

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 23, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

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

Frank Bricker	Board Chair
Jerry Boehme	Board Vice Chair
Sandi Gordon	gave advance notice of her absence
Lyle Utt	Director
Micah Smith	Director
Johnny Pearson	Student Board Member
Jessica Dilbone	Student Board Member
Maria Delapoer	Superintendent
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 Chair Bricker led attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

CORE PURPOSE/GOALS

Director Utt 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
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that at the Board's request, staff would report periodically about the work being performed during the Professional Learning Communities on the early release dates. She noted that information in the Board packets included schedules for professional development during the year. She said that on September 11, she attended a session for educational assistants which included instruction on cultural considerations.

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo said that information in the Board packets included the start time for each school, the professional development calendar for classified employees, a summary of professional development for administrators, and schedules of staff development for elementary and secondary school teachers.

Elementary Curriculum Director Tonja Everest summarized the PLC work at the elementary levels. She discussed math instruction and stated that this year's Math PLC work would focus on Conceptual Understanding.

She described how English/Language Arts instruction was moving forward under the Common Core. She detailed how the classroom work would be evidenced-based.

Mr. Caropelo said that at the request of the high school principals, the secondary schools did not have a cross-school gathering in September. He explained that other district activities took away much of the time during the Inservice Week at the beginning of the school year. He said that the principals needed team-building time at the beginning of September.

Director Smith asked of the Smart Goals worksheet that was being introduced with the PLC sessions. He said that staff hoped the document would guide professional development. Mr. Caropelo said that worksheet was helpful in the work to transition to the Common Core.

SOUTH ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBER JESSICA DILBONE

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart introduced South Albany High School Student Board Member Jessica Dilbone. He said that Miss Dilbone had previously come before the Board as a Student Reporter for South Albany High School and as a Student Reporter for Calapooia Middle School. He said that she was a twelfth grader taking AP English, AP European History, AP Government & Politics, Anatomy & Physiology, Spanish 4 and Weight Training. He said that her favorite subject was Spanish.

Mr. Haggart said that Miss Dilbone participates in cross country, track, the Key Club and her church youth group. He said that her sister Stephanie is a 10th grader at SAHS. Her parents are district employees Lisa and Jon Dilbone. Her grandfather is former Board Member Don Bacher.

Board Chair Bricker welcomed Miss Dilbone and invited her to take a seat with the Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from September 9, 2013 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel

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

BOARD REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Superintendent Delapoer said that she had copies of a summary prepared by the Oregon School Boards Association of the legislation impacting education.

Director Boehme said that it appeared that the Legislature might reconvene. He asked of the potential impacts to the district. Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that it was difficult to estimate what the Legislature might do. He said that there were two possible components. He said that one was additional PERS savings. He said that there was discussion about lowering the PERS rates to the same level as last year. He said, however, that he did not know when those proposed reductions might take effect. He said that it might be the next biennium before the reduction took effect, or there could be some mechanism to introduce that sooner. He explained that any savings generated on the PERS side, approximately 1 to 1 1/2 million dollars, would not have any strings attached.

He said that on the revenue side, one proposal might be to add 100 million dollars to the K-12 State School Fund for the next year. He clarified that the amount would only be for the second year of the biennium. He estimated that Governor Kitzhaber would propose spending restrictions such as to add staff, add new programs or restore lost days. He estimated that the action could add approximately 1 to 1 1/2 million dollars to the district. He suggested that the money might not be available to the second year of the biennium.

Director Boehme asked of the potential PERS savings. Mr. Allen explained that it would be dollars that the district had budgeted for now, based upon the current PERS levels, that it would not have to spend. Mr. Allen emphasized that the PERS rates would still be higher than last year.

Director Utt said that he heard at the Oregon School Boards Association Listening Session that if the PERS reforms were enacted, the previous "pay later" option would go away. Mr. Allen said that was correct.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no sub-committee reports.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Board Chair Bricker said that he went to an Open House event at Lafayette Elementary School where he helped to scoop 16 gallons of ice cream for guests. He said that families requested that there be additional translators to assist at future open houses.

Director Smith said that he attended the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Business Extravaganza event where he heard Oregon State Baseball Coach Casey speak about building future leaders.

Director Utt said that he and Ms. Delapoer attended the Oregon School Boards Association Listening Session on September 19. He offered to share copies of the handouts he received.

Director Boehme said that he had a casual conversation with Oregon Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton. He stated that he asked that the Department of Education leave teachers alone so that they could catch up to where ODE wanted schools to be. He said that Mr. Saxton replied that it was not going to happen.

Director Smith noted that when the Legislature was in session there was discussion of a State School Fund Task Force. He asked if Ms. Delapoer was aware of the group. Ms. Delapoer estimated that the Task Force was still being formed.

