

**Redmond School District
School Board Meeting
November 2, 2011**

In Attendance: Chair Jim Erickson, Vice-Chair Cathy Miller, Directors Ric Little, AJ Losoya, Bob Perry, Superintendent Shay Mikalson, RSD Staff; Mike McIntosh, Michelle Herron, Brent Walsh, Trish Huspek, Gina Blanchette, Media – Leslie Pugmire-Hole (*Spokesman*), association representatives Karen Gray, (REA), and approximately 30 community and staff members.

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

Andrea and Ericka Capson led the audience in the flag salute.

Citizen Participation for Non-Agenda Items

Jane Wright – senior at RHS. Although she will be graduating this year she has a concern about splitting up the AB and IB classes between the buildings. If she had to choose one program, she would choose AP classes. She believes if cuts need to be made they should be made in the electives and not the core classes that prepare students for college.

- A. Jim Erickson stated the Board received staff recommendations around boundaries and course offerings. There was a strong effort made in the design phase to make the two schools different. Current budget constraints prevent the district from doing everything it would like to do. The recommendation was to place the IB and AP programs in those particular buildings. The Board will be engaging in a conversation tonight as a follow-up to the comments the Board heard during the public hearing on October 26.

Clair Wright – sophomore at RHS – Stated that she believes it makes more sense to have AP courses in both buildings. AP classes allow students to get college credits. The IB program diploma is a two year program. She reported that many students are taking IB classes because of class sizes in the AP classes. She doesn't want to leave her education to a lottery. She understands wanting to provide electives but at the high school level students need the basics and believes AP courses serve the students better.

Whitney Allen – Junior at RHS. Her concern is if AP classes will be available to seniors. She stated that AP is a more realistic coursework for more people. IB is a two year program and the AP classes can be taken at any time.

Emily Capson – Junior at RHS - Provided a statement to the Board providing cost fees for tests for both the IB and AP course work. She spoke to the fact that she excels in school and having to take basic classes her freshman year was a "waste of her time." During her sophomore year she was provided the opportunity to take classes with upper class members. Taking all AP classes this year and it has provided her with a great challenge. Feels like AP classes are being cut in order to facilitate IB numbers being increased. Mixing IB and AP classes are not working this year. "The IB curriculum does not work for everyone so it is important to have AP class opportunities." Ms. Capson reported that due to budget cuts last year, half of the AP science classes were cut which forced students to either take IB course work or regular studies.

Dennis Dorgan – Reported that he has been interested in the curriculum since he and his wife first began attending board meetings. Mr. Dorgan reported that 20-30 students historically go through the two year process to obtain an IB diploma. Mr. Dorgan read a statement regarding a book that is being used in the IB program, “People’s History of the United States” by Howard Zinn. It is his opinion that the book should be eliminated from the district curriculum. He stated that he was shocked by what he found in the books. “Students need to be challenged by the basics and not political diatribe.” Doesn’t believe students are getting anything positive from the IB program.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that he would encourage anyone who wants a sense of what the program is to contact Lee Loving, Interim Principal at Redmond High School.

Karen Gray – Stated that she spent six years training for and teaching the MYP program at OMS. “As a teacher who has been trained in the program, the conspirator tone is not accurate. AP curriculum goes a mile wide and inch deep and the IB program goes an inch wide and a mile deep. It is a fabulous and thought provoking curriculum. It would be important to find out how the book referenced is used in the curriculum.” She stated, “It is not a socialist conspiracy.”

Lonnie – “The elephant in the room are the shortages that we are looking at for next year. I read that and my heart sank. Our class sizes are big, teachers are stretched thin. Teachers have about 8 minutes per student to plan at the elementary level.” Doesn’t know what else we can cut and is fearful for the future. How much does it cost to complete teacher and principal evaluations?

Superintendent Mikalson stated that, “Our job is to try to get each one of us to get better. In order to do that, feedback needs to be there. We don’t spend general fund dollars to accomplish that, we are a part of a federal grant. It is not good enough to know who the best teachers are but we need to allow all of us to improve. A principal’s number one job is to grow and support teachers.”

Jim Erickson spoke to the fact that all of these budget cuts are painful. “We understand that everyone has their priorities and everyone is equally important within the constraints of a limited budget. We are asking for understanding that all things cannot be done for all people because finite budgets limit that.”

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Update

Superintendent Mikalson thanked Tumalo teachers for serving the students. “The decisions that we make are difficult and are based on effective spending toward the classroom, elevating teaching, empowering parents, and engagement of the community.” He thanked Lance Brant for working to identify additional opportunities for middle school sports. “Every decision has a casualty and we will need the collective wisdom of everyone to get us through the situation that we are unfortunately in.”

