

SILVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Silverton Community Center

Attendance: Board members present were Chair Wally Lierman, Tom Buchholz, Aaron Koch, Tim Roth, Ervin Stadel, Ron Valoff and Todd White. Also present were Andy Bellando, Superintendent; Jennifer Hannan, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dana Pedersen, Director of Special Services; Denise Childs, Board Secretary; and Rachel Peters and Vanessa Meraz, SHS Student Representatives. Dandy Stevens, Assistant Superintendent and Steve Nielsen, Business Manager were absent. Press was not present.

Chair Wally Lierman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted attendance. He explained that microphones for all the Board members were not available tonight, so some adjustments were made to record the meeting and be able to hear people speak.

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited prior to the start of board business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Tim Roth moved, and Todd White seconded, to approve the *Consent Agenda*. The motion carried unanimously. The *Consent Agenda* included:

- Approve minutes of March 13 and 20, 2017.
- Approve District Policy Committee Recommended Revisions and Deletions in Policy Manual Sections C and D (final reading).
- Approve employment of Brett Davisson as Silverton Middle School Principal, effective beginning the 2017-2018 school year.

Silverton Middle School Principal: As Brett Davisson was in the audience, Chair Wally Lierman introduced him as the new Silverton Middle School Principal. The Board welcomed Mr. Davisson to the District and there was a round of applause by those in attendance.

Board Secretary: Chair Wally Lierman noted that Denise Childs, Board Secretary, will be retiring the end of the 2016-2017 school year. He thanked Denise for her many years of service.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Sports: Rachel Peters and Vanessa Meraz reported on how the following sports teams were doing and upcoming schedules: Girls' Softball (currently ranked 7th in State), Boys' Baseball; Track; Girls' and Boys' Tennis; and Golf.

Activities: They next reviewed various school club activities: Concert Choir and Bellissima (preparing for League and District competitions); Red Cross (planning disaster course training); and Interact Club. In regard to the Mr. SHS fundraiser, Vanessa and Rachel invited everyone to attend Bingo Night on Thursday (6:00 p.m.) and the Mr. SHS Pageant on Saturday (7:00 p.m.). They said all proceeds will go to Medical Teams International. Tim Roth asked what the dollar goal is for the Mr. SHS event. Rachel and

Vanessa said the hope is to raise more than last year. They thought around \$21,000 had been raised last year.

The Board thanked Rachel and Vanessa for their report.

AUDIENCE WITH VISITORS

Guidelines: Chair Wally Lierman reviewed public testimony guidelines.

School Board Forum: Marie Traeger invited everyone to attend the Silver Falls School Board Candidate Open Forum on Monday, April 17, at Silverton High School. She handed out invitations to the candidates present. The evening will be hosted by the Silver Falls Education Association.

College Fair: Naseem Rakha shared her concern that the junior class had not attended the College Fair in Portland, as they have in the past. She noted that the junior class had attended the NW Career Expo. She felt that students need to know there are a variety of vocational and college opportunities available.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policies Sect. E & F: Wally Lierman noted the second reading of the District Policy Review Committee's recommended revisions and deletions to the policies in Sections E and F. There were no comments from the Board.

Teacher Appreciation: Chair Wally said that a Resolution in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1-5, 2017 will be an *action item* later in the meeting.

Policy CBG: There was a first reading of proposed revisions to policy **CBG – Evaluation of the Superintendent**. Mr. Bellando explained that the recommended revisions came from the Oregon School Board Association and the Policy Review Committee. He said this will better align with the current employment contract between the School Board and Superintendent.

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF REPORTS

Jennifer Hannan — School and District Grants Summary. Mrs. Hannan reviewed a summary of grants that have been awarded to our District or schools over the past four years, plus pending grants that the District is waiting for decisions on. The latest total amount awarded the District is \$4,306,723. During her report, the Board asked clarifying questions regarding grants that have "strings attached", effects on staffing, and grant monitoring. Wally Lierman said these grants represent a lot of money. He thanked Mrs. Hannan for being selective on grants that are good for the District. Mrs. Hannan commended the work of the District's Grant Writer **John Pattison**.

