

Town Pump Foundation

The Department of Education "Skills for Success"

Technology and MAPS collaboration

State Farm 2N2 Grant and Video production

Research underway for lap tops

Science Olympiad 2015 (and 2016) **\$3000**

Rapp Family Foundation

2016 funding research underway

Science Department

Researching funding to develop a new lab

Performing Arts and Musical fundraising **\$5000**

Corvallis Schools Foundation

Rapp FF

Farmers State Bank

Future Farmers of America (proposals in process)

USDA Farm to School

Farmers State Bank

Zoetis

MSU Bozeman

Americorps

Grant For Growing

Farmers Union

Teachers **\$1000**

donorschoose.org

Facilities (future)

Tennis Courts

Performing Arts Center

Gifted and Talented

researching to serve more students

Ms. Shope stated that she hopes to receive grant revenue up to approximately \$600,000 in future years. And with her being out in the community, she has developed a rapport with the Foundations that provide funding for schools.

The Board Members thanked Ms. Shope for her efforts in obtaining funding through her grant writing efforts.

4. *Vo-Ag/FFA Brandon Braaton & Student Officers*

High school FFA teacher, Brandon Braaton informed the Board that the FFA Program was one of the largest National Organizations. He then introduced the following FFA students.

Student Officers: Matthew Wolsky, Kaylie Wilson, Austen Sortor, Broc Perkins, Morgan Weidow, Abby Dunn, and Maegan Bjerke

The students presented a PowerPoint presentation, and each of them talked about what they have learned and enjoyed in each of the classes that have been offered this year.

There was open discussion between Mr. Braaton and the Board Members. It was noted that the livestock event would be held in Jackpot this summer. Mr. Braaton's goals are to have numerous field trips for educational learning for the students. He also informed the Board that the Teller Wildlife Refuge has earmarked their garden plot for Corvallis students. And as the year progresses the students will have participated in approximately 30 FFA contest events.

The Board thanked Mr. Braaton, and all the student officers for the very well planned and presented presentation and discussion this evening. It was exciting to see that the program has enlightened the students learning.

5. *Transportation Director Edwards – Primary School bus/car drop off realignment*

Mr. Edwards handed out two papers showing the structure and layout of the buses being moved to the North side of the primary school. He is proposing to moving the existing parking to the current buss loading area in the grass section to the west; with the flow of traffic being one- way. This would be the new drive-through location where parents could pick up and drop off the students. The proposed bus change was a possible way to help the flow of traffic on the Eastside Highway that is currently a problem before and after school. The timeline to implement this new parking change would be in the fall. This would allow for everything to be thought through and analyzed. This would allow for the District to make a sound decision with any changes.

6. *MCEL Update*

This agenda item was moved to the General Reports section.

Recess 6:59 p.m.

Reconvene 7:04 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting in the High School Library

1. *Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Wilbur Nisly*

2. *Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items*

School district custodian, Elmo Ostrander, was present and stated his topic for discussion was the CCAU, which stands for Corvallis Custodian Against Union. He then asked the Board what they were doing to help make an avenue for people that do not want to be in the newly formed classified union.

Chairman Nisly stated that the Board appreciates his public comment tonight. He then recommended that Mr. Ostrander meet with the Superintendent regarding his question tonight.

3. *General Reports*

This agenda item is to allow administration to make any additional comments to their written reports submitted in the Board Packet.

6. *MCEL Update*

Trustee Bloom reported that she attended the two day MCEL conference in Billings. The Opening Session was about Constitutional Panel Discussion regarding Article X. She gave a brief review regarding the alternative classes that she also attended in reference to facility demographics and planning. Trustee Bloom is also on the Delegate Assembly Board for MTSBA. She distributed two handouts regarding the Opening Session details, and MTSBA's information about options for some school flexibility with funding under current law.

The board thanked Trustee Bloom for attending the conference and providing her detailed update.

Maintenance Director

Mr. Bowen informed the Board of the recent update of information about the primary school pipe water damage. The estimation that he has received to complete the restoration and replace everything was up to a couple hundred thousand dollars. This estimate may be high. It has been determined that the cause of the water damage was when the camera lines were installed in that area. Some insulation was removed and not re-wrapped around the pipe. The complete details of the pipe break information was in his Board report.

Trustees

Trustee Hoffman asked high school principal, Mr. Wirt, why he thought the parent teacher conferences attendance was down this year?

Mr. Wirt stated he thinks that parents seem to be using the Infinite Campus portal for reviewing the grades on a regular basis, and don't feel the need to come to the conference. Parents that attend the conferences now, maybe would like more details from a teacher, or may have a specific concern.

Trustee Harder- Brouwer noted that she feels the communication at the high school level to parents has improved.

4. *Personnel*

Resignations: Maureen Powell High School Photography Teacher

Sub Teacher List: Heiland, Jamie
Pogachar, Rodney

**Trustee Channer moved to approve the Personnel list as presented.
Trustee Harder-Brouwer seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

5. *Nonresident Requests for Student Attendance and Early Enrollment for Student Attendance*

Mr. Johnson reported that he was working on an Inter-Local Agreement with the Hamilton and Victor School Districts, regarding student pick-up details. Both Superintendents are positive about entering into the agreements.

High School: Gavin Nuttall – Gavin has attended Corvallis schools since 7th grade and is renewing his application.

Receipt of FP-14 regarding resident student’s attendance in district outside of CSD#1

Hamilton: See attached list compiled by the District Office Administrative Secretary, Lyndi Henson.

**Trustee Bloom moved to approve the out-of-district requests and acknowledge receipt of FP-14 forms for student out-of-district attendance in district’s other than Corvallis.
Trustee Wolsky seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

6. *Requests for Credit Approval*

None were presented.