Superintendent Mikalson reported that at the next conferences parents will be provided a survey to fill out. He encouraged everyone to let their voices be heard. He expressed his appreciation to the Board who have had to make very difficult decisions.

Association Report

Karen Gray – REA

- Staff continue to feel overextended due to increased class sizes and decreased planning time at the secondary level
- There has been a good faith effort on the part of administration to listen to feedback and adjust the Wednesday and evaluation schedules.
- Had the opportunity to present at the COSA conference regarding Redmonds evaluation plan
- The REA executive board did training regarding the 47,000 conversations campaign. This campaign is an effort to gather input from teachers across the state to inform a strategic action plan to the state.
- The “board buddy” concept is being looked at in Crook County

Tumalo Community School

Michelle Herron, Principal of Tumalo Community School provided an update on their School Improvement Plan. She reviewed their year one strategies for achieving building goals as well as the measures they will use in evaluating their progress. Because their free/reduced lunch percentage has increased they are able to provide Title services for K-2. While this is good news relating to services for the students, like everyone, she is concerned about the economy and the effect it is having on families. Through intervention and enrichment activities, all students are being engaged in relevant learning. In addition to academics students are being engaged in developing strong character traits, i.e., curiosity, persistence, gratitude, and self control.

ImPACT Concussion Testing

Cari Wood, Certified Athletic Trainer for Redmond High School was present to provide an overview regarding concussions and the repercussion for our student athletes. She stated that she feels like a district employee but she is actually an employee of Desert Orthopedics who provides funding for this program.

Cari reported that even minor head injuries impairs an athlete's balance, concentration, judgment, and decreases performance both on and off the playing field. Max's Law (OAR 581-022-0421) requires school districts to implement new concussion management. Successful concussion management policies follow the "recognize, remove, refer and return protocol." All athletes that show any signs of a concussion will be removed. Student athletes with concussion symptoms will be evaluated by an appropriate medical professional and student athletes may return to play when all symptoms are gone, at least one day has lapsed and they have a written release from a medical provider. Cari reviewed the RHS concussion policy with the Board. Every athlete is given a baseline score prior to participation in sports. The RHS concussion team is the athletic trainer, school nurse, approved medical provider, counselor and teachers. Education about concussion is extremely important. They rely on what the athletes tell them when they are having symptoms.

Cari requested the Board adopt an approved concussion policy so it can be implemented across the district as Ridgeview is opened.

The Board requested that staff provide a first reading of policy language relating to concussions.

Redmond Development Commission Strategic Plan

James Lewis, Planner with the City of Redmond, Community Development Department met with the Board to provide them information regarding the RDC approach to recommending a vision for the City of Redmond. The group consists of 10 people who have a variety of backgrounds. It was created by the Redmond City Council to establish a long term strategic plan that will be used as decisions are made to create a Redmond Economic plan. Mr. Lewis provided the Goals, Strategies and Actions from the draft strategic plan. The group is asking community groups for their input on the plans prior to implementing.

ACTION ITEMS

OSBA Elections

The Oregon School Boards Association is organized as one general state association with up to 21 elected representatives established across 14 geographic regions to support member participation and representation. Member boards also elect the legislative policy committee and vote on the OSBA legislative policies and priorities. The Redmond School Board of Directors is part of the Central Region and of the general state association and therefore need to consider and vote on the following resolutions.

Resolution 1:

Amends the constitution to allow the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee to override membership-approved legislative policies and priorities.

This resolution amends OSBA's existing policy and priority development and approval process to allow greater flexibility by allowing the LPC to change the legislative agenda previously approved by the membership.

AJ Losoya moved and Ric Little seconded a motion to approve the resolution to allow the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee to override membership approved legislative policies and priorities.

Discussion:

Cathy Miller stated that she is not in support of having the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee have the ability to override membership approval. She stated she does not want to give away her vote to a policy making committee. Bob Perry concurred with Cathy's position.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that during the last legislative session items came forward and the OSBA found there was not time to get action from their membership to provide timely feedback.

After additional discussion, Jim Erickson called for a vote on the original motion. *Motion carried 3-2.*

Roll Call: Jim Erickson-yes, Ric Little-yes, AJ Losoya-yes, Bob Perry-No, Cathy Miller-No

Resolution 2:

Elections – Amends the OSBA constitution to allow consecutive terms for the secretary/treasurer

The OSBA Board of Directors have assessed the terms to which the association's officers are elected and have determined that some change is needed. The OSBA Board of Directors recommends that the association's constitution be amended to allow the person elected to the position of secretary-treasurer to be re-elected to that position and serve up to two consecutive one-year terms.

