

**Redmond School District  
School Board Meeting  
November 16, 2011**

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**In Attendance:** Chair Jim Erickson, Vice-Chair Cathy Miller, Directors Ric Little, AJ Losoya, Bob Perry, Superintendent Shay Mikalson, RSD Staff; Mike McIntosh, Tom Yahraes, Trish Huspek, Gina Blanchette, Chris Morton, Linda Seeberg, Karen Gray, Media – Leslie Pugmire-Hole (*Spokesman*), Eric Hidle (*Bend Bulletin*), association representative Josh Davis (REA), Bill Braly, Shannon Reynolds, Jan and Dennis Dorgan, and approximately 35 community and staff members.

Board Chair Jim Erickson called the meeting to order with a quorum of five at 5:36 p.m.

Jim Erickson stated the Board had the privilege to tour Terrebonne Community School on Tuesday. He reported that in every class, they observed students who were engaged and every teacher had an organized lesson that was focused on standards. He expressed the Board's appreciation to the teaching staff at Terrebonne and across the district.

Jayden and Bailey led the flag salute. Jayden attends Terrebonne Community School and is in grade 2. Bailey is homeschooled.

**Additions, Deletions, Corrections to the Agenda**

Cathy Miller requested an action item be added to the agenda regarding potential arbitration on the Elton Gregory Middle School roof. All board members concurred to add the item.

Cathy Miller further proposed that because the presenter of the 6:10 agenda item has another commitment, she would request that if we do have citizen participation for non-agenda items, we interrupt those comments to hear the presentation. After the presentation, we would return to the citizen participation portion of the meeting. Bob Perry and Ric Little concurred with the request.

**Citizen Participation for Non-Agenda Items**

Jim Erickson reviewed the process of Citizen Participation for non-agenda items. "The purpose of this time is to foster transparency and to allow the Board to hear the thoughts of the community." He stated that he wants everyone to understand that when something comes up during a discussion, it does not mean that the Board is about to make a decision around a specific topic. A signal that the Board is getting ready to consider something would be if it becomes an agenda item. He reported there are people who have expressed concerns the IB program might not be best for kids. "We want to make sure everyone understands there is no movement to end that program. The Board has received a staff recommendation to have IB at RHS and AP at Ridgeview. The Board has gone on the record in support the program. Until the Board takes action to change that, nothing will change. Further, as a Board, we want to improve our own processes on how we do things." It will be important for the Board to move forward on this topic in a manner that does not put undue pressure on the staff's time."

*Tony Oliver* – Reported to the Board that Hwy 97 is a corridor for sex trafficking and stated she feels it is important to provide information to students on this topic. She would suggest having assemblies to ensure high school and middle school students are made aware of the problem and provided information to make sure they don't become a victim of this industry. Bob Perry stated this activity does happen in Central Oregon and providing training would be a good idea.

Jim Erickson stated that school boards set policy around keeping students safe. Under the superintendent's leadership, staff is responsible for the specifics that happen in schools around student safety.

*Denise Roberts* – Stated that she decided to attend tonight’s meeting because the AP classes have been represented in previous meetings but she feels the IB program has not. She emailed IB graduates and asked them specific questions about how the IB program has benefited them in their college career.

She read various statements from the students who responded to her inquiry indicating complete support for the program and indicating what they learned during the IB classes has been invaluable to them in their college courses.

Bob Perry stated he met with Lee Loving and Tony Pupo earlier this week and they have agreed to allow him and other community members to tour the classes to see the program first hand.

*Aaron Thom* – Student of the IB. Spoke about misconceptions that some people have about the program.

- If a student decides they don’t want to go the full IB route, they can take the certificate route. Can continue on the AP structure also. Stated that RHS has combined curriculum very well
- In classes we take issues of society and look at both sides of the argument without saying any one side is more important than another. She further stated that she has not experienced teachers presenting their personal opinions in the class. As an IB student he is be exposed to both sides of issues.