STUDENT REPORTS

Student Board Member Johnny Pearson said that West Albany High School held class elections during the previous week. He said that there was a great response, both in the number of students running and in the number of people voting. He said that this week was Homecoming Week. He said that events would include both Powder Puff and Powder Tough events and a bonfire. He said that the football team would play Silverton High School at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 27 and that the Homecoming Queen would be crowned at half-time. He said that there would be a dance on Saturday, September 28.

Student Board Member Jessica Dilbone said that she attended the South Albany High School PEP assembly. She estimated that the incoming freshman class was the largest ever because it was especially loud this year. She spoke of Tuesday and Thursday dinners. She said that anyone wishing to stay after school to work with teachers would receive dinner. She said that the hope was that students would get their homework done and then attend evening sporting events.

Miss Dilbone said that the football team had several good games where they exhibited a lot of energy. She said that the soccer teams were doing well as were the cross country teams. She said that school spirit was phenomenal.

REPORTS

SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRESS REPORT

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that she would provide an update on progress to improve school safety. She recalled that during the previous winter, a task force developed many interesting ideas. She said that staff continued to refine those ideas and had selected a number of areas of focus. She said that she was working with a consultant who previously worked with other school districts. She said that the school safety work was divided into four categories; Physical Improvements, Procedures and Training, Communication, and At Risk Student Identification and Resources.

She stated that classroom communication systems were scheduled to be upgraded at Calapooia Middle School and North Albany Middle School this winter. She said that future upgrade priorities

included South Albany High School, Clover Ridge Elementary and Tangent Elementary Schools although no funds were allocated at present.

Ms. Delapoer spoke of school buildings and said that main entrance doors that are not visible from the front office presented a problem. She said that she favored some kind of audio signal or flashing light that would alert the office staff that someone was entering the building. She said that signal, coupled with a camera pointed at the door that was visible in the office, would enable front office staff to be aware of visitors. She said that the district might pilot such a system at several sites to see how well it worked.

She said that the school physical audits conducted by the district's law enforcement partners were being reviewed by facilities staff and cost estimates were being prepared. She said that considerations include additional fencing and gates that would limit access to the campus and modular buildings. She said that exterior signage should be standardized across the district and the Facilities Department could help. She said that the facilities department was already at work trimming vegetation and limiting roof access.

Ms. Delapoer said that Mr. Haggart and consultant Bob Tatum were reviewing all materials currently being used by the district to identify any gaps, inconsistencies or duplications. She said that policies would be updated to match changes in practice.

She said that sometime this year the district should move from the current 3-level lockdown procedure to a 4-level response called "I Love U Guys." She explained that the newer procedures would provide more emergency direction and clarity to everyone in the building rather than relying upon prior knowledge, and would ensure a greater consistency across the district.

Ms. Delapoer said that the Crisis Response Check List would be further developed and the district would prepare standardized letters and memos that would be available electronically for customization for each situation.

She spoke of at-risk student identification and resources. She said that she asked Special Programs Director Ryan Mattingly to facilitate regular school counselor meetings to develop consistent procedures and share information. She said that she asked counselors to develop a protocol for enrolling students who were transitioning from treatment facilities to ensure schools got all the information necessary to help the returning student be successful and keep other students and staff safe.

Ms. Delapoer said that she also wanted training for Student Threat Assessment Teams for consistency. She said that staff would examine screening tools for identifying students who were having trouble connecting with their schools and making friends. She said that she wanted to provide FACT help to counselors who were dealing with students needing help beyond the time or capacity of the counselors.

She said that she also asked the consultant to research some curriculum and staff training that was proven to be effective elsewhere.

Director Boehme asked if school counselors got together during the Professional Learning Communities. North Albany Middle School Assistant Principal Jon Dilbone said that secondary counselors have been meeting approximately once each month.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Superintendent Delapoer said that the Board asked for information as to how elementary schools assigned students to kindergarten. She said that 8 of the 13 elementary schools had more than one section of kindergarten. She noted that some of the schools had two morning sessions, taught by two, half-time kindergarten teachers. She said that other schools offered both a morning and an afternoon session.

She explained that the process typically started in May with the kindergarten orientation where parents were invited to pre-register their students and receive information. She said that parent preferences for morning or afternoon kindergarten were received. She said that child care was a typical consideration. She said that at that time, the schools would have 50-80 percent of their kindergarten enrollment. She noted that the schools would still have a percentage of potential students who were not yet registered.

Ms. Delapoer said that elementary school registration typically takes place during the middle of August. She said that at that time the district would receive the bulk of the kindergarten students, but other parents would continue to trickle in during the remaining weeks before school begins, and even after school started. She emphasized the difficulty in knowing the number of students the district would have. She spoke of the desire to balance enrollment across the classrooms and noted that the district has had to add sections at the last minute.

