

**Redmond School District
School Board Meeting
August 15, 2011**

In Attendance: Chair Jim Erickson, Vice-Chair Cathy Miller, Directors Ric Little, AJ Losoya, Bob Perry, Superintendent Shay Mikalson, RSD Staff; Mike McIntosh, Trish Huspek, Gina Blanchette, Media – None, association representative Karen Gray, REA, Community members Johnny Corbin, Jan & Dennis Dorgan

Board Chair Jim Erickson called the meeting to order with a quorum of five at 5:30 p.m.

Citizen Participation for Non Agenda Items

Johnny Corbin spoke to the Board to request a recommendation for the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). This Board is being established by the Governor. Mr. Corbin reviewed his qualifications to serve on the OEIB. He is currently working on his Master's Degree in secondary education and is a substitute teacher at the elementary level. He is asking for the Redmond School Board of Directors to endorse him to serve on the OEIB. His main concern is the Governor does not know him and without letters of recommendation, he will not be

Cathy Miller expressed concern about proceeding with a letter of recommendation without doing research on the OEIB and the qualifications needed to fulfill the position.

Jim Erickson stated that he feels that in order for the Board to approve issuing an endorsement to the Governor, it would require the Board to participate in an open public discussion regarding Mr. Corbin's qualifications. He does not feel this would be an appropriate conversation for the Board to engage in.

Mr. Perry feels that having a letter of introduction from Superintendent Mikalson would be sufficient communication from the district.

Bob Perry moved that the Board not proceed with a letter of recommendation based on the fact that Superintendent Mikalson has already sent a letter of introduction. Cathy Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dennis Dorgan – Bond Savings. Mr. Dorgan requested information regarding the Bond savings. He was concerned there was never consideration given to the possibility of giving the money back to the taxpayers. He was also concerned that the money was originally approved for the high school project and has now been allocated to other remodel projects.

Mike McIntosh, Director of Operations, reported that the Board went through lengthy conversations last fall during Board meetings regarding the \$15 million bond savings and returning it to the taxpayers. The original bond was for \$110 million and was slated for construction of a 1,400-student high school to alleviate overcrowding at Redmond High, construction of a new 600-student elementary to replace the aging Evergreen Elementary, and much needed funding for repairs and upgrades of existing schools. Due to market trends in construction and diligent construction management, the District realized approximately \$15 million in Bond savings.

Part of the \$15 million bond savings was redistributed to increase the scope of work at the three elementary schools already slated for capital projects. In addition, money was also allocated to remodel projects at Redmond High School to ensure equity between both high schools. Mr. McIntosh also reported that when the bids came in for the three elementary school remodels there was an approximately \$460,000 increase in the actual bids from what was originally anticipated. Contingency funds will be used to cover this increased amount.

In the future, Mr. Dorgan would encourage the district, “To not make judgments apart from the community.” He would encourage the same public process that was engaged in when the original bond was being asked for.

Jim Erickson stated that many people attended the public hearings to determine the use of the \$15 million bond savings. Many of those people expressed the same position as Mr. Dorgan about returning the money to taxpayers. “We were pleased with the participation of the community and it was one of the highlights of the Board/community process.” Many people stated, “At least I was heard and feel respected.” That is what the Board works for; for everyone to feel that they have been heard.

Mike McIntosh reviewed the Budget Taskforce process that helped orchestrate how those dollars were allocated. The process was an attempt to include everyone in the conversation. The Taskforce made recommendations for the Board’s consideration.

Jan Dorgan – She would suggest that two weeks prior to a Board meeting one item would be selected for discussion at that meeting. The topic could be published in the Spokesman, Bend Bulletin, Round-up, and school newsletters. She feels this would help in getting interested citizens to the Board meeting.

Jim Erickson stated that the Board is currently working on identifying a work session date that will allow the Board to discuss the format of Board meetings.

Public Comment – School Boundaries

Shay Mikalson stated this is one of many opportunities for the community to address the Board members regarding boundaries for Redmond High School and Ridgeview High School. Redmond staff has made a recommendation to the Board regarding those boundaries. We will continue to obtain public comments regarding those boundary recommendations with a decision to be made by the Board in October.

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the new law regarding inter-district transfers and how that law outlines how families will be able to apply to attend the school of their choice. Districts will no longer have the authority to deny a transfer. However, the receiving district will have the authority to deny a request. In all cases of transfers, transportation would be the responsibility of the family. The District has developed an administrative regulation to implement the guidelines stipulated by the State.

Johnny Corbin stated that he sat on the advisory committee for the new high school. He wants to make sure that students will have the option of attending whatever school offers the classes, especially vocational education, that is best for them.

Cathy Miller stated that she is still concerned that there are many sophomores who don’t understand the choices they will have. She requests that before a decision is made in October regarding boundaries, a letter be sent to students who will be impacted inviting them to another meeting to discuss their options. “We need to be aggressive over the next two months to ensure there is no misunderstanding about what the options and processes will be.” She is also concerned about home schooled students and that we need to make sure to communicate with them about their options.

