

Greater Albany Public School District 8J
718 Seventh Avenue SW
Albany, Oregon 97321-2399



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 25, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice Chair Bricker called the regular meeting of the School Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sandi Gordon	gave advance notice of her absence
Frank Bricker	Board Vice Chair
Jerry Boehme	Director
Lyle Utt	Director
Micah Smith	Director
Hannah Jefferson	SAHS Student Board Member
Johnny Pearson	WAHS Student Board Member

Maria Delapoer	gave advance notice of her absence
Frank Caropelo	Assistant Superintendent
Randy Lary	Human Resources Director
Russell Allen	Business and Operations Director

A list of others present at the meeting is filed with the original minutes. It was noted that a quorum of the Board was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Vice Chair Bricker led attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

CORE PURPOSE/GOALS

Board Vice Chair Bricker began the meeting with a review of the district's Core Purpose and Strategic Goals:

Core Purpose: Educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential, equipped to be positive, contributing members of society.

Strategic Goals:

- We provide every student with challenging and motivating learning experiences that lead to continuous growth.
- We instill in every student the character traits that enable them to understand and interact in the world, appreciating and valuing differences.
- Our students thrive because every community member is a stakeholder and takes responsibility for the success of every student.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS
PLC VISITS

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo said that members of the District Leadership Team would summarize their observations of Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions in the schools. He said that he visited Calapooia Middle School on February 13 where he observed teachers reviewing Common Core Standards. He said that he also met with science teachers who were reviewing the results of a science quiz. He said that teachers were looking for patterns in student responses and then adjusting their instruction to meet student needs.

He said that he visited Tangent Elementary School on February 20 where a grades 3-5 team was reviewing mid-year DIBELS scores and making adjustment to instruction based upon student scores.

Elementary Curriculum Director Tonja Everest said that she visited Periwinkle Elementary School on February 6 where she participated in a math discussion with a grades 3-5 team. She said that she visited North Albany Elementary School on February 13 where she participated in two professional development opportunities for classified employees. She said that the sessions were very popular.

She said that she visited Oak Elementary School where teachers were focusing on reading data.

Secondary Curriculum Director Peggy Blair said that she visited Memorial Middle School on February 13 where teachers were working on the math and science pacing guides. She said that language arts teachers focused on reading and aligning fiction and non-fiction choices to standards.

She said that on February 20, Memorial Middle School hosted the math PLC teams where they were examining math review strategies and “mental math.”

Board Vice Chair Bricker thanked the staff for their report.

STUDENT ALL-STARS

Kylie Wager, Aleya Spitz, Michael Stevenson from Calapooia Middle School and Kendal Weir, Tianna Bitz and Stephanie Oseguera of Memorial Middle School were recognized for their citizenship and community service. Trenton Dutcher, Mackenna Grove and Alivia Pynes of North Albany Middle School were also honored.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from February 11, 2013 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel (with Addendum)
- 3) Financial
- 4) *JECB, Open Enrollment*

Board Vice Chair Bricker stated that if there were no objections, the Board would approve the Consent Agenda. There were no objections. Board Vice Chair Bricker DECLARED THE ACTION DECIDED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

BOARD REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Board Vice Chair Bricker asked for a report from the Legislative Liaison. Director Utt said that Board members had at their places a summary prepared by the Oregon School Boards Association, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and the Oregon Education Association to illustrate the statewide impact of various State School Fund spending levels. He said that those agencies requested information indicating the impact upon local districts.

Director Boehme asked of the amount for the State School Fund in the Governor's budget. Mr. Allen said that the proposed amount was \$6.15 billion for the biennium.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report from the DLT Compensation sub-committee.

Mr. Caropelo stated that there would be a joint meeting of the Greater Albany School District and the Albany City Council at 7:00 p.m. on February 27 at City Hall. He noted that an agenda was emailed to the Board with a request that the directors identify which topics they would discuss before the City Council. He said that Mr. Allen would address street widths and bus sizes. Board Vice Chair Bricker said that it was desirable that the reports be delivered by Board members rather than staff.

Director Smith later indicated that he would speak to the Council of the School Safety Task Force. Director Utt later indicated that he would speak of partnerships that benefited youth.

Director Smith said that the first meeting of the School Safety Task Force would be Wednesday, February 27 at 4:00 p.m. He provided a summary of the tasking of the committee.

Student School Board Member Hannah Jefferson said that South Albany High School hosted its annual Sadie Hawkins dance on February 23. She said that the event was a great success and well attended.

She said that freshman swimmer Molly Beamer placed third in the individual medley in the State swim meet the previous week. She said that the bowling team was also a finalist in the state competition. She said that spring athletes were preparing for the coming season.