Steve Nielsen — Financial Report. In Mr. Nielsen's absence, the Board acknowledged receipt of the Financial Report. Aaron Koch wondered if the Food Services current fund balance was showing it to be better than in the past. Mr. Bellando explained that the final (June 30) audited figure will be the balance to indicate any gains made on that fund.

Mark Hannan — Special Services Admin. Update; and Silver Crest School. Mr. Hannan distributed a handout before the start of his presentation. He reviewed various district programs/services that he oversees: 504 plans, nursing, ELL (English Language Learners), migrant and homeless. During this portion of Mr. Hannan's report, some of the Board members shared their viewpoints or asked clarifying questions:

Wally Lierman mentioned that former Special Education Director Linda Brown had sought Medicaid funding for the District. It was noted that Andy Bellando had recently spoken to the Oregon Legislation specific to the direct billing revenue. Mr. Hannan

said that Dana Pedersen, Director of Special Education Services tracks direct billing while he tracks the survey portion with its reimbursable expense.

Tim Roth inquired about the migrant summer school program that had been held for the first time at Silverton High School last summer. Mr. Hannan described the classroom setup, lunch program held in the Commons area, and instructors provided by Willamette ESD. He said the summer program had been for kids of all ages and that he would check to find out how many kids had participated last summer.

In response to Todd White's inquiry, Mr. Hannan gave examples for a definition of being a homeless student.

Mr. Hannan next reviewed Silver Crest School's enrollment (currently 134) and that there is classroom space for families looking for a school in a rural K-8 environment. He noted that transportation is provided to and from the Silver Falls Public Library to the school. Mr. Hannan thanked School Secretary **Abbie Hays** for helping him create the pamphlet that he had handed out to the Board.

Mr. Hannan reported that the school's Professional Development this year has been around improving or questioning their discussion techniques in the classroom. He thanked **Jennifer Capener**, 1st Grade Teacher, for leading many of those professional development sessions. Mr. Hannan shared that the staff members have now completed three of the four PLC (Professional Learning Center) make-up days. During this time they have been analyzing their STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) data in reading and math and developing an intervention plan to begin in the fall. He pointed out that the intervention plan is for both low and high achieving students in how to address their needs.

Mr. Hannan invited everyone to attend the following school events: Carnival – Friday, April 21; and 8th grade promotion ceremony on Friday, June 9. The Board thanked Mr. Hannan for his report.

Kevin Palmer — Butte Creek School. Mr. Palmer distributed a document to the Board before the start of the meeting. Mr. Palmer first wanted to explain that the PE grants somewhat follow the regular budget biennium for the State. He described timelines and how popular PE grants have become for school districts, which results in there being more requests than available money. Mr. Palmer said that Butte Creek School had received the continuation grant and will carry that over into next school year's budget.

Mr. Palmer reviewed the school's current enrollment (327) and various academic programs and school activities, which included:

Site Council/School-Wide Planning Team working closely with PBIS/Climate Team busy reassessing all 34 indicators for the 2017-18 school-wide plan using the Indistar planning/reporting system. Mr. Palmer commended Title I Teacher **Libby Facha** (Process Manager) in doing a great job in leading staff members through the process.

PTT (Parent-Teacher Team) partnered with the District to purchase additional Chromebooks for the middle school students and iPads for primary students.

Russian Class – Russian Dinner in January raised approximately \$10,000 profit under the leadership of Butte Creek parent **Maria Sanarov** and her team. The dinner was held at the Mt. Angel Community Festhalle, which made it more comfortable with parking and seating.

19th Annual Auction in February raised over \$16,000 under the leadership of Butte Creek parent **Peter Molodyh**, Auction Chairperson.

