

SILVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J
BOARD WORK SESSION

February 27, 2017

7:00 p.m.

District Office Conference Room

Attendance: Board members present were Chair Wally Lierman, Tom Buchholz, Aaron Koch, Tim Roth, Ervin Stadeli, and Todd White. Ron Valoff was absent. Also present were Andy Bellando, Superintendent; Dandy Stevens, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Nielsen, Business Manager; and Denise Childs, Board Secretary. Audience members included: Marie Traeger, Licensed Association President; and various community members. Press was present.

Chair Wally Lierman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted attendance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2017-18 Budget Dev.: Mr. Bellando indicated that the District is at the beginning of the 2017-2018 budget development. He said that he wanted to seek input from the Board members to get an idea as to their budgeting priorities for the next school year.

Brd. Goals: Mr. Bellando reviewed the 2016-2017 Board Goals for Budget Development:

- 1) Maintain 2015-2016 class size averages.
- 2) Provide school and program allocations which maintain current levels of staffing.
- 3) Create a budgeted ending fund balance (minimum 6% of general fund revenue) to address future economic unknowns including the PERS rate changes in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- 4) Apply the District Strategic Visioning Plan (currently in Year 3).
- 5) Review support options for vocational education opportunities at the middle and high school levels.

Mr. Bellando said that the District had been fortunate with quite a few “knowns” for the second year of the biennium (current school year) in putting together a budget with some anticipated outcomes. He felt an assessment of the five goals listed above was positive.

Preliminary Budget Info: Mr. Bellando spoke on preliminary budget information for the 2017-2018 school year. He reviewed three main factors that he felt will be important priorities as they move ahead with the budget process:

KNOWN

Data Trends

Enrollment – As of February 1 -- 3,890 kids. Wally Lierman and Todd White questioned housing development in the District. Mr. Bellando said that an enrollment study for the entire District will begin in April, through Portland State University, with the results by June or July.

Staffing Levels – Have been able to maintain fairly well and hope to continue doing so.

Ending Fund Balance – Able to increase the audited Ending Fund Balance to 15% to help meet the impact for the PERS rate increase.

PERS Rates – Estimated District impact based upon current figures and current salary levels will be in the \$900,000 to \$1 million range.

Facility Projects

Seismic – Butte Creek and Victor Point Schools’ projects will be occurring this summer.

Silverton Middle School Debt Service

DEVELOPING

District-Wide Facility Priorities – Lorin Stanley, Maintenance and Facility Director, is currently working on that list.

Site and Department Budgets – Steve Nielsen, Business Manager, working with directors and principals to develop their proposed budgets within certain timelines.

Board Priorities – Board input will help administration plan their budgets.

UNKNOWN

State K-12 Funding – In response to Wally Lierman’s inquiry, Mr. Nielsen explained that the Oregon Legislature is currently looking at a budget range of approximately \$7.8 billion proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and around \$8 billion proposed by the Governor. Mr. Nielsen shared that the last biennium had resulted in a budget of \$6.9 billion. Wally noted that the amount of revenue the State is getting has gone up significantly, but it is expanding other programs instead of education. Mr. Nielsen added that the K-12 share of the total State budget has shrunk from about 43% down to a low of around 36% or 37%, along with the State creating more unfunded mandates.

Level 2017-19 – Mr. Bellando reviewed four funding levels (produced by COSA and OSBA) as examples of how it would affect the District. (Documentation handed out before the start of the meeting.)

Collective Bargaining

Both Associations – Begin bargaining with Licensed staff in March and with Classified staff in April.

PE Requirement – Currently a State unfunded mandate, related to elementary and middle school physical education. Estimated financial impact would be around \$800,000 to \$900,000. Some of the District’s school facilities do not have gyms or adequate green space. Wally Lierman said that it would also take away class time from reading, math and science. Dandy Stevens added that, in talking with principals, they are looking at reducing time in other areas – media, music and recess. She believes that recess provides socialization skills for children.

Adequate Funding For Measure 98 – Currently an unfunded mandate. This measure was approved by the voters.

Sale of Eugene Field School

Discussion followed where the Board members shared their viewpoints or asked clarifying questions:

Wally Lierman said that he would like to try maintaining our current District programs. He then wondered what would happen if the District did not implement the unfunded mandates. Mr. Bellando explained that he would have to state the District’s non-compliance when he reports to the Board and public regarding Division 22 Standards Report in January. There would then be a year to correct it. Wally added that, if needed, maybe the Board will need to consider a couple furlough days.

Todd White wondered about expanding the length of the school year. Mr. Bellando said there are plenty of advocates in favor of that option, but the operation of our schools is based upon the number of instructional hours per day/week to be able to logistically offer things. He added that it would also result in collective bargaining implications and additional cost. Todd also questioned about handling increased enrollment and building space. Mr. Bellando explained that, with transfer students included in the numbers, it offers a cushion to better control enrollment numbers over

time without rescinding student transfer agreements. He added that the enrollment study will be a telling factor.

Aaron Koch questioned going against the PE mandate. He agreed that given current funding, the State cannot be approving various unfunded mandates. Aaron noted that aside from education, there are other important aspects to developing kids' lives: music instruction, athletics, and other after school programs and activities. Wally added that spending time at home with family is also important.

Ervin Stadel felt a problem in not sticking with the mandates is at some point the rest of the mandates are "diluted" and there's no argument of doing one mandate over another. He said that the State needs to think about the consequences.

Tom Buchholz suggested that maybe there should be a uniform protest that the State quit mandating unfunded measures.

Tim Roth recalled a few years ago, having to do furlough days. He noted that back then, and even now, he feels that the District is in a lot better financial shape than other school districts.

Following discussion, the Board consensus is to try and stay with the same goals as the 2016-2017 school year. Wally Lierman added that after the enrollment study is done for the entire District, there will probably be school boundary discussions based on school populations.

Joint City/
School Brd.
Mtg.:

Mr. Bellando recalled past joint work sessions with the City Council and School Board. He offered some possible topics for an upcoming joint work session: parks and recreation district and the Silverton swimming pool. Mr. Bellando shared that he and Wally Lierman will be meeting with Christy Wurster, City Manager, and the new Mayor in a few weeks to discuss a joint work session and topics of interest. He said that Christy was interested in discussing City and School District relationships and agreements.

Discussion followed with the following topics suggested for the joint work session: anticipated population growth and city traffic. Mr. Bellando shared that he is on an advisory committee for the City of Silverton's Transportation System Development Plan. He felt that Jason Gottgetreu, Community Development Director, could give a transportation update at the joint work session. Wally suggested that if the Board members thought of any other topics, to contact him and Mr. Bellando.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following a break from 7:43 p.m. to 7:47 p.m., the Board entered Executive Session pursuant to **ORS 192.660(2)(d)** – *To consider deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations* – Bargaining with Classified and Licensed Associations. Present were the six Board members (Ron Valoff being absent), Andy Bellando, Dandy Stevens, and Denise Childs.

Reconvened: Regular Session reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

OTHER

Instructional
Hours:

Todd White noted in the news that it appears Oregon has a shorter school year compared to other states. He inquired how Silver Falls School District's number of school days ranks within Oregon. Mr. Bellando explained that our District meets the instructional hour requirements with some of our schools exceeding and others closer to the threshold. Mr. Bellando added that he does not know where our District stands with other school districts within the country.

Adjourn: No further business was brought before the Board and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Superintendent-Clerk

Date

Date