Miss Jefferson said that at the end of the current six week grading period, the school would switch to a slightly modified schedule to accommodate students who were struggling in certain classes. She said that students were actually becoming motivated with the new schedule because if they stayed on top of their grades, they would receive an extended lunch period.

Board Vice Chair Bricker thanked Miss Jefferson for her report.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

GRADUATION RATES

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo introduced Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, Peggy Blair, and stated that she would review the district's graduation rates report.

Ms. Blair said that each year, at the latter part of January, the Oregon Department of Education provided districts with data about their graduation and cohort rates. She said that the directors had a summary in their packets. She explained that the category of 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate was relatively new. She said that the district previously examined a graduation rate which was the number of seniors who began the school year compared to the number of seniors who graduated at the end of the year. She said that new federal guidelines examine a Cohort Graduation Rate. She said that the calculation begins with the number of students who enter a high school in a particular year as freshmen and follows those same students for four years. She said that the data is adjusted for students who move in or out of the district. She said that in that evaluation, only regular diplomas count.

She said that in the three years that the calculation has been used, Greater Albany graduation rates exceeded the state average. She said that the district's 2011-12 graduation rate of 76 percent was above the state average of 68 percent.

Ms. Blair said that a second calculation was the 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate which was the percentage of students who began high school in the 2007-08 school year and earned a regular diploma within five years. She said that the Greater Albany rate was 80 percent, again better than the state average of 72 percent.

She said that a new calculation was the 5th Year Completer Rate. She recalled that the data would be added to the Achievement Compact. She explained that a "graduate" was someone who earned a regular diploma. She said that a "completer" was someone who after four or five years had some kind of end determination including a regular diploma, modified diploma, adult high school diploma or a GED. She said that it meant that the student, in some way, brought their formal high school education to a close.

Ms. Blair noted that at Albany Options School, the 5-year graduation rate of 25 percent was higher than the 4-year graduation rate. She said that was because many students were credit deficient when they arrived at Albany Options but were able to graduate with a fifth year of study. She said that nearly 62 percent of Albany Options students were completers. She said that was because AOS did a really good job of getting students through the GED program.

Director Utt referred to the Governor's 40-40-20 education goal and asked whether a modified or five-year diploma would count as a high school graduate under the goal. Ms. Blair explained for the audience that the Governor's goal was that 40 percent of adult Oregonians earn a four-year college degree, 40 percent of adults earn a two-year college degree and 100 percent of students earn a high school diploma. She said that she was unsure how five-year regular diplomas, four-year modified diplomas, adult high school diplomas or GED's were considered under the 40-40-20 goal. She said that the Achievement Compact would measure the 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate and the 5-year Completer Rates.

Director Utt asked if students enrolled in the advanced diploma program, would those students cause a decline in the 4- year Graduation Rate. Ms. Blair said that the rate would decline, although those students would be reflected in the district's 5-year Graduation Rate and the 5-year Completer Rates.

Director Boehme asked how student mobility impacted graduation rates. Ms. Blair explained that if a student began high school in another district and then moved into Albany and graduated, that student would count as a Greater Albany graduate. She said that if the student was enrolled in a Greater Albany high school and moved away and did not enroll in another school in their new city, the student would count as a Greater Albany drop-out. She said that if a student began in another district, then enrolled in a Greater Albany high school, and then before graduating, moved away and graduated in another city, the student would be an “in-and-out” and would not count as a Greater Albany dropout or graduate. She said that the school where the students last attended would get the statistic.

Ms. Blair noted that the Board was aware that the Advanced Diploma program would cause the district’s 4-year Graduation Rate to go down. She said that it would be important for the public to understand that the payoff would be that there would be many students who would be well on their way to a successful future.

She said that a drop-out was defined as a student who withdrew from school and did not graduate or transfer to another school. She explained that the drop-out rate was one year calculation. She emphasized that the drop-out rate was not the inverse of the graduation rate. She said that the district’s drop-out rate has continued to improve over the past ten years. She said that the district’s 2011-12 drop-out rate of 1.7 percent was well below the State dropout rate of 3.4 percent.

Ms. Blair said that there were many more challenges now in getting students to graduation. She noted, for example, that 2012-13 graduates would have to complete three math credits at the Algebra I level and above. She said that future graduates would have to meet the essential skills in reading, writing and math. She said that there would also be increased rigor in State testing.

OLD BUSINESS

ESD SERVICE PLAN

At the February 11, Board meeting, Superintendent Delapoer said that the Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District provided for twelve school districts of which Greater Albany was the largest. She said that the purpose of the ESD’s was to achieve an economy of scale and to provide equity in services to all students within the three county area.

