

**Redmond School District  
School Board Meeting  
February 23, 2011**

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**In Attendance:** Chair Jim Erickson, Vice-Chair Cathy Miller, Directors A. J. Losoya, Paul Rodby, Ric Little, Superintendent Shay Mikalson, RSD Staff-Mike McIntosh, Trish Huspek, Stephanie Curtis, Mollie O'Brien, Karen McBride, City Councilman Ed Boero, media Leslie Pugmire-Hole (Spokesman), Patrick Cliff (Bend Bulletin), Devin Williams, Intern at the Bend Bulletin, Dave Adams, KBND Radio, REA Rep, Judy Newman, and community members Mike Schiel, Mr. Jones, Johnny Corbin, CJ Johnson, Toni Duff and approximately 10 community and staff members.

Board Chair Jim Erickson called the Board meeting to order with a quorum of five at 5:35 p.m.

Jim Erickson welcomed everyone who is in attendance tonight. He stated that Board members had the opportunity to tour Tom McCall Elementary this afternoon. It is very apparent that the staff is very committed to the students of the school, and as a community and school board we need to be very appreciative of that. The staff commits their lives to the growth of the students. As the Board has seen the same commitment in all of the schools they have visited.

Tommy and Matthew, Elton Gregory Middle School students, were in attendance at the meeting. They are working on their Eagle Scout award and were working on their Citizenship in the Community badge. Board Chair, Jim Erickson requested they lead the group in the flag salute.

**Citizen Participation for Non-Agenda Items**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Tom McCall Elementary School**

Rosanne Stevenson, Principal of Tom McCall Elementary School addressed Board members and stated that it is truly a gift to have served the district and then been given the opportunity to return to serve at Tom McCall. She gave an overview of the positive things that are happening at the school that support the concept of *Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day*. She stated that Tom McCall Elementary is a great school that has a wonderful staff who truly reflects the districts goals.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that Ms. Stevenson has always been respected in the district and he was thrilled that she was willing to step in and become the principal. "She models everything that we want the district to be."

Ms. Stevenson introduced Heather Renz who is a grade 4 teacher at Tom McCall. Ms. Renz provided the board an opportunity to see via video the virtual fieldtrip her class took to Panama. The class had the opportunity to participate in an online classroom presentation via computer, webcam and microphone. Ms. Renz thanked the technology experts in the district who assisted in making the virtual field trip possible. She stated that the class was studying the rainforest and the eco system and that it was incredible for students who live in our cold climate to be able to see that in another part of the world it is warm with monkeys in the trees overhead.

There were 63 students who were involved in the virtual field trip to Panama. Students wrote rainforest riddles to see if the researchers, who were speaking to them via the webcam, could guess what their animals were. This was a cross curricular activity; the skills of writing, reading, poetry, and geography were all employed during the activity.

### **Public Comments – Naming of New High School**

Jim Erickson reviewed the process and timelines that were implemented to obtain name suggestions for the new high school. Over 150 names were received via email, phone calls, websites, and drop boxes at school sites.

The committee's formation and work was done exactly the way the board had instructed. "We wanted to keep the community involved and processes were established to allow that to happen." The Board set criteria for the committee. The committee met and took the names and matched it to the policy provided by the School Board. The Board established the process not the committee.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> the three recommendations were brought forward to the Board. The Board has been provided a 24 page document that listed all comments received about the three names. Some people stated they didn't like any of the three recommendations.

Jim Erickson requested that before public comment proceeds he wanted to make sure that everyone understood the process of naming the new school will be to select from the names brought forward by the committee. The committee worked diligently to determine the three names that were brought forward. All comments should address which of the three names they prefer and why.

Mr. Erickson stated that the Board is also more than interested in hearing thoughts on how the process could be improved for the future. "We want processes that play out effectively. We assume there will be parts of the new high school that will be named; auditorium, field, etc., and if the process was flawed, the Board would like to do it better next time."

Jim Erickson stated that as a Board they have asked Superintendent Mikalson to do things collaboratively and transparently. "We believe in that, Shay believes in that, and our district believes in that. It is more difficult to operate in a democracy; more is required of all of us. We need to honor the process."

