

SILVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J
BOARD WORK SESSION

March 20, 2017

7:00 p.m.

District Office Conference Room

Attendance: Board members present were Chair Wally Lierman, Tom Buchholz, Aaron Koch, Ervin Stadel, Ron Valoff and Todd White. Tim Roth was absent. Also present were Andy Bellando, Superintendent; Dandy Stevens, Assistant Superintendent; Jennifer Hannan, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Denise Childs, Board Secretary. Various community members were in the audience. Press was not present.

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

ACTION ITEM

Employment: Ervin Stadel moved, and Todd White seconded, to approve employment of the following teacher for the 2016-2017 contract year:
Crystal Johnson Robert Frost LRC 1.0 FTE (*temporary*)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Safe Routes School Reports: Mr. Bellando reported that Silver Falls School District and the City of Silverton had partnered to complete "Safe Routes to School Report" studies at each of the four schools (Mark Twain Elementary, Robert Frost, Silverton Middle and Silverton High) within the City. He explained this project was part of a study for the renewal of the City's "Transportation System Development Plan". Mr. Bellando noted that recommendations from the reports will be considered during budgeting discussions and when making facility planning decisions in the future. He shared that, by the end of the week, all of these reports will be on the District website for the public to see. Using a slide presentation, Mr. Bellando reviewed some of the recommendations for each of the in-town schools. During his report, he pointed out one distinct factor – all the recommendations, with the exception of Robert Frost School, identified the corner of Jefferson Street and Highway 214 (State controlled highway) as a dangerous pedestrian crossing/bicycle safety route.

During Mr. Bellando presentation, various Board members shared their thoughts or asked clarifying questions:

Tom Buchholz agreed that Highway 214 is a busy road to get across. He felt that an overpass bridge would be expensive, but it would link the two sides of the City together. Mr. Bellando said that about eight years ago the Silverton Planning Director had tried for a state transportation grant to fund this project.

Aaron Koch shared his safety concerns with the intersection of James Avenue and C Street. He noted pictures he had taken of the area. Aaron suggested that this be a topic for the upcoming Joint Work Session between the City Council and School Board.

Wally Lierman noted that for years there have been problems with kids crossing railroad tracks (between McDonald's and the District Office) to shorten their walking route. He asked Mr. Bellando to share Aaron's pictures and concerns with the City regarding the James Avenue and C Street intersection. Wally likewise felt that

discussing the safety concerns with the intersection of James Avenue and C Street would be a good topic for the upcoming Joint Work Session. Wally also believed that the safety information for the in-town schools is valuable, but that he would like the rural schools also reviewed for possible safety improvement opportunities.

Tom Buchholz agreed that transportation safety should be reviewed regarding the rural schools. He shared his hope that a gravel path that links the City of Scotts Mills to Scotts Mills School could be made wider to encourage more walking. Tom suggested that any future development in the School District include plans for separating walk/bike paths from traffic.

In response to Tom Buchholz's inquiry, Mr. Bellando replied that he did not know if there is a Transportation System Development Plan or if a systems development charge was assessed regarding new development in the City of Scotts Mills. Mr. Bellando said that the City of Silverton has a Transportation System Development Plan in place and that the current project was a renewal of that Plan. Ervin Stadel added that he had been part of a project last year to put in a water line from Scotts Mills School to the road by the Fire Station. He said the plan included widening the road.

District & Vision Goals Mid-Year Review: Documentation was handed out before the start of the board meeting. Jennifer Hannan gave a mid-year review of district-wide performance data related to the District Goals and Strategic Visioning Plan Goals. She assessed the Performance Indicators for 1) Teachers that meet or exceed the District Standard for student engagement; 2) K-12 students on track to graduate; and 3) Student attendance.

During Mrs. Hannan's report, Wally Lierman asked clarifying questions regarding the Performance Indicators for math and reading scores. Mrs. Hannan explained that this data is from the end of January (mid-school year) and that, because of how the testing process is done, there will be an update at the end of the school year which will show increased percentages. She said that school staff members are working to make certain that students understand the relevance and importance of academic testing.

Wally also shared his concern with students coming to school sick relative to attendance incentives. Mrs. Hannan shared that the administrative team continues to have conversations about how to handle the illness impact on attendance. She suggested an option they could consider would be doing a metric of chronic absenteeism, put them in another category, and measure everybody else separately.

Aaron Koch inquired as to the top reasons that students are not in attendance. Mrs. Hannan explained that the majority of student absences are due to illness and/or motivation to come to school due to academic anxiety. She shared that an attendance team at Silverton High School reviews their students' attendance records and reasons for absenteeism. Wally thought it would be great to see more detailed absenteeism data. Tom Buchholz commented that at least the attendance trend is going in the right direction.

In regard to District Goals 2 and 3, Mr. Bellando noted that they are in the middle of a board policy manual review (Goal 2) and that an enrollment and population study will begin in April (Goal 3).

Habitat for Humanity: Mr. Bellando shared a flyer about the North Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity "Sign a Stud" program. He explained that a site in Silverton (corner of Oak and Norway) has been selected for the next Habitat for Humanity home. This particular program is an opportunity to make a donation to the home and then sign a wooden stud with your name. This stud will include Silver Falls School District's name and will be used for construction of the home. Mr. Bellando encouraged everyone to consider making a donation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following a break from 7:35 p.m. to 7:36 p.m., the Board entered Executive Session pursuant to **ORS 192.660(2)(f)** – *To consider records exempt by law from public inspection*. Present were the six Board members (Tim Roth being absent), Andy Bellando, Dandy Stevens, and Denise Childs.

Reconvened: Regular Session reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

OTHER

Adjourn: No further business was brought before the Board and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Superintendent-Clerk

Date

Date