

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 13, 2014 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	Director
Lyle Utt	Director
Micah Smith	Director
Johnny Pearson	gave advance notice of his absence
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 Gordon 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
SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Superintendent Maria Delapoer read a proclamation from Governor Kitzhaber proclaiming January 2014 as School Board Recognition Month.

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart said that the poster in the Weatherford Room behind the Board was from Periwinkle Elementary School. He said that the inscription read “Your Support Leaves Us Thankful.” He said that each leaf had the name of a student and the title of a book he or she had read. Periwinkle School principal Bob Daugherty and students from Periwinkle School made presentations to each Board member.

Mr. Haggart introduced South Shore Elementary School principal Michael Ann McIlvenny. South Shore Elementary School dual-immersion program students delivered messages in English and Spanish.

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT REPORTERS

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart said that Memorial Middle School would be represented by Alexis Jimenez and Maiya Hamilton. He said that Alexis Jimenez is an eighth grader taking Math, Language Arts, Leadership, Science, Social Studies, PE and Health. His favorite subject is Science.

Mr. Haggart said that Alexis’ sister is South Shore Elementary School PE teacher Eileen Martinez. His parents are Maricruz and Alejandro Jimenez.

Mr. Haggart said that Maiya Hamilton is also an eighth grader. He said that she is taking Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, PE and Health. Her favorite subject is Social Studies.

He said that Maiya participates in club soccer, plays the piano and is a member of her church youth group. She is also a former Student All-Star herself. Her family members include sister Ellyse, a second grader at Waverly Elementary School; brother Braiden, a fourth grader at Liberty Elementary School; and brother Ashton who attends school outside the district. Her parents are Julene and Frank Hamilton.

Board Chair Bricker welcomed both students.

RECOGNITION OF RACHEL PULSIPHER

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen stated that he wished to recognize the many contributions of Food Service Manager Rachel Pulsipher as she was leaving the district to move to another state.

He noted that Ms. Pulsipher has been with the Nutrition Services Department for nearly four years and her accomplishments have been many. He said that she has been an integral part of the Nutrition Leadership Team and has developed very positive relationships inside and outside of the department. He noted that she has appeared before the Board on a number of occasions and the directors found her to be informative and well prepared.

Mr. Allen said that Ms. Pulsipher also skillfully guided a number of nutrition education events including the A-Z Salad bar, Exhibition Cooking, Farm-to-Market, Student Chef contests and the extremely popular Fine Dining program. He said that she has been an exceptionally valuable assistant to Sharon Short and her achievements within the department would be difficult to replace.

He extended the thanks and best wishes of the district as she moved on to other adventures.

STUDENT REPORTERS

Memorial Middle School Student Reporters Alexis Jimenez and Maiya Hamilton addressed the Board. [The text of their report is provided as an attachment to these minutes.](#)

STUDENT ALL-STARS

Dylan Hotrum, Jessica Armfield, Logan Nord and Isaiah Exton of Oak Elementary and Camryn Meyer, Melia Rasmussen, Caden Buck, Peyton Ullrich and Freddy Lopez of Tangent Elementary School were recognized. Jesus Suarez, Carter Roeser and John Colgate of South Shore Elementary School were also honored.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from December 16, 2013 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel (with Addendum)
- 3) Financial
- 4) *IK, Academic Achievement*
- 5) *EEACCA, Video Cameras on Transportation Vehicles*
- 6) *JFCG, Tobacco Free*
- 7) *GBK, Tobacco Use*
- 8) *KGC, Tobacco Use on District Premises by Public*

Board Chair Bricker stated that at the December 16 meeting, Business and Operations Director Russ Allen recommended revisions to Board Policy *JFCG, Tobacco Free* which modified the definition of tobacco products to specifically include tobacco substitutes such as e-cigarettes. Although the document did not state that it applied solely to students, the Policy Code of JFCG gave that impression. To make it clear that tobacco substitute use by staff personnel or visitors was also prohibited, the same revision applied to Board Policy *JFCG* was also added to Board Policy *GBK, Tobacco Use* (by staff personnel) and Board Policy *KGC, Tobacco Use on District Premises by Public* (by visitors).

He said that revisions to all three documents would make it clear that the use of tobacco substitutes such as e-cigarettes were prohibited on school grounds and that FDA approved nicotine replacement therapy products used for the purpose of cessation by students, staff or visitors would be allowed.