7. *Levy: Community Survey Results - Discussion*

Mr. Johnson handed out a revised summary of the information. The Board packet only contained the community results, not the staff’s input. The revised information will be attached to the minutes.

Below are the summary details from community and staff members:

The percentage below was listed as the top priority among their five choices offered.

- 86% feel the district communicates pertinent information so they could make an informed vote
- 34% of responders are community members with no past or present Corvallis students
- 84% are registered voters for the Corvallis school district
- 89% would prefer to receive mailings from the district regarding communications with them

- 48% feel it was a priority to restore programs and any staffing cuts
- 45% feel that there was a need to provide adequate compensation for district employees
- 27% feel there was a need for the district to do address deferred maintenance
- 29% feel there was a need to maintain and upgrade technology infrastructures
- 35% feel that there needs to be a relief from the frozen supply budgets
- 52% are familiar with the District's Strategic Plan

After general discussion Mr. Johnson stated this preliminary summary serves as a starting point from which more complete data would be provided and further discussion can develop.

Trustee Hoffman stated she has some concerns about the survey, since there were only close to 150 community responses. It seems that the community does not have any detailed information to make adequate decisions regarding the questions asked on the survey.

The Board asked that Mr. Johnson provide additional levy details for the Board to review, in order make further decisions regarding the levy.

Trustee Channer asked Mr. Johnson to send the survey information out to all staff.

A Board Work Session was scheduled for Wednesday the 16th, at 3 PM in the Handley House.

9. Activity Bus - Discussion and possible action

Mr. Johnson asked for this agenda item to be tabled because he has talked with Bob Vogel from MTSBA since the Board packet went out.

Trustee Nisly stated that some thought needs to be considered regarding the difference of the professional drivers that we have with Tucker Transportation. Their company's commitment is they are there to serve us. Where when the school provides the service it may viewed a little differently. An example may be unable to maintain or replace a broken down bus quickly, etc.

High school teacher and coach, Spencer Huls was in the audience. He was asked to speak regarding his experiences working with activity bus contractors over the years. Mr. Huls stated that when the district contracted with a local contractor for the activity buses, more issues occurred for various reasons. When Tucker Transportation was hired, the level of professionalism went up dramatically. When schedule changes are required because of weather etc., Tucker was able to adjust to ensure a driver was there for us. Also, if they were on a trip during anytime in the middle of the state (or any location) and the bus was to breakdown, Tucker has enough outlets in the state that they could have another bus their usually within one hour.

Transportation Director, Mr. Edwards, stated that he would plan to hire a professional driver full-time so that these concerns may be alleviated.

10. Facility Planning Committee update

Mr. Johnson stated that the committee plans to finish the summary tables at their next meeting. CTA will provide the district with some new site plans.

Information listed in the Board packet:

- cafeteria seating space
- lack of dedicated performance space
- lack of centralized administrative building
- lack of space at the primary school
- lack of space at the middle school
- lack of high school art space

The complete information was contained in the Board Packet.

11. Calendar Discussion

The Board agreed that the school calendar should support adequate time for student achievement, along with teacher professional development.

Chairman Nisly, asked Mr. Johnson to provide the Board with the difference between a day calendar vs. an hour attendance calendar.

Trustee Harder-Brouwer noted that a 4-day school week has been analyzed. It appears that the first two years does improve student achievement. However, after that time the student achievement does seem to go down.

Trustee Wolsky stated that the poverty level for the District's students has increased. The calendar committee needs to look at what is in the best interest of the kids and families. Student achievement has to be the number one priority when establishing a school calendar.

Trustee Hoffman stated that maybe a survey could be made available to give everyone calendar options to consider.

After a lengthy discussion with the Board and Administrators. Mr. Johnson provided a summary as follows:

We are moving forward with a similar calendar as was designed for this year. Future changes to the calendar are welcome assuming that the priorities are:

1. Student achievement/needs are reasonably projected as being positively influenced
2. Addresses professional development needs that support student learning/needs

3. We don't operate from a minimum standard. While the Hours provided by OPI are the minimum for accreditation, we operate on the hours needed to meet the student achievement/needs
4. With our increase in free/reduced lunch, we must begin to consider and provide support to families/students in poverty. We must consider their schedules, supervision needs, etc.

Recess 8:46 p.m.

Reconvene 8:53 p.m.

8. Early Graduation (Executive Session) – Discussion and possible action

Information Mr. Johnson presented in the Board Packet:

This would likely be a closed session to protect the privacy of a student and their educational record.

Executive Session In accordance with Section 2-3-203, MCA, Chairman Nisly closed the meeting after stating for the record that he determined the individual rights of privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure.

The Meeting was closed at 8:54 p.m.

Open Session *The Meeting opened at 9:11 p.m.*

Trustee Channer moved that the Board accept the recommendation of the Administration to allow the early graduation of student #01. Trustee Hoffman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

12. Discussion of the December 2015 Board and Administrator publication.

General discussion took place regarding the publications and how important it was to discuss the publications monthly as a group.

13. Correspondence

A letter from a community member signed with the initials J. B. The letter was addressed to the School Board and the Administration, regarding the survey that was sent out to the public. The individual listed his/her concerns and how times have changed and things are uncertain with the economic circumstances.

14. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Bloom moved to approve the minutes of 11/10/2015 as presented.
Chairman Nisly noted the spelling of Spencer Huls name should be corrected.
Trustee Hoffman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

15. Approval of Bills

Trustee Bloom moved to approve the bills as presented.
Trustee Wolsky seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

16. Adjournment

Trustee Wolsky moved to adjourn.
Adjourned – 10:05 p.m.

District Clerk

Board Chair