Volunteer Breakfast will be held April 21 at 8:30 p.m. The Board members were invited to attend.

Three Robotics teams -- *Robot Weirdos* (**Jessni Morris, Sarah Kurns**); *Thunderbolts* (**Kailea Buckley, Christian Meza, Edwyn Romero, Scarlett Leiterman**); and *Psycho Robots* (**Nikitha Zenuhin, Jacob Meyer, Venedim Scherbakov**) recently

attended the National competition (April 3-5) in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The *Thunderbolts* team will be competing at the Worlds competition (April 22-26) in Louisville, Kentucky. These teams were led by Teacher **Stacy Boost** and parents **Scott Blake** and **Gary Morris**. The teams raised around \$9,000 in approximately 2 months when they found out back in September that these teams would be going to the Nationals and Worlds competitions. In response to Tom Buchholz's request, Mr. Palmer said that he would e-mail Mr. Bellando some videos of the competitions that can then be shared with the Board members.

During his report, Mr. Palmer shared some staff (both classified and certified) feedback on things that are going great and things to work on at Butte Creek School. He said these guide them to improve school climate and processes.

Aaron Koch asked for an update on the "New Homework Policy" that Mr. Palmer had reported on in December. Mr. Palmer replied that he has not seen any kind of negative impact on testing. He added that they encourage parents to spend time with their kids and give the extra help at home when needed with their studies. Mr. Palmer said the feedback has been great and they have not seen any correlation in kids losing it academically.

Aaron commended Mr. Palmer for continuing to see the positive zeal for education. He appreciated the staff members' efforts and wants to continue hearing updates. Aaron said it's an interesting experiment and he felt it is something that we can learn from in our District. The Board thanked Mr. Palmer for his report.

BOARD REPORTS

- School Visits: Aaron Koch reported on his visits to Scotts Mills, Robert Frost and Mark Twain Schools. He gave kudos to Principals **Kirstin Jorgenson**, **Leslie Roache** and **Greg Kaatz**, along with their staff members, for the positive impacts he saw in those schools, plus the positive attitudes of the kids. Aaron also described the seismic upgrade work that had been done on Scotts Mills School gym and how amazing it looks. He said these types of grants are tremendous to our District with the structural integrity that these are designed to do.
- State Budget: Aaron shared that he had a chance to talk with Representative Rick Lewis about the State budget situation regarding education. He said he appreciated Representative Lewis' willingness to sit and listen, plus having a representative who values education.
- Adopt A Farmer Prog.: Wally Lierman described his opportunity to join Silverton Middle School students on their visit to Victor Point Farms as part of the "Adopt a Farmer Program". He said it is a great program where the kids had a good time, were fully engaged in practicing some math skills, and seeing what really happens on a farm.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

AUDIENCE WITH VISITORS

There were no comments from the audience.

ACTION ITEMS

- Teacher Appreciation Resolution: Todd White moved, and Aaron Koch seconded, to approve Resolution No. 4/10/2017 in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week on May 1-5, 2017. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Wally Lierman recognized Marie Traeger, Teacher Association President, sitting in the audience. He asked Mrs. Traeger to let the other teachers know

that the Board members appreciate what they do throughout the week with kids and the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following a break from 7:58 p.m. to 8:03 p.m., the Board entered Executive Session pursuant to:

ORS 192.660(2)(e) – *To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions – Sale of Eugene Field School and Property;*

ORS 192.660(2)(f) – *To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection; and;*

ORS 192.660(2)(h) – *To consult with legal counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.*

Present were the seven Board members; Andy Bellando; Dana Pedersen; Denise Childs; and Sperry Van Ness Commercial Advisors, LLC (SVN) – Tom Hendrie and Curt Arthur. Jennifer Hannan was excused.

Tom Hendrie and Curt Arthur were excused at 8:32 p.m.

Reconvened: Regular Session reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

OTHER

Adjourn: No further business was brought before the Board and the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Superintendent-Clerk