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 during the previous week, she met with State Senator Betsy Close at Senator Close's request. She explained that Senator Close was on a task force to consider modified diplomas. Ms. Delapoer said that the district has awarded only a small number of modified diplomas in the past few years.

She said that U.S. Senator Ron Wyden would be coming to Albany on January 21 to conduct a Town Hall meeting at West Albany High School at 10:30 a.m. She said that students and the public would be invited.

Ms. Delapoer said that she and other superintendents would meet with State Representative Sherrie Springer on January 22 to discuss services provided by the Education Service Districts.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Chair Bricker said that Superintendent Delapoer would like to have a sub-committee of the Board to examine student-based budgeting. Director Gordon and Director Boehme volunteered to serve.

Director Smith said that he and school security consultant Bob Tatum were working together to develop communication information for the schools. He added that he was being promoted and would be leaving the detectives branch of the Linn County Sheriff's Department. He said that he would continue school safety in his new assignment.

Director Gordon apologized to the public that her job has taken her away from the district. She said that her responsibilities would soon change and she would have more time to devote to the schools.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Utt said that he attended the Oregon School Boards Association's SBA Bonds, Ballots and Buildings conference in Salem on January 10. He said that he got a lot out of the sessions. He said that he would prepare a summary for the other Board members.

STUDENT REPORTS

South Albany High School Student Reporter Jessica Dilbone said that after returning from winter break, her school has had a number of accomplishments. She said that the girls swim team took first place in their competition on January 11 and the boys team finished in second place in their contest. She said that the boys basketball team won its most recent game and the girls team was working very hard.

She said that the winter formal was January 11 and was very well attended. She said that the school play "Arsenic and Old Lace" was in production and the cast was very excited about performing. She invited the Board members to attend the school talent show at 1:45 p.m. on Friday January 17.

Director Gordon said that her daughter participated in the South Albany High School swim meet.

Board Chair Bricker thanked Miss Dilbone for her report.

REPORTS

CALENDAR PARAMETERS

Human Resources Director Randy Lary said that the Board packets contained a summary of proposed parameters for the Budget Committee. He said that the task that evening would be to complete the discussion and have some agreement on the direction the Board would like the Calendar Committee to take.

Mr. Lary noted that the Board had indicated at a previous session that they would like to retain the one-hour Early Release Wednesdays as is. Board members nodded in agreement. He said that a survey of parents indicated no strong opposition to continuing Early Release sessions on Wednesdays.

He said that the move to the semester format for all schools allowed for all students at all levels to be in school on the same days. He said that the exception might be in April during elementary conferences when the secondary schools would be in session. He said that the parents' survey indicated that the move to having all students in school on the same days was very popular.

Mr. Lary said that the scheduling of parent conferences was probably the biggest unknown. He said that he understood that the Board wished to examine several reasonable alternatives. He explained that there was some wish to hold conferences earlier in the year, although there was a competing interest to have parents to be able to calendar the conferences and to be able to rely on the date of the conferences. He said that parent and staff surveys indicated that having the conferences during the Thanksgiving week worked.

Director Smith noted that the secondary schools do not have conferences during the second semester. Board Chair Bricker said that in the past, middle and high school spring conferences were poorly attended and secondary teachers preferred to have the additional instruction days. Mr. Lary added that secondary school teachers had more experience in using the on-line grading program.

Director Smith recalled that at a previous meeting, certified association president Jen Murray indicated that if any of the teachers had a student problem that need addressing, they would address the matter promptly and not wait for the parent conference.

Director Utt agreed. He said that his student had issues during middle school. He said that as a parent, he was aware of his child's deficiencies and having a spring conference to again address those issues was not necessary.

Superintendent Delapoer said that in the past, the purpose of the high school spring conferences was to contact the parents of students who the teacher believed were not going to pass. She said that the schools have put in place other methods to keep those parents informed.

Director Gordon said that at South Albany High School students who are deficient have a shorter lunch period and are referred to a tutorial session. Miss Dilbone agreed.

Director Boehme said that some schools reschedule the parent conferences to evenings or alternate days. He suggested that if conferences were not actually held on the date identified as a conference

day, the days should be identified on the calendar as something else. Director Smith suggesting identifying a time period and telling parents that the schools would have the leeway to hold their conferences in days that worked for the schools. He said that would be preferable to putting conferences on the calendar and then having the schools hold those conferences two weeks prior. He said that schools needed the flexibility to adjust to parent needs.