At the same meeting, Ms. Delapoer explained that ESD services came to the district in two forms. She said that Tier 1 services were those which all twelve districts received through funding from the State. She said that any remaining money was divided among the districts according to student population. Superintendents could then select from a menu of additional services under Tier 2. She said that Read 180 and OdysseyWare instructional licenses were examples.

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo requested the Board’s approval of the service plan.

Board Vice Chair Bricker stated that if there were no objections, the Board would approve the Service Plan. There were no objections. Board Vice Chair Bricker DECLARED THE ACTION DECIDED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

BUS PURCHASE

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen stated that the district had approximately 70 buses in its fleet. He said that while there was no hard-and-fast rule regarding how long a bus should be retained, he said that there was general consensus that a bus should be replaced after 12-15 years of service. He said that would equate to replacing 4½ to 6 buses each year. He said that due to constrained resources over the past few years the district was unable to replace its buses at that rate.

He recalled that at the School Board meeting of February 11, 2013, the Board authorized the purchase of six new school buses. He said that number was considered to be the minimum purchase given the needs of the bus fleet. He said that Board members at that meeting asked for information on cost alternatives that would allow for the retirement of additional twenty-year old, high mileage buses that would otherwise remain in the fleet. He said that two alternatives were provided, to purchase one additional and to purchase two additional buses. He explained that school bus purchases were reimbursed over a ten-year depreciation cycle at the rate of 70 percent by the State of Oregon.

Director Utt asked about paying for the buses. Mr. Allen responded, stating that the district typically financed buses over a 7½ year period.

Director Boehme asked if the district did not purchase any more buses this year, would the district expect to replace the high mileage buses in the following year. Transportation Supervisor Chris Ellison said that would be correct. He said that the department would also wish to begin replacing the 1993 buses next year as well.

Director Boehme noted that loan rates were very low now and it might make financial sense to replace more buses now. Mr. Ellison said that could be the Board's decision. He said that in order to reduce the average age of the bus fleet to 12-15 years, the district would need to purchase approximately 6 buses annually for the next several years.

After discussion, Board members decided to not purchase any additional buses at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Human Resources Director Randy Lary said that Board members discussed contract extensions during the executive session prior to the February 25, 2013 Regular Board meeting. He said that he would request Board approval to either extend or decline to extend licensed employee contracts at the March 11, 2013 Regular Board meeting. He said that the Board's actions would become public information on that date.

REPORTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

FOOD SERVICE WRITTEN REPORT

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen delivered a report from the Food Service Department. He said that the packet included a monthly document created by the district to monitor the status of the Nutrition Services account. He reported that January was a good month for food sales.

He said that the packet also included a document entitled "Breakeven Assumptions." He explained that the district worked with Sodexo Food Service employee John Stone. Mr. Stone was asked what guarantee the company was willing to give the district relative to the Nutrition Services fund. Mr. Allen said that everyone agreed that in the contract the district was required to use by the Oregon Department of Education, there would no longer be a guarantee that the fund would break even, although there used to be such an expectation. He said that Mr. Stone was asked what guarantee Sodexo would provide relative to the stability of the fund.

Mr. Stone replied that Sodexo agreed to hold the district harmless relative to breakeven, subject to certain assumptions. He said that there were many elements to the document but mostly the statements referred to things that were beyond the control of Sodexo. He said that the statement indicated that as long as the district or the State did not change things substantially, Sodexo agreed that at the end of the 2012-13 school year the company would hold the school district harmless relative to the Nutrition Services fund. He explained that the agreement indicated that if the year ended in a financial loss, Sodexo would make up the difference.

Director Smith asked about meals provided to the Community After School program. Greater Albany Food Service Director Sharon Short estimated that her department provided 1,300 meals to the organization during the month of January. She said that the program was sustainable.

Director Boehme said that he would like to talk to the Student Board Members after the meeting. The students agreed.

Director Smith said that he would read a Dr. Seuss book "Fox in Sox" at Tadena Elementary School the following day.

Board Vice Chair Bricker reviewed the Dates of Interest at the conclusion of the Agenda. He said that the School Board and Albany City Council would meet in joint session at 7:00 p.m. on February 27 at City Hall. He said that State Representative Andy Olson would conduct an Open House pertaining to education at 7:00 p.m. on February 28 at Timber Ridge School. He said that the next meeting of the School Board would be March 11, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice Chair Bricker adjourned the Board meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Frank Bricker, Board Vice Chair

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

Business and Report Items - Document Reference (filed with original minutes)