

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 2, 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	gave advance notice of her absence
Lyle Utt	Director
Micah Smith	Director
Nate Burman	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

Girl Scout Troop 20039 led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. Angelina Mitchell is the Troop Leader.

CORE PURPOSE/GOALS

Board Chair Frank 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
ADMINISTRATOR HIRES

Superintendent Maria Delapoer introduced Lisa Shogren and said that she is the current principal of Tadena Elementary and has been working in the curriculum department as a teacher on special assignment. She said that Ms. Shogren was hired to be the principal at Central Elementary as well as the principal at Tadena Elementary School.

Ms. Delapoer introduced Kraig Sproles who was hired as the principal of Liberty Elementary school. She said that Mr. Sproles is the current principal of Metzger Elementary in Tigard. He was previously the School Improvement Coordinator in the David Douglas School District.

She introduced Lori Greenfield whom she was recommending as the Elementary Curriculum Director. She said that Ms. Greenfield is the current principal of Sunrise Elementary School and was previously the School Improvement/Curriculum Director of the Central Linn School District.

Ms. Delapoer said that she was recommending Jason Hoffert-Hay as the Secondary Curriculum Director. She said that Mr. Hoffert-Hay is currently the principal of Timber Ridge School. She said that he was previously the principal of Clover Ridge School and helped the district open Timber Ridge School. Before that he was an assistant principal at Memorial Middle School and he served South Shore Elementary as fourth and fifth grade teacher.

She said that John Hunter was being recommended as the principal of Albany Options School. She said that he is currently an assistant principal at West Albany High School. He was previously a principal at Central and Tadena Elementary Schools, and was also an assistant principal and athletic director at South Albany High School.

Ms. Delapoer said that the Board would have the opportunity to confirm the appointments at the Consent Agenda.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Glenda Costain of 3195 Fir Oaks Drive SW in Albany said that she is part of the committee that is examining potential improvements to facilities for West Albany High School athletics and activities. She said that she was examining the possibility of a grass field for soccer. She asked of the status of the irrigation wells at West Albany High School.

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that the district has the necessary permits and he hoped to start drilling irrigation wells this summer. He said that the facilities department was finalizing the bids. He said that he would return to the Board soon to seek funding for that work. He noted that in the meantime, the school still had the same city water source it has had for years.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BUDGET

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that he would summarize recommended changes to the budget. He said that at the second meeting in June, when staff would bring the budget to the Board for adoption, he would also bring a recommended change to the ending fund balance.

He explained that there were several things that went into the ending fund balance with the largest element being the amount of carryover requested by the buildings. He said that principals were permitted to carryover up to 20 percent of their budget. He said that when the business office initially estimates the ending fund balance, it assumes that the schools will spend their allocation. He said that when schools carryover funds, it is a reduction to expenditures and therefore an increase in the ending fund balance. Mr. Allen stated that if there were additional changes to the fund balance, they would also be made at the last meeting in June.

Mr. Allen said that changes to the fund balance also occurred due to changes to the close-out of the 2012-13 school year at the state level, and changes to either revenue or expenditure estimates for the 2013-14 school year at the district level. He said that Controller Ashley Netzel was currently finalizing her estimates for the 2013-14 school year.

He said that he received information from the state relative to the 2012-13 budget. He said that an additional \$700,889 came to Albany when the state budget was closed out. He said that the Superintendent had recommendations as to how to spend that money. He stated that the recommendations were focused purposefully on non-staff items. He recalled that the budget committee had previously voiced concerns about the increase in staff vs. non-staff spending ratio. He said that because staff viewed the \$700,000 as one-time revenue, all of the recommendations were for high priority, non-staff, needs. He said that the document in the Board packet identified the recommendations.

Director Boehme asked of the line item identified as “District/Building Purchasing Partnerships.” Mr. Allen replied that there were certain items which the district office would subsidize for the buildings, either because they were large-ticket items that the buildings could ill afford to pay for on their own or things that the district wished to standardize. He cited carpeting, window coverings and stage curtains as examples.

Director Smith asked how the line item identified as “All-day Kindergarten Classroom Equipment” would be spent. Ms. Delapoer said that the spending would be for what the district had identified as 13 additional sections of kindergarten beginning in 2015. Mr. Allen clarified that all-day kindergarten would begin for the 2015-16 school year, but the district could purchase the necessary equipment and materials near the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Director Utt asked of the line item for “Wireless Infrastructure Improvement.” Mr. Allen responded.

BUDGET HEARING

Board Chair Bricker noted the time as 7:10 p.m. He stated that he would set aside any business or report items and conduct a public hearing on the 2014-15 budget approved by the Budget Committee on May 5, 2014.