- Mr. Jones – He believes we have a media problem; the placement of news articles in the newspaper is problematic. When he heard the names he didn't really like any of the names. However, from the three Ridgeview is his preference. He wanted to remind the Board there are many "communities" within the Redmond School District; Tumalo, Terrebonne, Crooked River Ranch, Alfalfa, and Eagle Crest and we need to be very respectful of them as well when naming the school. He would suggest getting the students to paint what they see from the building. The artwork could then be displayed. He would suggest having the reasoning behind the chosen names included when providing potential names to the public.
- Johnny Corbin – Thinks that "view" is an insult in the name. Of the three choices, his preference would be South Redmond. He suggested the stadium could be named after Robert Maxwell who received the Congressional Medal of Honor and has been a contributor to education. Lives in the community and is a great American hero.
- Ed Boero – Has followed this process all the way through. Feels that what we name the school is not the most important thing. The important thing is that we built the school. It will be a great asset to the community. He believes that the process was done well. Agrees that Toni Duff did a great job with the committee and would like to congratulate her and thank her for the time she put in. While he is not "crazy" about any of them, he would choose Grandview.
- Toni Duff was asked to speak about the documentation that was provided to the Board on the comments that were received. She believes it is important that people are aware of the criteria that the committee is charged with in determining potential names. She would recommend starting the public process by having the community provide suggested names. The committee would then narrow it down to the top 10. The district could then provide a survey to the community to provide comment. It would give the community more of a choice. After that, provide the opportunity for the community to come to a meeting to speak to those names. After that the committee would take the input and then narrow the choices to three that

would be provided to the Board. The Board would make the final decision. She wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that only a small portion of the community, 1%, commented on the names.

Jim Erickson acknowledged that during this process Toni and her committee have taken a great deal of “heat.” He wanted to express his appreciation to all of the committee members; Toni Duff, Cathy Hammack, Mike Scheil, Jan Zimmerman, Mary Bliven, Ami Garibay, CJ Johnson, and Laramie Barnett, Karen McBride, and Heather Haworth.

Cathy Miller stated that in some of the comments received people had expressed concern about the initials being the same as RHS. Mike Schiel stated that there are other examples of schools that have the same initials. He doesn't believe it is as large of an issue as some might think.

Paul Rodby requested that the action item be moved forward in the meeting to allow those in attendance to hear the Board's decision.

Cathy stated that she is concerned that people will think that this decision has already been made. She assured everyone that the Board does not meet outside of these public sessions and no conversations have taken place about what other Board members feel about the names. She wanted to confirm that all three proposed names meet the criteria set out by the Board. All Board members decided to move forward.

*Paul Rodby made a motion to name our new high school, Ridgeview High School (one word). AJ seconded the motion. After hearing the discussion items listed below, the motion carried 3-2. Cathy Miller and Ric Little were the dissenting votes.*

Discussion: Cathy Miller stated that her only concern with Ridgeview High School is the concern about knowing where the high school is located. She has been thinking how “Redmond” could be included in all of the recommendations. However she agrees with the comments made by Mr. Jones this evening stating that there are many “communities” within the Redmond School District; Tumalo, Terrebonne, Crooked River Ranch, Alfalfa, etc., so we need to be very respectful of them as well. Cathy indicated she would like to hear the other Board members opinions about the identification piece of the name.

AJ stated that he had the opportunity to tour the school in the last week. Once people have the chance to take a tour of the school, there is no question that everyone is going to be passionate about the school. The views from the high school are phenomenal. In time, it will create its own distinction and people will know where it is.

Ric Little is not in favor of having the initials RHS for both schools.

Jim Erickson indicated he has thought a great deal about adding Redmond to whatever name was chosen but communities need to grow and embrace change. He is comfortable not adding the name “Redmond” to the name. “It would serve our community well that we embrace diversity and change.” He also believes that this school and RSD will be known by the schools it keeps. “If we are able to accomplish the things that Superintendent Mikalson has set forth, we won't have to make sure people know that the high school is in Redmond -it will be known. The education and the nature of our graduates will testify to that.”

There was discussion about the pros and cons of having two RHS high schools in Redmond.

Cathy Miller and Ric Little would like to have the name Ridge View (two words) High School (RVHS).

Paul Rodby stated that he believes the process has worked. The community has been given ample opportunity to provide their input.

### **Local Option Information**

Mike McIntosh stated that in several forums the idea was presented to study the feasibility of returning the \$15 million in construction bond savings and interest to the voters in return for the voters approving a local option tax levy. The idea has merit on the grounds that under statute, the \$15 million cannot be used for general fund purposes, but local option levy dollars could be applied to general fund budgets.

Scott Langdon, from the Deschutes County Assessor office was present to review how property taxes are assessed. He spoke to Measure 50 and the ramifications of that Measure on property tax assessments. He also spoke to the effect of the real estate market decline and assessed values of homes being affected. He also spoke to Measure 5, passed in 1989 and is still in effect, and its limitations on tax rates.