She said that at most schools, parents know about 10 days before the start of school whether their child will be a morning or afternoon kindergarten student. She emphasized the challenge of late registrations and the desire to balance class sizes. She said that schools understand child care concerns. She stated that the last thing the schools wanted to do was assign a child to one section and then have to reverse that placement later.

Ms. Delapoer said that bus transportation was an issue for some attendance areas. She said that the Transportation Department carried students by region to limit bus riding time to one hour or less. She said that it would be possible to add addition mid-day routes, but that would reduce bus driver availability for field trips.

She said that she wanted families to have a very positive first experience. She said that the district would continue to examine different models and methods to make that happen.

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo said that the earlier teachers could intervene with struggling children, the sooner the students could get back on track toward high school graduation. He said that in the Greater Albany School District, that process began on the first day of kindergarten. He explained that by using the staggered kindergarten start piloted by Clover Ridge Elementary School, the school was able to add two full days of instruction and begin reading groups sooner. He said that the district sought a better way to begin kindergarten to increase the opportunities for students. He

said that Clover Ridge School asked to pilot the program and he allowed that to happen. He noted that almost every elementary school principal wished to participate as well.

He said that staff was still evaluating whether the start was successful. He acknowledged that communications could have been better. He said that it didn't help the process that the district had to add a teacher at the last minute, but the move permitted a reduction in class sizes at Clover Ridge School.

Mr. Caropelo introduced Elementary Curriculum Director Tonja Everest and Tadena Elementary School Principal Lisa Shogren and said that they would discuss the assessment conducted of all entering kindergarten students in the state.

Ms. Everest said that as a former principal, she was amazed at how much Clover Ridge School was able to accomplish in the first few days. She said that kindergarten teachers completed the diagnostic reading assessment entitled the "Read Well Placement Test." She said that she previously could not imagine completing a diagnostic measure within that short a time.

Tadena Elementary School principal Lisa Shogren delivered a Power-Point presentation to describe the state-wide kindergarten assessment.

Ms. Shogren said that the assessment was intended to provide teachers with a common understanding of what children know and are able to do before they enter kindergarten. She said that teachers were aware that the "Achievement Gap" began early, generally before children entered kindergarten. She said that children are most successful if that gap is addressed early. She said that the results of the kindergarten assessment would help teachers attend to student needs right away. She discussed several of the assessment tools in detail. Sample assessments were available in the Board packets.

Ms. Shogren emphasized that the assessment was not used to determine if a student could enter kindergarten. She said that the assessment would be used to determine what would be needed for students to be successful in school. She said that it would be a tool for the adults in Oregon to meet the needs of young children.

Director Smith asked how the district's involvement with the Early Learning Council helped with kindergarten assessments. He asked if the district was able to work together with its Pre-K partners. Ms. Everest responded. Mr. Caropelo said that the information the State was gathering through the assessments could be used to make Pre-K instruction better.

Director Smith asked of the percentage of children who attended Pre-K. Ms. Everest said that was difficult to know in advance as many parents do not respond to surveys. Ms. Delapoe described how, two years before, the district put together a group with community partners to begin the assessment process earlier by reaching out to Pre-K facilities and parents to let them know of the expectations. She said that the group developed and distributed a brochure throughout the city to emphasize that coming to kindergarten was not just walking into the classroom cold.

Board Chair Bricker asked of the number of pre-schools in the Albany area. Ms. Delapoer estimated that the area has 300 pre-school and child care locations. Board Chair Bricker suggested contacting the traditional pre-schools. Ms. Everest said that pre-schools are hesitant to share student information.

Director Boehme said that he wanted to be able to tell parents sooner whether their child would be a morning or afternoon kinder. Ms. Delapoer responded, saying that principals try to accommodate parent needs, and rarely is there a last minute change. She said that usually those last minute adjustments were needed because parents registered very late or it was necessary to add an additional section and students had to be reshuffled. Director Smith said that all-day kindergarten would make those concerns unnecessary.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

GOAL 1, M2, STUDENTS ON TRACK TO GRADUATE

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo said that the District Accountability Plan stresses the importance identifying struggling students early on, in time to apply interventions. He said that he would present data indicating the numbers of students on track to graduate. He said that he asked South Albany High School principal Brent Belveal and West Albany High School principal Susie Orsborn to be present to answer questions.

He said that the first document in the Board packet indicated the percentage of incoming freshmen meeting or exceeding the OAKS math and reading assessments as eighth graders. He noted that reading scores were up slightly from the previous year and math scores were up significantly. He noted that the data point of freshmen on track to graduate would be included in the new State Report Card and the district Achievement Compact but in slightly different formats.