Board Chair Bricker asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the Greater Albany Public School District’s 2014/2015 Approved Budget. There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Allen noted that a public notice appeared recently in the Albany Democrat Herald newspaper.

Board Chair Bricker closed the budget hearing. He said that the Directors would resume the Regular Board Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from May 12, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel (with Addendum)
- 3) City Pool Lease
- 4) School Bus Financing

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 Chair Bricker congratulated the administrators on their new assignments.

BOARD REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None.

STUDENT REPORT

South Albany High School Student Board Member Jessica Dilbone said that the last few weeks were busy. She said that two hurdlers and one pole vaulter from the track team went to the state meet. She said that the prom was held on the Oregon State University campus. She said that the week also included Advanced Placement exams and the awards assembly. She said that Aaron Kraft was selected as the valedictorian and she and Carson Wetherell were named as co-salutatorians. She said that the school had their Homegoing assembly where Mrs. Kraft was crowned as the Homegoing Queen because she is leaving the school. She said that the juniors won the powder puff football game.

She said that June 4 would be the last day for seniors and graduation would be June 10.

West Albany High School Student Board member Nate Burman said that the baseball and softball teams wrapped up their seasons as they were eliminated in their post-season competitions. He said that the boys 4x100 team took first in the state track competition. He said that the last day for seniors would be June 3 and graduation would be June 5.

Board Chair Bricker thanked the students for their reports.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

None.

REPORTS

FACILITIES ASSESSMENT PLAN

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that he would discuss the option of contracting with a firm to conduct a district facilities assessment. He said that he would begin the discussion with a timeline.

He said that the last tax bill for the school district's current bond would occur in November 2016. He said that if a new bond was to replace all or part of the existing levy then November 2016 would be the preferred election to place the question before the voters.

Mr. Allen said that the district still had significant facility needs, which may not be as obvious as they were ten years ago. He said that the needs were both from an infrastructure standpoint and from an educational point of view.

He said that the packet included a timeline for the Pendleton School District. He said that if one added three years to the Pendleton timeline, that would be June 2014, where the district was now. He said that if November 2016 was the goal, then the district was at the starting line.

Mr. Allen said that he anticipated that there would be interest by the Board in establishing some kind of Facilities Advisory Committee to examine the district's needs and determine whether there was a need for the Board to ask the voters for additional funds.

He said that the intent was not to usurp what that group might do, but the thought was to create a base upon which the committee could work. He said that he reviewed the approximately 15 school districts which were successful in passing bonds over the past several years and a common theme was that they started the process by contracting with a firm to perform a facilities assessment. He said that assessment would determine those things for which there was a deficiency such as a leaking roof. He said that another kind of deficiency might be that the classrooms were configured incorrectly or that they were too small. Mr. Allen said that as an example, he provided several pages of a study done on Cheldelin Middle School in Corvallis.

Mr. Allen said that the Facilities Department believed that its employees were not the best persons to look for all the kinds of things an architect or engineering firm might look for. He added that the department believed that until they completed the work with McKinstry, they would not be able to make a facilities survey themselves.

He suggested that the Board look at bringing in a firm to examine the district properties. He said that the district could determine the level of detail the firm would go to. He said that the results of that review would then be handed off to a Facilities Advisory Committee which would have a base from which to begin.

Director Boehme asked about the potential cost. Mr. Allen said that Corvallis spent \$145,000 for an incredibly detailed report, but other schools spent less. He said that another option would be

what he described as a "Reverse RFP" for which one would identify a maximum figure and then ask firms to indicate what they could do for that amount.

Director Boehme asked of the listing of unfunded projects from the 2006 school bond. Mr. Allen replied that some of those projects remained but the costs would have to be reevaluated. Director Smith said that having a neutral party conduct the investigation would make sense. He said that he was intrigued by the Reverse RFP option.

Director Smith asked of compression for taxes. Mr. Allen said that general obligation bonds were not subject to compression.

Director Utt said that he agreed with calling in an outside consultant. He recalled that for the 2006 bond, the district used an outside agency to project enrollment.

Mr. Allen emphasized that he believed that there were significant facility needs, although they might be less apparent.

Board Chair Bricker asked that the matter be returned to the Board at the next meeting as New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

LANGUAGE ARTS MATERIALS ADOPTION

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo introduced Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Peggy Blair, and Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Tonja Everest, and said that they would provide the staff recommendations for the purchase of English/Language Arts textbooks and related materials for grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Ms. Blair said that she was excited to recommend the Language Arts materials to the Board. She said that her discussion would begin with the high school level. She explained that this was the next step in a process that started in 2010 and 2011. She said that the state adopted the Common Core Language Arts standards in 2010. In 2011 and 2012 district committees were created to closely investigate the standards and write the district pacing guides. She said that teachers at the secondary level have been using the Common Core standards for the past several years. She said that teachers were very excited to have the opportunity to examine the new materials.