Board Chair Bricker agreed, noting that schools need the flexibility to hold conferences when best for their students. Mr. Lary suggested that the calendar committee return to the Board with several options.

Mr. Lary acknowledged the previously stated desire of the Board to have as many five-day school weeks as possible, understanding that direction could be in conflict with other features in the calendar.

He referred to the staff development day to be added the 2014-15 calendar. He said that the instruction department recommended that the day added on the statewide inservice day in October.

Mr. Lary said that previous Board's guidance indicated that the school year would begin the Tuesday after Labor Day, include a two-week winter break, a one-week spring break corresponding with the Oregon University System calendar, and all other contract and or school holidays in the past. He said that President's Day in February would continue to be designated as a potential inclement weather make-up day.

Director Gordon said that a question she heard on previous years but not this year was, "Why are our kids not in school?" Mr. Lary said that part of the reason for that might be having all students in school on the same days.

Director Gordon noted that parents now understood the value of the Professional Learning Communities on Wednesday afternoons.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT REPORT

Business and Operation Director Russ Allen said that auditors requested that their report be postponed two weeks. He said that the team assured him that the delay was not the result of any district malfeasance. He estimated that the audit report could be provided in the Board packet of the next meeting, which would give the Directors time to review the audit prior to the Board meeting.

BUS PURCHASE

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen introduced Transportation Supervisor Kim Crabtree and said that she would discuss the school district's need for replacement buses and explain that they must be ordered soon to ensure delivery prior to the start of school. He clarified that the purchases would be 2014-15 expenses.

Ms. Crabtree said that the school district made some progress over the years in addressing the district's aging transportation fleet. She said, however, that the district still had 14 buses more than 15 years old and 20 vehicles with more than 150,000 miles. In addition, she said, the district was not been able to retire as many of the large school buses as new vehicles were purchased because of the need to add additional routes to address overcrowding on existing routes. She said that last year, the district transported an average of 4,600 students daily. She said that this year the department was transporting 6,500 students each day.

She said that while she would like to see the district add four full size-buses next fall, in order to stay with budget parameters, her request was to purchase three new 84-passenger buses for the 2014-15 school year. She said that she planned to retire three large buses.

Ms. Crabtree said that even more pressing than the need for large buses was the need for special needs buses with a capacity of approximately 30 students. She said that special needs transportation was an area that had grown significantly over the past several years with additional riders and additional routes. She said that the department has no spare special needs buses and at one point had to send two Type-A buses of approximately 16 student capacity on a route because there were no larger, special needs buses available. She said that she was requesting three special need buses.

She said that the recommended purchase of three 84 passenger buses at approximately \$117,000 each and three special needs buses at approximately \$106,000 each would be within the budget for the 2014-15 school year.

Director Gordon asked if the district's insurance could include a premium through which the district could receive a new replacement vehicle in the event of the loss of a district bus. Mr. Allen said that he would investigate.

Director Gordon said that the Board thought highly of the previous transportation supervisor Chris Ellison and she had big shoes to fill. She said that she thought Ms. Crabtree had done a great job.

Director Smith asked about fuel costs. Ms. Crabtree said that while gasoline costs had declined as compared to the previous year, diesel fuel costs remained nearly the same. Mr. Allen said that the district participated in a fuel consortium with the county.

Director Utt asked of the impact on the transportation department of having West Albany High School participating in sports and activities at the 6A level. Ms. Crabtree said that she expected an increase in travel distances. She added that drivers out later than 10:00 p.m. would not be available to drive the following morning.

OTHER BUSINESS

TRANSPORTATION WRITTEN REPORT

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen delivered a report from the Transportation Department.

Board Chair Bricker said that next meeting of the School Board would be January 27, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Bricker adjourned the Board meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Frank Bricker, Board Chair

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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

Student Report
Maiya Hamilton and Alexis Jimenez
Memorial Middle School
January 13, 2014

Maiya: Good evening Mr. Chairman and other Board members. Thank you for having us here tonight. As Mr. Haggart has already said, I am Maiya Hamilton, and I am Alexis Jimenez. We are both students at Memorial Middle School, with only months to go until high school! But for now we are enjoying Memorial Middle School, which is not hard to do!