Superintendent Mikalson reported that at Back-to-School nights, principals will be able to provide an overview of what we currently know and what the recommendations to the Board have been up to this point. Cathy Miller requested that a FAQ document be provided at those parent nights that would clarify what the process is going to be.

Bob Perry recommended that Superintendent Mikalson attend community meetings to provide an overview of the boundary process.

AJ Losoya made an inquiry regarding the number of parents who participate in conferences. Superintendent Mikalson reported that at the elementary level the participation is very high because appointments are set. Participation at the secondary level conferences varies. He would estimate there is approximately 60% participation at the first conference and that number drops for the second conferences. The District has set goals to increase the participation in conferences at all levels.

Jim Erickson asked Lee Loving, Planning Principal at Ridgeview High School how the process is coming in developing the programs that will be offered. Mr. Loving stated that we have a timeline as to when the decisions will be made. He is still in the process in doing a great deal of listening in order to make sure we have really great opportunities for students at both buildings.

Johnny Corbin stated that freshman seem to be the most indecisive group. When it comes to programs, if they decide they want to change their program in midstream of their high school career that opportunity should still be available to ensure they get the most out of their education.

Cathy Miller requested that at the next Board meeting Superintendent Mikalson provide a chronological snapshot of the transition and communication plan.

PRESENTATIONS

Construction Update

Mike McIntosh provided the Board with updates on the construction process for Ridgeview High School, and the remodels at John Tuck Elementary, Lynch Elementary and Tumalo Community School. He is expecting occupancy of Ridgeview High School in March. Having possession of the building in March is a great advantage in making sure the building will be ready for students on the first day of school in September, 2012. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding all construction projects. Because of the extensive activity on the Ridgeview site, tours of the building will not be scheduled until after the District obtains the certificate of occupancy.

Mike reported on the status of the portable units. There was an attempt to sell the units at Lynch Elementary to a church in the valley. However, the church was unable to get them transported to their site. Those units have been demolished. The two units at Tumalo Community School were sold.

Mike McIntosh spoke to the Board regarding a communication from a patron regarding the traffic problems around Sage Elementary. Mike has met with Mr. Doty, the police department and Carolyn Espinosa to address the concerns listed in the letter. The police department is prepared to enforce the posted traffic controls. Mike McIntosh will contact the concerned patron to let him know the steps that have been taken to ensure the safety of both students and drivers. Mike will do some research about adding a yellow blinking light on the 20 mph sign.

ACTION ITEMS

Policy Revision, 1st Reading – EEACCA – Video Surveillance

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the recommended language changes that were received from OSBA. There was discussion regarding the language included in the policy regarding cameras being allowed in classrooms that have expensive or high pilferage equipment as well as a philosophical discussion about cameras in the classroom.

Board members requested suggested language changes be made to the policy and presented for a second reading at the next meeting.

Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook Revisions

Gina Blanchette reviewed with the Board the Students Rights and Responsibilities handbook proposed revisions. The distribution of this information is provided to parents and students annually. The current handbook was approved in August, 2010. There are several additions to the handbook that will require Board review and approval. Board members reviewed the requested changes to the handbook.

Bob Perry stated that he believes students do not dress appropriately and a more stringent dress code should be considered. Mr. Erickson stated that, "As a person who has taught for 40 years, one of the greatest gifts we can give a student is respect for the person who lives inside. Our young people don't need to be labeled by adults."

Cathy Miller asked if electronic communications should be included in the section addressing "Sexual Harassment Complaints." AJ stated that he agrees that this form of communication should be included. Jim feels the limitation should be on the professional adult to not engage in this type of behavior but the student also has a responsibility to report any inappropriate unwanted communication.

The Board requested that staff provide language that would include electronic communications under the section addressing "Sexual Harassment Complaints." The requested additions and corrections will be made in the handbook and presented at the next Board meeting.

Policy Revision, 1st Reading – GBC – Staff Ethics

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the district's current staff ethics policy. Based on suggested language by the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) our current policy is too narrow. OSBA recently provided highly recommended policy language that aligns with current law. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the policy. Several minor language changes were requested as well as it was noted that there were some formatting corrections that need to be made to the draft. The policy will be brought forward for a second reading at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

- Personnel Changes
- School Board Special and Regular Minutes from July 13, 2011
- School Board Work Session Minutes from July 13, 2011

Cathy Miller moved and AJ Losoya seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion on Personnel Changes: Jim Erickson asked for clarification regarding why some positions are being extended. Superintendent Mikalson stated that because the positions are grant funded and funding is not guaranteed year to year, the positions are designated as temporary.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Improvement Update

Superintendent Mikalson reported that preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data has been released by the state. On September 8, 2008 the final AYP data will be released. School and District report cards will be released by the State on October 6th. Superintendent Mikalson gave Board members background information regarding AYP which is a federal accountability reporting requirement under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, formerly known as the No Child Left Behind Act. Each year, the performance of all students in the school and district, as well as subgroups of students, is measured against annual performance targets.