Bob Perry asked if secular humanism is taught in the IB curriculum. Erin stated that they have not covered that particular viewpoint so far.

*Jan Dorgan*- Stated that it is hard to teach all perspectives of history. “History is based on truth and we should be doing everything we can to teach children the truth.” She further stated that it is the obligation of Board and administration to meet the needs of the students and community. She is concerned that some students have decided to take IB classes because not enough AP classes are available.

*Unidentified audience member* - “Why do the desires the administration supersede the desires of the community? Why don’t we just offer AP classes?”

Jim Erickson stated that when taskforces (made up of district leadership, parents and community members) came together to design Ridgeview they decided not to design two identical schools because they wanted to provide choice for students. There would be core similarities but there would be choices between schools. Staff followed through on that design and created a tentative plan around RHS and Ridgeview. CTE and accelerated offerings are different at each school. The district is doing the best they can to provide choice to students.”

Cathy Miller concurred with Mr. Erickson’s statement. The district developed a five-year Redmond Education Vision. That vision was created by district leadership, board members, students and community members. That team indicated they wanted a global perspective.

*Dennis Dorgan* – Asked a follow-up question regarding the Zinn book, “Peoples History of the US.” He asked Board members if all of them have had the opportunity to review the text. Both Jim Erickson and Cathy Miller indicated they have either reviewed or are in the process of reviewing the text. Secondly, he asked if Board members have researched the use of the book in the district. He encouraged Board members to all look into the content and use of the book.

*Karen Gray* – She stated she wanted to be clear she is not in attendance tonight as an association representative or teacher. She is here as a citizen to speak to the value of the IB program. She has a deep concern over the implication that the IB program is somehow undermining American values and interests and that it should not be taught in the Redmond School District. It is her opinion that nothing could be further from the truth. She stated that her primary concern is that the unintended consequences of this conversation regarding the IB and AP courses are pitting our children against each other. “The International Baccalaureate program is comprehensive and rigorous. The IB methodology encourages critical thinking and promotes concepts such as global citizenship, environmental responsibility and human rights. I maintain these guiding principles represent the very core of

American interests and values and as such, ought to be an integral part of whatever programs are offered in the Redmond School District.”

*Leah Wilcox* – Ms. Wilcox asked how the decision was made to adopt the IB program in the district. Cathy Miller reviewed the process that was used to obtain community input regarding the adoption of that program. Ms. Wilcox stated that when the program first came to the district she was hoping her daughter would be interested in the program. However, the information that Mr. Perry has recently provided is dramatically different than what she has seen before. The financial situation is quite different than it was five years ago when the program was brought into the district. Because of the information provided by Mr. Perry it caused her to do more research on the program. The choices are not the same because the ability to take AP classes is more difficult due to the transportation issues. “The choices become limited and it becomes an absolute. We must look at the overall choices for students.”

Ms. Wilcox asked if the Board members are in support of the program. Jim Erickson stated that staff has provided a recommendation that flows from a prior policy. “Until the Board moves to change the decisions of the past, the program is supported by the Board.” Ms. Wilcox requested that the Board consider revisiting the policy of offering the IB program in the district.

Bob Perry stated, “If we were to take a vote tonight on whether the district would offer IB or not, I wouldn’t know how I would vote.” He reported that he is in the process of discovering what he believes the truth is by visiting classrooms, talking with teachers and students. He stated that he made a statement at the last meeting that was an effort to get people thinking.

Cathy Miller stated that regardless of the topic, board members have a responsibility to constantly be in a process of reevaluating. She still believes in the IB program. She encourages everyone to keep the dialogue going because it is important the Board hears all perspectives. “We must understand there is a difference between teaching and endorsing. We have an obligation to students to help them become self sufficient in determining what their core values are.”