She discussed the process used in selecting new materials. She said that the committee examined the materials reviewed by the state and then ordered preview samples. She said that at the secondary level there were middle school and high school committees. She said that the middle school committee included a representative from each grade level from every school. At the high school level there was representative from each grade level from the two high schools. She said that Albany Options School had two representatives. She said that some teachers wore two hats so there was representation from special education, ELD, and advanced placement programs. The work began in February 2014 and concluded in May.

Ms. Blair said that at the first meeting, the committee did not look at the materials at all. Instead, participants spend a lot of time reviewing what the standards were asking of our students. She said

that the committee examined the things that were really different for students and identified the places where current resources were not providing the kind of learning support that kids would need to reach the standards.

She said that the next thing the committee did was chose an evaluation tool because the selection of materials was such an important decision. She said that materials are very expensive and teachers took their role very seriously.

Ms. Blair said that teachers considered a variety of evaluation tools and selected the “Tool Kit for Evaluating Alignment of Instruction and Assessment Materials to the Common Core Standards.” She said that the teachers considered how the standards aligned to the materials as a whole, how the materials aligned on a unit or lesson basis, and how the materials aligned to assessments.

She said that teachers did their first review of the instructional materials using the evaluation tools and trimmed the high school choices to two and the middle school options to three. She said that the textbook company representatives were invited to describe how the textbooks were developed.

Ms. Blair said that the high school selection was unanimous, and the middle school selection was by majority vote, but everyone agreed to live with the choices. She said that the series selected was “Collections” by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt publishers. She said that one of the most exciting things was that the middle school and high school teachers were recommending the same textbook series. She said those series would provide a continuation of approach to learning, reading, and writing in grades 6-12.

She explained that Collections was a new textbook series that did not exist before the Common Core. She said that the authors examined the Common Core standards and designed the instructional framework. She said that the authors then designed the technology and the print materials over the top of the framework.

Ms. Blair said that the readings included new pieces of literature and some old standbys. She said that they were arranged so that within each textbook there was an anchor text, which was the core text used to teach the standards. She said that there were additional pieces of literature that were within the same theme. She said that the end of each unit had a performance task that students would have to do. She said that those tasks were designed to be very similar to the performance tasks students would take as part of the Smarter Balanced assessments.

She said that she saw more use of technology in all of the sample materials that she has ever seen before in a textbook adoption and she has been around 40 years. She said that the authors looked at technology as part of the way to deliver instruction. She said that was important as the standards demanded that students use technology. She provided examples for several grade levels.

Ms. Blair said that teachers believed that this textbook series would be the best for kids. She thanked the teachers and principals for their work in this process.

Elementary Curriculum Director Tonja Everest said that the most exciting part of the elementary materials selection was that they were constructed in a manner in alignment to the grades 6-12

materials. She said that the effect would be that the district would have curriculum in grades K-12 that was in alignment. She said that the elementary teachers used a similar process and similar evaluation tools to those used by the secondary teachers.

She said that she was recommending a two-year rollout in teaching to the Common Core at the elementary level. She explained that elementary teachers did not begin really delving into the Language Arts Common Core standards until this year. She said that teachers needed an additional year to learn the state standards. She said that a slower roll-out would permit select teachers to work out the problems of implementing of the standards and provide recommendations to the curriculum department to smooth the transition for the full roll-out.

Director Smith asked if elementary children could wait until the second year for a delayed roll-out of the Common Core curriculum. Ms. Everest responded that teachers began learning the standards this year through professional development opportunities and during the Professional Learning Communities on Early Release Wednesdays. She said that the work would continue.

Ms. Blair said that changes to the standards caused some learning objectives to be moved down to lower grades. She provided an example.

Ms. Everest said that teachers were focusing on the process. She said that one of the things that made the Common Core different was that it required children to do more thinking and reasoning. She said that in the past, the answer was right there in the text, but the Common Core asks even young children to understand the structure and beauty of language.

Board Chair Bricker asked if the elementary texts would have the same kind of assessments at the end of the lesson that the children would see during the Smarter Balanced assessments. Ms. Everest said that they would. Ms. Blair elaborated.

Board Chair Bricker said that he had the same concerns as Director Smith of a delay in the introduction of the new material because the district would begin the Smarter Balanced assessments during the following year. He said that he did not want any children to fall behind in their instruction. Ms. Everest said that all of the students would learn under the same structure.

Board Chair Bricker asked of the percentage of the classrooms that would receive the new materials in the first year. Ms. Everest said that the district has 150 elementary classrooms and at least 50 would get the new material during the first year. Ms. Blair said that there was wisdom in the structure.