Cathy Miller moved and Ric Little seconded a motion to approve the amendment to allow consecutive terms for the secretary/treasurer. Motion carried 5-0.

Roll Call: Jim Erickson-yes, Ric Little-yes, AJ Losoya-yes, Bob Perry-yes, Cathy Miller-yes.

Consent Agenda

- Personnel Changes
- School Board Regular Minutes from October 12, 2011
- School Board Public Hearing Minutes from October 26, 2011
- Gifts to the District

A minor typographical error was noted on the Board Regular Minutes from October 12th.

Cathy Miller moved and Bob Perry 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

Boundary Hearing Follow-up

Jim Erickson stated that it was requested by the Board members to have an open discussion regarding the comments from the October 26, 2011 Public Hearing regarding Boundaries. He indicated Board members need more information to be able to make a decision on the staff recommendations regarding the transfers and transportation "We will identify topics that we might be ready to move forward on and topics that we might need more information on prior to making final decisions. Staff has made a recommendation and now it is up to the Board to review those recommendations and make a decision."

Boundary Decision

Superintendent Mikalson stated the first decisions the Board will need to make are around the recommended boundaries and transfer policies.

The boundary recommendations are based on the following:

- Students who live within the Tumalo and Obsidian transportation boundaries would attend Ridgeview High School.
- Students living within the Terrebonne and Elton Gregory transportation boundaries would attend Redmond High School.
- Transfers would be allowed but the transportation would be the responsibility of the family.

Transportation

Superintendent Mikalson provided a one page summary of the impact and fiscal realities of providing transportation between schools. For the purposes of this review it is assumed that approximately 100 students would be transferring from each school. Extra costs are for two buses in the AM and four buses in the PM)

- All school bell schedules will change between 10 and 21 minutes.
- All alternative programs would need to adjust their schedules to meet the busing schedule.
- After school programs will need to change their program times.
- Staff work hours would need to change to reflect the new schedule.
- Extra routes will need to be added for after school programs due to drivers increased regular hours on routes. Estimated costs would be \$12,000.
- Extra routes would require expanding number of drivers to cover these routes.
- Bend bus program schedule to Brown would need to be adjusted.
- Preschool hours would need to be adjusted (Manzanita program).
- Buses: The District has sufficient buses to provide this transportation (two old buses being retired this year can be held in reserve fleet). However, those buses would need to be replaced at some point which would incur additional costs.
- Adding the transfer trip miles would marginally increase fleet repair costs.
- Schedule changes will require an additional 1 hour and 10 minutes each day per driver and monitor. Total increased labor costs is estimated at \$148,000.
- Indirect employee benefits (sick leave, vacation) costs will increase as the number of hours for drivers and monitors increase. This cost has not been estimated.
- Middle School and High School students will start their day up to 20 minutes earlier.
- Elementary students will be arriving home 10-15 minutes later.
- Later start times could be problematic for child care arrangements for working parents.
- Family accommodations may be necessary due to different drop off/release times.
- Preliminary estimates on the costs to the District to provide transportation services are approximately:
 - \$12,000 for after school program hours
 - \$148,000 for extended school schedule
 - \$3,600-\$4,000 per year additional fuel costs

If the District adopts a policy of transporting transfer students between high schools, it is important to remember the district would receive transportation requests from transfer students across all grade levels and buildings.

Cathy Miller stated that Superintendent Mikalson has validated the issue that transportation cannot be provided between the high schools. However, she feels the AP classes are a separate issue. She is concerned, as a parent and Board member that the IB program may not connect with students as well as the AP curriculum. "If the district is truly dedicated to individualized learning that needs to be a consideration." She asked if it would be possible to consider having all of the AP classes at RHS in the morning and then have a shuttle to take the students to Ridgeview for the balance of their day.

Jim Erickson stated that it would be appropriate for the Board to direct the superintendent to look into the possibility of providing a shuttle but it isn't the Board's responsibility to figure out the specifics on how it can happen. That is an operational decision.

Bob Perry asked about the feasibility of using video equipment to provide AP instruction to students at RHS. Superintendent Mikalson stated that when Ridgeview High School is a 9-12 school, they will have a video production studio but they will not have the ability to broadcast outside of the building.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that from the beginning, the designs of the two high schools were to increase CTE options across the district. The programs that have been listed at each school is the vision of where RHS and Ridgeview will be when they are both a full complement of grades 9-12. He supports both the AP and IB programs. "Both programs are very strong academic options that we want for our students. However, not everything we can offer at Redmond High School is going to be available at Ridgeview. Students are currently making hard choices at Redmond High School." Enrollment numbers for students currently enrolled in the AP, College Now, and the IB program were provided to the Board. "I believe we as a district, have seen huge benefits of all programs."