*Barbara Smith* – Thanked the Board for the process and the consideration they are giving this topic. She reported that she was a high school teacher and she appreciates the debate. She lives in Bend and her students attended Seven Peaks. They recommended her children attend Redmond because of the MYP and the IB diploma programs. She did a lot of research at that time. As she looked into it she discovered it was an educational gem in Central Oregon and remains so to this day. Redmond is one of three high schools in the NW who have both programs. She encouraged everyone who believes in education excellence to find a way to transport their student to the high school of their choice. “It is more important for students to learn how to think and reason so that they can be clear on what their real perspective is. It is easy to get online to get someone else’s opinion on an issue, these programs teach children to think for themselves.” Ms. Smith read a statement from the admissions departments at Harvard University, MIT, and Duke University, regarding their support of the IB program.

*Bob Shaffery* – Stated that he is a volunteer at Terrebonne Community School. He recently had a conversation with a teacher and was surprised and disappointed to find out that teachers spend a great deal of their own money on supplies that are needed in the classroom and are not supplied by the district. He would suggest that the district survey teachers to find out what kinds of things they are purchasing. He isn’t suggesting additional money would be allocated this year but it would give the district information when establishing the budgets for next year.

Bob Perry stated that he has heard this information from others and firmly believes it happens. He asked Josh Davis if it would be possible to ask teachers to make copies of the invoices of supplies they personally purchase.

Josh stated that he appreciates the comments from Mr. Shaffery and that this practice of teachers spending their personal money for supplies goes back for a long time, especially at the elementary level. Teachers are able to take a \$250 write off, but it isn’t uncommon for teachers to spend more than that.

*Alisha Capson* – She stated she had been in attendance for many of the Board meetings in recent weeks. She reported that her eyes have been opened and thanked board members for the time they spend volunteering for their community. Many of her peers did not understand that the Board does not get paid for their time. When she started attending the meetings her purpose was to advocate for the AP program, but not at the expense of the IB program. Her concern is that in because IB is an all encompassing program, the AP classes are suffering. She has been researching and reading trying to understand both programs and deciding what is best for her kids. She is concerned about how much is spent on the IB program within our district. She believes it is an expensive program to run and at the expense of a program that is just as equal. “As a community member, who must mind her budget wisely, how can the district justify spending that amount of money when only 10 students graduate with an IB diploma. I am not saying it is a bad program and that doesn’t provide academic excellence but I believe there are other programs that would offer that same excellence at a lower cost.”

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Superintendent Update**

Superintendent Mikalson provided the board with an update on a grant the district received from a partnership between the Redmond Education Foundation and Fred Meyer. He stated, “I am thankful for the Foundation in stepping up in a time of need.” He thanked Bill Braly for his leadership and support. 10 schools applied for the competitive grant. Shannon Reynolds stated that they were overwhelmed with the thought and work that went into each of the proposals. “We are very excited to be able to fund three of the grant requests. The winners of the 2011 Fred Meyer Innovation and Creativity Grant are: Sage Elementary, Elton Gregory Middle School and Terrebonne Community School. Funding from the grant is provided by the employees of Fred Meyer.

Superintendent Mikalson reported that the three schools will be reporting outcomes from the grants. “\$10,000 can change a school and we are very grateful.”

Bob Perry requested that a press release be sent out to the Bulletin and Spokesman recognizing the employees of Fred Meyer. He further suggested that a letter to the editor be sent on behalf of the Board from Jim Erickson.

### **Association Report**

Josh Davis – REA

- Building rep meeting last week and the common theme is just how difficult this year is.

Dru Carpenter – OEA

- Held their monthly chapter meeting on Monday – She reported they had been short one board member but that spot has been filled by Becky Vick. Feels they now have a good cross section representing the district.
- Reported there will be a new OSEA field rep
- Everything is going well right now. Everyone seems to be positive and having a good year.

### **Terrebonne Community School**

Tom Yahraes, Principal at Terrebonne Community School welcomed the Board and thanked them for the time they volunteer. He reported that tonight’s presentation will include students and a teacher who will provide “clicker” training.

Mr. Yahraes provided the Board with an overview of the Terrebonne Community School Performance plan and goals using proficiency based learning. He stated that interventions are specific and immediate, students understand the process and expectations of mastery, instruction is more systematic, precise, and is efficient for staff and students.