Mr. Caropelo said that additional pages in the packet provided information regarding incoming tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders including the total number of students in each grade and the number and percentage of students not on track to graduate.

Director Smith suggested that the District Accountability Plan be aligned to a metric that might be tracked long-term through the Achievement Compact. Mr. Caropelo responded that the district has multi-year data in the format presented. He said that he does not yet have multi-year data for the Achievement Compact. Mr. Caropelo said that high school principals closely watch the data because if a student falls behind as a freshman, the progress to senior year becomes more difficult.

Director Boehme asked if the primary “make-up” tool was summer credit recovery. Mr. Belveal said that credit recovery was possible during the summer and during the school year. Ms. Orsborn said that OdysseyWare classes could be completed online at home.

Director Smith asked how the need to add interventions impacted the core curriculum. Ms. Orsborn said that she addressed the same question with the Site Council earlier that day. She said that the need to provide intervention classes took FTE away from the regular, core courses.

Mr. Belveal said that to be effective, intervention classes have to be smaller than the traditional core classes. He said that smaller intervention classes cause the regular core classes to be larger. He said that the average size of a regular math class is 37 students.

Director Utt asked if higher core class sizes were causing fewer students to be successful which put more pressure on the intervention programs. Mr. Belveal estimated that the larger core classes might make it more difficult for teachers to reach the borderline students. He said that there were other things in place to help those students. He said that both schools were trying to determine what to do beyond the regular classroom for struggling students.

Board Chair Bricker asked of the assignment of students to intervention. Mr. Belveal and Ms. Orsborn both described how they move students in and out of the intervention classes. Ms. Orsborn said that the goal was to have every student pass the assessment test. She said that if it was not possible, the students would attempt to meet the requirements through work samples.

Director Smith asked of interventions at the middle school level. Mr. Dilbone said that middle school students receive instruction during building intervention/flex periods.

Director Smith asked how the middle and high school levels shared information. Ms. Orsborn and Mr. Dilbone responded.

Director Boehme asked of the impact of interventions on electives. Ms. Orsborn replied that the high schools do not have enough electives because of the requirement to provide intervention instruction. She noted that some students come to school only because they enjoy a particular course or elective. She said that she was hesitant to remove the one thing a student might be passionate about.

Mr. Caropelo spoke of the Tuesday and Thursday dinner program at South Albany High School. He said that it was an opportunity to get students in the classroom with teachers.

Ms. Orsborn said that the current seniors were the first graduating class required to pass reading, writing and math and have three years of math at the Algebra I level and above.

Mr. Caropelo emphasized that the sooner students as young as kindergarten were placed on track, the less there would be a requirement for intervention down the road. He said that there was a case for intervention at every level.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

CLASSIFIED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Human Resources Director Randy Lary said that bargaining is one of the most important things the district does. He said that the employees were one of the district's greatest assets. He said that that the district was fortunate to have terrific leadership in each of the employee associations. He said that he was bringing forward the classified collective bargaining agreement. He noted that Director Smith

and Board Chair Bricker both participated in the bargaining. He thanked the two bargaining teams for their hard work.

He requested the Board's consideration of the agreement with the Greater Albany Association of Classified Employees.

Director Smith moved to approve the agreement with the Greater Albany Association of Classified Employees as presented. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

AAA CONFER AND CONSULT

Human Resources Director Randy Lary said that although it was not technically collective bargaining, the confer and consult process was the district's procedure for coming to agreement on wages and working conditions for administrators. He said that Board Chair Bricker, Superintendent Delapoer and he were involved in the process as were several of the district's administrators.

He urged the Board to consider adoption of the agreement as well.

Director Utt moved to approve the confer and consult agreement with the Albany Administrator Association as presented. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen recommended a calendar for the Budget Committee calendar. He said that the calendar would begin with a November 6 Work Session. He said that the session would begin with a financial update, followed by a discussion of new programs and future goals. He said that the Committee could decide if it wanted additional discussion meetings. He proposed that the Budget Message meeting be April 21, a week sooner than in the past. He proposed a Budget Hearing on June 2 and the Adopt and Appropriate the Budget meeting on June 23.

Board Chair Bricker moved to approve the Budget Committee calendar as presented. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS

FOOD SERVICE

Board Chair Bricker noted that the Food Service Department report was provided in the Board packet. Business and Operation Director Russ Allen said that the Food Service Manager Sharon Short was available in the audience to answer questions. There was no discussion.

Board Chair Bricker said that the next regular meeting of the School Board would be October 14, 2013. He said that there would be a Work Session to consider grading on October 28, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Bricker adjourned the Board meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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