After considerable time and conversation, we have determined the following:

- It is true that RSD cannot use the bond proceeds to help the general fund deficit
- Returning the money to the voter is a possibility, however
  - The board has taken action and approved a plan to reallocate the money to fund the modernization of four schools in the district
  - To change that decision, the board would need to undo the action with a new motion and receive a favorable vote of the board
  - Bond council would suggest that the money should not be returned to the voters until the projects that are slated are complete, which means sometime in 2013 or later, when the new high school is complete
  - Some of the money has already been spent, and is no longer available
  - The design phase is well underway in the three elementary schools
- In addition the following points are worth considering:
  - The repairs and modernizations that are slated in the four schools are necessary and will likely become a general fund liability at some point in the near future
- The amount of money likely to be collected in the event of a local tax levy is less than \$1 million, most likely closer to \$650,000 annually
  - Over 70% of the properties within our District are currently under compression because total educational district permanent tax rates exceed the Measure 5 limit of \$5.00
  - A potential Local Option Levy could only be applied to properties that are not currently under compression and therefore would only be collected from less than 30% of our tax payers
- The technical aspects that are a little difficult to manage are;
  - Filing deadline is March 17, 2011
  - Legal council has not begun to draft the language that would capture the scope of the levy. That is typically a two month process
  - The due date for the voters pamphlet is March 21, 2011
  - A citizens committee to act as a proponent for the levy has not been established
  - The dollars for getting the publications printed and the campaign have not been allocated and would need to come from the general fund or donations

The staff would recommend moving forward with the securing of an architect and proceed with the board's plan to use the bond savings in the manner planned. At this time the local option does not seem to make the best use of funds available to the district.

Judy Newman stated that she understands the information and acknowledges that it is a Board decision. She appreciates that everyone stopped to take a look at the issue and provide information.

Paul Rodby recommends moving forward with the projects previously approved by the Board. The selection of the architect for the high school remodel should proceed as previously planned. All board members concurred with that recommendation.

Cathy stated it was important to do due diligence and after doing that, it appears that it is not fiscally viable to proceed with a local option at this time. It is still critical that we all work to find a way to fund school without “strangling” our employee groups.

The information on this issue will be added to the website.

### **Local Service Plan Presentation**

Kathy Emerson, Deputy Superintendent of the HDESD presented the 2011-2012 Local Service Plan to the Board members. It is a requirement of ESD’s that each year the local service plan is prepared and then vetted by district personnel. They look at the array of services and make any additions or corrections. After that, the document is presented to Board’s in the region for approval. The law also requires that the ESD provides services in four core areas; Administrative and Support Services, Children with Special Needs, School Improvement Services, and Technology Support.

There are no significant changes from last year.

Cathy Miller stated that being on the ESD board as RSD’s representative has been eye opening as far as how we gain from having these services provided by the ESD. The accomplishments they have done she isn’t sure how we could do a more effective job at serving our student population especially for our special needs students.

The Board will taken action on this document at their March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Budget Committee Member Selection**

Due to the expiration of terms, there are currently three appointed member positions open on the Budget Committee. Holly Sides has indicated she would be available to serve an additional term. We have received two applications for the remaining positions; David Imig and Sharon Rosen.

*Cathy Miller moved and AJ Losoya seconded the motion that the Board of Directors re-appoint Holly Sides and appoint David Imig and Sharon Rosen to the Redmond School District Budget Committee for the term of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. Motion carried 5-0.*

All Budget Committee meetings are open to the public to attend.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Personnel Changes
- School Board Minutes from February 9, 2011
- Out of State Field Trip Request
- Gift to the District

*Cathy Miller moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Paul Rodby seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Inter-District Transfers for 2011-12**

Superintendent Mikalson was at the City Council last night to brief them on our budget conversations. Inter-district transfers are a topic that continues to be brought up in our conversations.

As Superintendent he believes in and supports parent choice as a critical component of the educational system. His intention is to provide the board with clarity on our inter-district transfers.

- Currently we have 370 students who have transferred out of the RSD and 198 have transferred into the district
- The majority of transfers occur at the high school level
- 104 of the 198 students who transferred into RSD do so to attend the Redmond Proficiency Academy
- Of the 112 new requests this year, 79 come from students whose home address is not a Redmond address (mainly Bend and some from CRR)

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed current Board policy relating to inter-district transfers.