Mr. Tony Brown, grade 8 teacher at Terrebonne Community School and students Carley and Taylor gave an overview of the technology that students use to pursue proficiency. They provided information and a demonstration on how “clickers” are used in the classroom for class discussion as well as formal and informal assessments.

Students reported the clickers are used every day to review math problems covered the day before. The technology helps students to realize what they did wrong. Taylor reported that parents aren't always able to help students at home because math skills were taught differently to them. "If you get one wrong, you go back and look over the equation to see what you didn't do correctly." Mr. Brown reported the majority of the students go back and re-check their work to find out what they do not understand. The technology prevents practicing several problems incorrectly.

The use of this technology provides teachers with instant feedback on which problems are most challenging to students. It clearly displays all answers given and encourages a safe environment for students to understand they might not be the only one who doesn't understand. The student is able to instantly identify which problems they got wrong so they can talk with the teacher right away to get help.

Mr. Brown provided an opportunity for Board members to actively use the clickers. Sample questions were provided to the board participants and participants gave their answers using the "clickers."

The funding for this technology came from a mini-grant that was written by staff members and was supported by the parent/teacher group.

## ACTION ITEMS

### CM/GC Construction Management

Mike McIntosh reported that there were over 20 contractors who attended a pre-bid meeting for the remodel of Redmond High School. From those 20 initial firms, seven provided proposals to the district. Those proposals were scored and two firms were invited to interview with the team which consisted of Mike McIntosh, Lee Loving, Brett Hudson, Jerry Milstead and Renee Kroupa. That team determined that Skanska USA was best suited to meet the District's needs. The selection of Skanska USA was based on experience, presentation of materials, match with district needs and their proposed fees.

*Ric Little moved and Cathy Miller seconded a motion that Redmond School District awards a contract to Skanska USA for CM/GC services with a Phase One fee of \$6,700.00 and a Phase Two fee not to exceed 1.95% of construction cost. Motion carried – 5-0.*

*Votes: Cathy Miller – yes; AJ Losoya – yes; Bob Perry – yes, Ric Little – yes; Jim Erickson - yes*

Bob Perry asked for clarification regarding the percentage charged of construction costs. Mike McIntosh provided background information and stated that Skanska was the lowest. "Economically, we believe that Skanska provided the best proposal."

Cathy Miller asked how much of a contingency has been built in to the project. Mike McIntosh stated the budget has not even been created. This is the beginning of the partnership with Skanska and has great confidence in partnering with them.

Ric Little stated he was impressed with the presentations. It was a very difficult decision and believes it was the right one. Mike stated that Skanska was able to produce records that indicate local contractors are doing 75% of the work at Ridgeview.

Jim Erickson commented to the past issues regarding Skanska being a "Swedish firm." He would encourage staff to provide the statistics regarding the use of local sub-contractors on the current Ridgeview project. Mike McIntosh reported that the deadline for protests to be filed regarding this selection was today at 5:00. The district did not receive any protests.

Jim Erickson stated that he cannot complement Skanska enough on how they have gone out of their way to benefit the district. "The cost savings in the initial bond is why we are able to proceed with this project."

### **Transportation Boundaries**

With the opening of two comprehensive high schools in September of 2012, administration has recommended the following transportation boundaries:

- Students living within the Tumalo Community School and Obsidian Middle School transportation boundaries will be assigned to Ridgeview High School
- Students living with the Terrebonne Community School and Elton Gregory Middle School transportation boundaries will be assigned to Redmond High School
- Students will not be allowed to attend both high schools at the same time
- Students will have the opportunity to apply for a transfer to the high school of their choice. Note: Transportation will be the responsibility of the family

*AJ Losoya moved and Ric Little seconded a motion to approve the recommended transportation boundaries as stated above. Motion carried 4-1.*

*Votes: Cathy Miller – yes; AJ Losoya – yes; Bob Perry – no, Ric Little – yes; Jim Erickson - yes*

### **Discussion**

Cathy Miller reported that she understands the bottom bullet that speaks about the students being able to transfer to the school of their choice. However, she is concerned the Board has not seen the protocols around those transfers.