Alexis: Recently at Memorial, we added Bear Time which is a 50 minute period for an extra elective class. Some of these include, Choir, Robotics, IAMBICS poetry club, Field and Games, Basic Spanish, OBOB, Free Writing, Drama, Yearbook, Healthy Foods, and the new Garden and Orchard class. While these take place during Bear Time, there are others that are held during different points in the day. These include, Gym, Band, Advanced Band, Jazz band, Web Mentoring, and after school homework help. These activities help students boost self-confidence.

On November 19, the IAMBICS poetry club served taco soup for homeless people and performed pondulets. All three Robotics teams went to State and one even won a trophy! The Drama Club had their closing night for their Edgar Allen Poe play and the club is jumping right back with open auditions for their next play "A Dark and Stormy knight." To raise money for these plays, they hold fundraising craft fairs. The next craft fair will be on February 9.

Maiya: Leadership is a big hit among students and many applications were turned in for this upcoming semester. Students accepted into this program are in charge of organizing events such as assemblies, some fundraisers, dances and advertising them. Ending December 20, the Leadership class, exclusively eighth grader Avery Gill, held a fundraiser, "Brandon's Buddies." This fundraiser was to collect toys to donate to Doernbecher's Children's Hospital in memory of Brandon Aufranc, our Memorial student who passed away from cancer. This was the second year holding this amazing fundraiser. Many students put in a great effort to collect toys for the children of Doernbecher's Hospital.

Alexis: Also by the Leadership class, is a program called web mentoring. In this fun tradition, the new eighth grade Leadership students mentor the brand new sixth graders. It is a great idea and I remember my first day of sixth grade, when I didn't know my way around and the eighth graders were able to help me find my way and open my locker when I needed it.

Maiya: of this year, our grading system has changed. Instead of the 80-20%, we have three grades: Academics, Effort and Citizenship. The Academics grade is based upon tests, projects, and assessments. Homework is part of the Effort grade while the students' choices and conduct are part of the Citizenship grade. You might think that since the main grade is academic and based on tests, there isn't as much incentive to complete your homework. To compensate for this we have added an Effort room. To enter the room you have to have a gold card. I have been in the Effort room and it is really fun, complete with hot chocolate, couches and computers.

A student is eligible for a gold card only if your Effort grades (1-4) average out to at least 3.5. Other than the Effort room, there are additional perks for earning a gold card. These include getting out of sixth period 3 minutes early on Friday afternoon or getting a free pencil at the student store. Students have incentives to earn higher grades, make good effort, and make good choices in their behavior. It is a program that is liked by the students and can continue to work for Memorial. I mean, who doesn't want a gold card?

Alexis: "Since Memorial School's motto is "Where character Counts," we are especially big on character education. One way Memorial portrays that is by the Character Trait of the Month. Each month, a new trait is picked and is focused on during the whole month, complete with a quote and color. January's trait is integrity. At the end of each month, 2-3 excelling students from each grade that represented this quality the best are picked to be Students of the Month. I think this is an awesome thing because it is so much fun to be picked and who doesn't like to be appreciated?"

For an added incentive to be on time for class there will be a "Less Tardy" party. At the end of this month whichever grade has their tardiness down by at least 40 percent will receive a party.

Maiya: With all the rain and snow lately, we have all been daydreaming about the warmth of summer coming up in only a few short months. But a summer break isn't the only thing students look forward to, especially at Memorial. With our field trips, annual fun day, and eighth grade field trip we have voted on a movie at the Pix Theater and pizza in the park. It doesn't sound like much but I am really excited for it. Seventh graders will take their annual trip to the zoo and the sixth graders will have surprise! Also Memorial's 50th anniversary party will be this April. Can you believe that Memorial Middle School is really 50?! How time flies!

Alexis: In conclusion, as a district what do you think would represent us best, a glass cup or a block of wood?" In my opinion, we are the glass cup because we shine when raised to the sun in contrast to the block which is thick and not easy to let its light shine. As we strive to be the glass cups in everything we do, our district will shine with education.

Maiya: I look to my future with hope. I see myself graduating high school, going to college and having a happy life, I can relate this back to a great middle school with caring teachers and fun activities helping me to excel and love learning in all I do.

Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman and other Board members for having us here tonight. With only months to go until high school, I look forward to continuing my education with the Greater Albany School District; until then, my amazing middle school. Go Bears!