Director Boehme asked if the Language Arts purchase was in the 2013-14 budget. Ms. Delapoeer replied that the purchase would be over two years.

Director Boehme asked if the district's schedule for instructional material purchases matched the state cycle. Ms. Blair said that the district matched the state cycle.

Ms. Delapoeer said that the skills and how the material will be taught and assessed would be the same across the district regardless of the materials. She said that even if the stories were different,

the same skill sets would be taught and the same standards would be assessed.

Director Smith said that he was concerned about the 100 classrooms which would not get the new materials until the second year. He asked if the students would also get new material in another content area that same year. He said that he was concerned that the district would get off the new materials cycle. Ms. Blair said that next year's state cycle would concern only English Language Learners. She said that subsequent years would consider science and then math.

Director Smith asked if the purchase included the \$200,000 Mr. Allen discussed in his recommended changes to the budget. Mr. Allen replied that the district had enough money in the budget for the materials adoption, but there was a need for supplemental materials.

Director Utt said that a frustration as a parent was identifying where the electronic information was available.

Action: Director Smith moved to approve the purchase of Language Arts materials for elementary and secondary instruction in the amount of \$1,231,135. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

SOUTH ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL TURF FIELD

South Albany High School principal Brent Belveal said that he would provide an update on a proposal to install a turf field at South Albany High School. He referred to the handout he provided at Board member places.

He said that when he first began the proposal in March, he looked at a project cost of \$900,000. He said that he believed he could secure \$300,000 in in-kind donations, \$100,000 in cash donations, and would need a \$500,000 loan over eight years. He said that as he has worked through the process, several things changed. He said that the in-kind donations would be less than he anticipated, the district contribution would be less than he thought, and the cash donations were larger than he expected.

Mr. Belveal explained that the cost of the project had gone up because the actual size of the field was larger than the original estimate.

He spoke of the in-kind donations. He said that the decision was made to use a single contractor who was experienced in the project. He said that it would be more expensive than volunteers with garden tractors and shovels, but the finished product would be better.

Mr. Belveal said that cash donations received were \$130,000 more than the original proposal. He said that the community was very generous and large donors came in with more than originally anticipated.

He said that the loan amount would be about the same as his original proposal. He explained that the two loans were split out, one loan for the district and one loan for the Turf4Kids Foundation. He said that loans were secured with much of that at zero percent interest. He said that payment sources were identified and the committee was ready to move forward.

Mr. Belveal said that he was anticipating good weather so there was some urgency on the project. He wished to get started on the preliminary work as soon as possible. He said that he was working on the final terms with Field Turf. He said that he wished to begin excavation and construction about June 18. He said that he wanted to install turf between mid-July through August. He said that the first official use of the field would be the home football game on September 12. He requested final approval.

Action: Director Smith moved to approve the construction of a turf field at South Albany High School. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Chair Bricker thanked the committee members for their work.

NEW BUSINESS

ALBANY ONLINE INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFER OPENINGS

Assistant Superintendent Frank Caropelo recalled that earlier in the year, the procedures for inter-district transfers had changed, requiring the Board to allocate transfer seats. He said that those allocations could be by program. He recommended that the Board allocate 30 openings for the Albany Online program for students living outside the school district boundaries who request inter-district transfers into the program.

Board Chair Bricker directed that the matter be returned to the Board at the Consent Agenda.

WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that he would discuss the 2014-15 Workers Compensation proposal provided by the SAIF Corporation. He said that he did not go out and solicit bids from other sources this year. He said that was a typical practice as SAIF has provided good service in the past.

He explained that the rates were based upon the district's Experience Modifier. He said that partially as the result of a single large accident, the district was laboring under a high Experience Modifier. He said that the district's modifier dropped last year and dropped again this year. He said that a ".79" experience modifier was fantastic and it was an indication of the fine work of the safety committee. He said that the quote of total premiums and assessment was \$231,596. He said that the quote this year was less than the rate last year.

He requested that the Board take action at this session.

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen delivered a quote for 2014-15 Property and Casualty insurance proposal received from Property and Casualty Coverage for Education. He noted that the company was the only organization providing that insurance to school districts. He said that that the cost had gone up by five percent from the previous year due to system-wide losses across the state.

Director Smith moved to accept the quotes for workers compensation and property and casualty insurances as presented. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS

FAREWELL STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Superintendent Delapoer said that Student Board Member Jessica Dilbone was a twelfth grader and was completing her term with the Board. She thanked Miss Dilbone for her service to the district.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Bricker said that the next meeting would be a joint session with the Albany City Council on June 23, 2014.

Board Chair Bricker adjourned the Board meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Frank Bricker, Board Chair

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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