Superintendent Mikalson reported the district could have AP courses in both schools but that would take an action by the Board to eliminate the IB program in the district. "If we want both options in the district, we need to have one program assigned to each building. If we offer both programs in both buildings, we would need to split course offerings between those two buildings. There wouldn't be seven AP classes and seven IB classes in each building, there would only be three of each." If the district wants to continue to have an authorized IB program, we must offer a full complement of classes as required by the authorization.

Jim Erickson asked if AP class be driven by student forecasting. Superintendent Mikalson stated that from the staff's prospective, the high school has currently struggled with class sizes while still providing rich offerings to students.

Seniors will have the same options that they currently have for this year during the one year transition. Since there are no seniors at Ridgeview the split has not happened so we have enough teacher and student capacity. They will have the same options within the program.

Bend High School is the only IB program in Bend. Superintendent Mikalson stated that very few schools offer both IB and AP and if they do, they merge the programs.

There was a conversation regarding the specifics of the tests given by both the IB and AP programs. Superintendent Mikalson reported that the AP tests are given at the end of the course and the IB program has internal assessments and those happen throughout the year. Those exams are scored by our teachers and then sent out to be scored by the IB program.

Bob Perry stated that since the public hearing he has done some research on the IB program. He stated that, "Based on what I have read, the IB program is anti-American and I for one do not want it taught in the Redmond Schools." Mr. Perry provided a position paper that cited statements from critics concerning the IB's emphasis that "no one political philosophy is right and no one country or system is superior to another" which undermines the goal of teaching students to become better American citizens as well as themes that "promote conflict with traditional American values." Mr. Perry asked to be proven wrong.

Jim Erickson stated that as a Board they deliberate in public and they want to hear opinions from Board members and from meeting attendees. "It is not the position of the Board to convince anyone of anything. All views are respected."

Additional information requested from staff:

- ✓ Cathy Miller stated she is not clear about what classes the district will be offering next year:
 - Are we going to be offering science AP classes?

- Will we only offer IB science for seniors – she knows it is a curriculum and operational but from a governance point of view she needs to understand what we will be able to offer students next year.
- Will the Life Skills program be offered at both schools?

Superintendent Mikalson stated that many decisions can only be made once the Board provides direction on boundaries and the transfer policy.

Cathy Miller requested that the current school boundary policy be revised to use the language of “transportation boundary” as opposed to school boundary. Cathy indicated that she will work with JB Demaris to revise the current policy to reflect that language change.

Curriculum

Bob Perry requested a cost/benefit analysis (in advance of the meeting) on the following:

1. AP in both schools and the courses and not IB
2. AP in Ridgeview and IB in RHS – what courses being offered under those scenarios

Cathy Miller asked if, in the future, there are a large number of students at RHS who want to take the IB program, will the district be able to accommodate those students. Superintendent Mikalson stated that over the years the district has trained staff in that program and that we have resources in staff to increase the amount of sections that are offered to students.

Cathy Miller suggested forming a small committee of parents and staff to address the issue of drop-off and pick up of students by East Cascade Transit. She feels that if parents knew they had a voice in the drop off and pick up sites they could work with regional transportation services. She believes the district needs to initiate that conversation.

Superintendent Mikalson stated that we need to find out the flexibility of Cascade East Transit prior to forming a committee. “It is dependent on their willingness to engage in those conversations. They have a certain protocol they currently operate by.”

September Financial Reports

Mike McIntosh presented the September finance reports. The number of teachers who opted out of health insurance benefits was less than anticipated. The district is managing revenues and expenditures within a balanced budget as required by law. What we don’t know are what the local property tax collections will be or if we will be upside down again.

Mr. McIntosh reported that the Boys and Girl Clubs lease is through 2013. At this point the district is not sure if they will need our building after they move into their new facility after the first of the year.

Board members were provided an opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

Superintendent Report

- ✓ Provided information on education’s share of Oregon’s state budget 2003-2013.
- ✓ Governor built a budget based on savings from social services agencies in the state. Those savings have not been realized.
- ✓ Reviewed average class size across the district

Board Updates

- ✓ Cathy Miller reported that Dennis Dempsey, ESD superintendent will be retiring in June. The ESD will be involved in a superintendent search
- ✓ ESD is looking at ways to saving money as they face cuts

Request for Agenda Items

- Board writing a letter to parents
- Board/parent communication
- Policy around concussions

ADJOURN

*Bob Perry moved and Ric Little seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
Votes: Cathy Miller – yes, Jim Erickson-yes, Ric Little-yes, AJ Losoya-yes, Bob Perry-yes.*

Jim Erickson, School Board Chair

Trish Huspek, Executive Assistant