Superintendent Mikalson stated the first thing the Board must decide is the policy around boundaries. In December the Board will be provided with a first read of the policy that describes what those protocols will be. Some of those decisions are already scripted by law in HB3681. RSD students have first preference, out of district students would have second. The Board will need to decide if siblings and previous transfer students would have more weight.

Bob Perry stated that he cannot separate the school boundaries from the curriculum. Until he finds that out, he would not be able to support this motion.

### **Student Transfers**

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the provisions of HB3681. Local school districts must either accept or reject House Bill 3681 by March 1, 2012. If the Board decides to accept the provisions of HB3681, as a Board, they no longer have control if a student attends school in a different district. Further, acceptance of HB 3681 means that RSD would accept students from outside the district. The same law applies not only to inter-district transfers but also intra-district transfers. Timelines are scripted by state law. If accepted by the Board tonight, staff would need to determine the number of students who could transfer. Rejection of the provisions in HB3681 would eliminate both inter and intra-district transfers in the Redmond School District.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that he believes if we want to get where we want to be as a district, he believes in parent choice.

*Cathy Miller moved and Ric Little seconded a motion to accept the provisions of HB3681. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Votes: Cathy Miller – yes; AJ Losoya – yes; Bob Perry – yes, Ric Little – yes; Jim Erickson - yes*

Bob Perry stated that he is in support of this bill and is happy that the legislature has brought it forward. "If we can get to where we want to get with proficiency, I believe people will want to come to Redmond School District.

### **Elton Gregory Middle School Roof Warrant Claims**

Mike McIntosh reviewed with the Board that the Elton Gregory Middle School roof has had ongoing leaks since the school was built by Robinson Construction. Robinson Construction has refused to make any additional repair attempts to correct defects.

School district options include initiating an arbitration claim against Robinson Construction through the Arbitration Service of Portland pursuant to the construction contract.

AJ Losoya moved Cathy Miller seconded the motion to authorize the superintendent to instruct legal counsel, Mark Reinecke at Bryant Lovlien & Jarvis, to initiate formal three-panel arbitration through the Arbitration Service of Portland against Robinson Construction relating to the defective roof issues at Elton Gregory Middle School. *Motion carried 5-0.*

*Votes: Cathy Miller – yes; AJ Losoya – yes; Bob Perry – yes, Ric Little – yes; Jim Erickson - yes*

Cathy Miller asked Mike McIntosh to provide an update on the current status of the roof. Mr. McIntosh reported the district hired an outside firm to address the leaks approximately six months ago. It is important to note this was a temporary fix. The roof is not currently leaking and students are not getting wet. He hopes to be able to address the leaks on a more permanent basis next summer.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Personnel Changes
- School Board Regular Minutes from November 2, 2011
- School Board Public Hearing Minutes from November 2, 2011
- Gifts to the District

Mike McIntosh thanked the PTC of Terrebonne Community School for their support of the school. AJ Losoya also noted the PTO at Tumalo Community School for their gift to the district in the amount of \$8000 for teacher stipends for supplies.

*AJ Losoya moved and Ric Little seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Votes: Jim Erickson-yes; Ric Little-yes; AJ Losoya-yes; Bob Perry-yes; Cathy Miller-yes.*

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Public Hearing Follow-up**

Superintendent Mikalson stated that in reference to the October 26 public hearing the following items are provided as follow-up:

1. Cathy Miller and JB Demaris are working to make sure that policy language reflects the use of “transportation boundaries”
2. Based on the decision that the board made on boundaries, Martha Hinman stated that a full life skills program would be offered at both buildings
3. Families will be required to provide their own transportation if they choose to transfer their student to a school outside of their transportation boundary. However, the District is continuing initial conversations with Cascade East Transit
4. On December 14<sup>th</sup> the Board will engage in policy work around these decisions

Q. Cathy Miller asked if there will be AP science at RHS .

A. Superintendent Mikalson stated that based on the recommendations provided to the Board that would not be an option. If the district wants to offer both programs, they need to be offered in one or the other building. The recommendation states that we can offer seven AP courses, including AP Science but those will be offered at

Ridgeview. Class offerings are based on forecasting. This recommendation is what we believe Ridgeview will start with but is contingent on what students and families choose.