Under AYP, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) reports if schools and districts have made adequate progress toward the goal of having all students meet rigorous academic standards.

Changes that have been implemented since last year that have had a large impact on the results are:

- Change in AYP targets – Targets rose from 59% in math and 60% in reading in 2009-10 to 70% in both subjects this year. This made it harder for schools to meet AYP as 70% of all students, including all student subgroups, had to meet state standards. The last time the targets were raised was in the 2007-08 school year when they rose from 49% to 59% for math and from 50% to 60% for reading.
- New math achievement standards that was adopted last year. In October of 2010, the State Board of Education adopted higher expectations for elementary and middle school students in math. These new, more rigorous learning expectations provide better information about how prepared students are for their futures. However, this change also impacted the number of school meeting AYP.

Other changes include:

- NECS graduation rate is no longer an option. Meeting graduation targets based on 4 or 5-year cohort rates
- Federal accountability for high schools based on the number of 11th graders passing state tests

Sage Elementary is a new school therefore they did not receive a score. In addition, Lynch Elementary was a reconfigured school; over 50% of their population changed due to boundary adjustments and also did not get a score.

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed with the Board the schools that received a score of “not meet.” If one student did not meet, that would provide the entire school a “not met” grade.

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the Redmond School District Performance Meter with the Board. Review of the data indicates that as a district we are making progress.

Superintendent Mikalson reported that the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan just announced that he will unilaterally override the No Child Left Behind school accountability law that requires 100 percent of student be proficient in math and reading by 2014. The State is not getting rid of accountability; each state must develop a method of accountability. “While this could be in a state of flux for some time, it is more important that as a district that we define what accountability is. We need to be clear to our community what quality is.”

The district is not limited to expecting students to achieve state standards. As a district we have the ability to demand much more to ensure they are achieving mastery level in all subjects.

Superintendent Mikalson also reviewed with the Board a press release that will be sent out as well as the next issue of the Straight Talk.

Substitute and Unemployment Costs

Mike McIntosh, Director of Operations reported that substitute teachers are employed by the ESD. Occasionally a substitute will apply for unemployment benefits. The ESD paid out approximately \$200,000 in claims regionally last year. Redmond’s share of that liability was approximately \$14,000. Redmond School District is self-insured for unemployment benefits. There are firms that will do investigations to see if the claims are legitimate. The costs to hire one of those firms would exceed the \$14,000 that the Redmond School District paid last year. Redmond School District is billed from the ESD for this expense. Prior to last year, there have not been a lot of claims. During the last legislative session there were several bills that would have completely eliminated this expense for districts but they did not make it out of session.

Cathy Miller requested that the District monitor the expense. She doesn’t feel it is ethical for someone who has only worked for the district one day to file for unemployment.

Superintendent Report

- ✓ Met with the district Administrative Team for three days. It was a great opportunity to spend quality time together discussing the Redmond School District Performance Meter, Principal and Teacher Evaluations, School Improvement Days and assessment.

- ✓ Superintendent Mikalson reported that he has been appointed to serve on the Oregon Association of School Executives (OASE) Funding Coalition Steering Committee. The OASE Funding Coalition was created to develop a consensus among superintendents regarding state level school funding and related policy issues. The positions developed by the coalition are used by COSA lobbyists to guide conversations with state legislators. Superintendents of all public school districts and ESDs in Oregon are members of the OASE Funding Coalition. The OASE Executive Committee appoints a Steering Committee of 44 members to prepare and present the organization's positions on school funding to the Governor. Superintendent Mikalson stated that he is honored to have been appointed.
- ✓ The Tri-County 2011 Legislative Wrap-up Forum will be tomorrow night at 6:30pm.

AJ Losoya expressed his congratulations to Superintendent Mikalson on being appointed to the Oregon Association of School Executives.

Jim Erickson stated that it is important that the Board makes their position clear to our legislature about what their financial decisions have cost the students and staff of Redmond School District. He feels the Tri-County 2011 Legislative Wrap-up Forum on Wednesday night would be a great opportunity for the District and Board to share this information with the legislators in attendance.

Association Reports

Karen Gray – REA

- Student and Staff Attendance: Reported that Lysol is sponsoring a school attendance contest. She will be looking at the details of the contest to see if it is something that could be pursued in our district.
- Working closely with Superintendent Mikalson on a couple MOU's. The process is going well.
- Attended an OEA conference in August and was excited and energized about some of the information coming which aligns with her position.

Request for Agenda Items

- ✓ Work Session
 - Boardmanship
 - Board meeting format
 - Agenda's
 - Communication and Engagement with the Community
 - Dual common goals meeting with City Council – state of the schools
 - Questions for Shay prior to a new school year

ADJOURN

Bob Perry moved and Ric Little seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Jim Erickson, School Board Chair

Trish Huspek, Executive Assistant