This is obviously a hot topic due to our currently budget reality. He reviewed that we are projecting 112 fewer students next year. With that projection the state will hold us harmless and will fund us on either this year's enrollment or next year's enrollment, whichever is higher for the district. Even if we were to get all 172 students back to RSD, since we will be funded on this year's budget, we would only see a 60 student increase in our funding.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that he believes that we need to attract people and not hold people here against their will. He also believes that we need a system where parents have a choice. Superintendent Mikalson's recommendation would be to continue the current policy making sure that we diligently follow current board policy.

He acknowledged receiving an email from a staff member with concerns about inter-district transfers. This staff member was from Tumalo and has a concern that students are leaving that school.

Jim Erickson stated that he has a granddaughter that has transferred out of the district and must reclude himself from the discussion and decision on this policy.

Cathy would like to see parents have a discussion/interview with a district staff member prior to any request being approved. "We need to understand why students are leaving the district. The fact that their address is not in the City of Redmond is not a significant reason not to attend RSD."

Paul would like to see an exit interview with these parents prior to approving any requests.

Ric Little stated that there are many reasons that people transfer out of the District.

AJ Losoya stated that it requires additional conversation. We need to make a strong effort to find out the real reasons why someone is leaving the district.

Cathy feels the policy is too loose and needs to be tightened up but she will go along with what the majority of the board feels is right. "As we move forward with the new high school we will need to look at this policy."

The Board agreed to the following;

- Continuing current policy for the 2011-12 school year for students currently on an inter-district transfer
- Initiate the exit interview process on any **new** requests – Superintendent Mikalson will determine this process
- Requests should align with current Board policy
- The Board will revisit this discussion after the new high school opens
- Board members requested that a FAQ regarding the impact of inter-district transfers be added to the website

### **January Financial Statements**

Mike McIntosh provided the January financial statements to the board. Board members were given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

### **Real Estate Restructure Report**

Mollie O'Brien was present to provide the Board with a progress report and additional information on the refinance/restructure of the 2007 FFCO tax exempt financing for real property.

The Board had requested staff to verify if banks were legally allowed to charge prepayment penalties. Research has shown that they may do that and the terms of the prepayment penalty are usually included in the finance agreement. The penalty amount is tied to the market interest rates at such time as the District decided to prepay.

Bank of America is currently working on various call options (such as no prepayment for five years or no prepayment for 10 years) and the effect of those options on interest rates.

The Bond Counsel has been contacted about district plans to refinance and they will work with Bank of America to draft a Board Resolution to authorize the Financing Agreement within limited parameters. This will allow staff the opportunity to proceed with the refinancing within those parameters. Counsel will also develop a timeline for the refinancing. We should have a fee estimate from Bond Counsel within the next few days. It is possible that we could complete the financing by the end of March.

AJ Losoya encouraged district staff to work with the lender regarding the prepayment penalty considering the district will be possibly providing \$480,000 against the principal amount of the loan.

There is a fee that will need to be paid to the Bond Council that will be wrapped into the refinancing of the loan. That fee amount has not been provided to the District yet.

Paul Rodby requested that Mike McIntosh calculate both scenarios; with the \$480,000 and without it.

### **Superintendent Report**

- Met at the high school regarding the two high schools – there were approximately 100 people in attendance. They had a good Q & A session. A formal report will be presented to the Board.
- Trying to be as clear as we can about our budget. Our website has a great deal of information for people to review

### **Division 22 – 2010-11 Assurance Form**

Superintendent Mikalson explained that Division 22 is the set of OAR's which regulate school districts. He noted there were three areas that the State Board of Education either revised or adopted in 2010; Safety of School Sports-Concussions, Administration of State Assessments, and Test Developments. Superintendent Mikalson noted that the Redmond School District is in compliance in all areas.

### **Association Reports**

Judy Newman

- Expressed appreciation to Mike regarding the information that he is providing staff around the budget
- Apologizes if she is frustrating anyone about not wanting to go too fast in the budget process
- Transfer of students – REA members will see that as money walking out of the district. Believes it will impact their decision making when asked to make concessions
- Staff members are wanting to know where they are on the RIF lists

### **Request for Agenda Items**

- ✓ Discussion of key impact decisions that need to be made between now and September 1- To create a chronological list of decisions that need to be made

Mike McIntosh reported that Budget 301 is being scheduled at this time at each building to keep everyone updated on where we are in the process of developing the budget.

Mike stated that staffing plans are due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. After that time, the RIF lists can be created.

Shay expressed his appreciation to Judy Newman for the amount of communication she does with her association members.

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**ADJOURN**

*Cathy Miller moved and Ric Little seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:03pm*

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Jim Erickson, School Board Chair

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Trish Huspek, Executive Assistant