Q. Cathy Miller asked if we have more than anticipated number of students sign up for a particular program, how we will be able to accommodate them.

A. Superintendent Mikalson stated that offerings at the high school are different than those at the elementary schools. At the high school level it is a student driven process. "We don't know the number of sections of any particular class until students forecast." It is the goal to have curriculum guide drafts by December and final copies to parents by the end of January. Staffing will occur during the February timeframe but with the caveats that enrollment and budget drive the final decisions.

Q. Bob Perry asked if there is anything in the current association contract that would prevent a teacher from teaching at both high schools.

A. Josh Davis stated that he doesn't believe there is but it is not a preference of teaching staff because, like students, a teacher identifies with a particular building.

Superintendent Mikalson provided a document that reviewed historical data regarding both the IB and AP programs.

Ms. Capson suggested that the forecasting information (curriculum guides) be put online for easy access by parents.

Jim Erickson stated, "Class offerings need to align with outcomes in terms of student learning. If we are looking at mastery and proficiency in all our kids, why aren't we getting it from the students who are seeking accelerated classes? Our commitment to our students is that everyone will achieve at the highest levels."

Superintendent Mikalson will provide more specifics on outcomes data on AP and IB classes. It was also requested that data be provided on:

- The number of students who sign up for a class compared to the final numbers of students who actually complete the course (don't drop)
- Number of students taking exams and their success on those tests

Jim Erickson stated that he is in support of the recommendations because neither program is doing what it is supposed to do. "There isn't a shining star, not one that is clearly better if you look at results. The question becomes how we improve what we are doing. That isn't a board discussion. It is Shay and his team's responsibility to improve the results."

Bob Perry, Ric Little and Cathy Miller requested that this be a discussion item on the December 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting agenda. Board members will process through the information they have already heard and if they need additional information, they will make a request of Superintendent Mikalson.

### **Superintendent Report**

- ✓ Revenue forecast is issued tomorrow. Funding coalition work is moving towards funding and getting a voice at the table at the Oregon Education Investment Board. Attempting to take a system of silos and moving them together. The largest aspect are the Achievement Compacts. In the past we have been funded by the number of students we have. The Governor is also wanting to apply achievement to that funding as well.
- ✓ Will still maintain a State School Funding formula. This new vision would provide additional resources through achievement compacts and Strategic Grants. Districts who decide to sign an Achievement Compact would receive additional funding. Many of the regulations have flexibility in year one. If a district continues to meet the benchmarks, additional funding is provided. If you keep hitting those benchmarks, a district could become a mentor district. If you don't meet those compacts, tighter controls are implemented by the state.

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the various aspects of choosing benchmarks. He is trying to get his voice heard on what he believes are important measures that need to be adopted. Where his opinion differs from the Governor, is that the Governor believes there needs to be a systems approach but Superintendent Mikalson believes we need to focus on every student. “We need to make individual achievement compacts with every student to push them to mastery. We are already moving towards a standards based system.” Superintendent Mikalson stated he is excited about the states work in this area and believes Redmond School District’s work will be important to the process.

### **Board Updates**

Ric Little reported that the finance committee will be provided the audit report for review at their next meeting.

Requests for Agenda Items

- IB/AP discussion item

## **ADJOURN**

*Bob Perry moved and Cathy Miller seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.  
Votes: Jim Erickson-yes; Ric Little-yes; AJ Losoya-yes; Bob Perry-yes; Cathy Miller-yes.*

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Jim Erickson, School Board Chair

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Trish Huspek, Executive Assistant