

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

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

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| Jerry Boehme | Board Chair |
| Micah Smith | Board Vice Chair |
| Frank Bricker | Director |
| Sandi Gordon | gave advance notice of her absence |
| Lyle Utt | Director |
| Stephanie Dilbone | Student Board Member |
| Nate Burman | Student Board Member |
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| Maria Delapoer | Superintendent |
| Tonja Everest | 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 Boehme led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORE PURPOSE/GOALS

Student Board Member Nate Burman 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

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that the Red Canoe Credit Union conducted a school supply drive in August and materials collected were shared with the district's FACT Office. She said that in addition to the classroom materials gathered, Red Canoe Credit Union matched the number of pounds collected with a cash contribution. She said that a representative of the credit union was unable to attend that Board meeting but she received checks totaling \$2,932 from the credit union. She said that the money would also go to the FACT office.

She said that the display in the lobby identified the many services of the FACT Program and Welcome Center.

STUDENT ALL-STARS

Colton Buck and KC Fili of Albany Options School and Kaley Schmidt, Tyler Whittaker and Stephanie Dilbone of South Albany High School were recognized. Han Zue, Logan Slayter and Cramer Strader-Sprague of West Albany High School were also honored.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from September 22, 2014 Board Work Session
- 2) Minutes from September 22, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
- 3) Personnel (with Addendum)
- 4) Achievement Compact

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

BOARD REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart said that the district had received three applications for the District Facilities Advisory Committee. He said that each person appeared to be very talented. He said that the application would be posted on the district home page after the completion of the Superintendent Search questionnaire.

Mr. Haggart said that Window to Leadership contractors Susan Waddell and Greg McKenzie conducted nine focus sessions with students; administrative, certified, classified and confidential employees; parents; volunteers and community members seeking their input on what the district was doing well, what needed more attention, the vision for the future and qualities the next superintendent should have. He said that there was also a site on the district homepage where individuals could provide their inputs. Mr. Haggart said that the site would remain open until

October 23 after which Mr. McKenzie would summarize the comments for a report to the Board on October 27. He said that as of October 10, the site had received comments from more than 50 people.

Director Smith said that he and Business and Operations Director Russ Allen participated in the Sodexo Food Service expectation meeting. He said that current Food Service Director Sharon Short would be leaving the district. He said that Sodexo would come to the district with a process and timeline to replace Ms. Short.

Director Smith spoke of school safety and stated that the Albany Police Department had contacted him about the district assisting the department in sending School Resource Officers to a very valuable school safety training. He said that the sessions would include lessons learned from other school shooting incidents. He suggested using approximately \$1,000 of the Board's training money for that instruction. Board members nodded in agreement.

Director Bricker said that it appeared that the Pinnacle Parent Portal would be continued. He said that it appeared that the person who wrote the code for the Pinnacle Parent Portal would buy the rights to the program and continue its availability.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Board Chair Boehme said that he observed a Professional Learning Community session at Lafayette Elementary School on October 8. He said that teachers reviewed data and discussed how they would address individual student instruction. He said that the work was very encouraging.

STUDENT REPORTS

West Albany High School Student Board Member Nate Burman said that during the previous Saturday, West Albany High School students took the SAT exam at Crescent Valley High School. He said that his school would host the PSAT on their own campus on October 15. He said that the boys soccer team participated in their last home competition and tied the game in the last 1.7 seconds. He said that there would be a jazz concert from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. on October 14. He said that the choir concert would be October 23.

South Albany High School Student Board Member Stephanie Dilbone said that her school held a "Pink-Out" during the football game and raised a lot of money for cancer survivor Ms. Roper. She said that the volleyball "Pink-Out" game would be October 14. She said that the football team had a 3-1 record and the boys soccer team was 4-2. She said that boys cross country team was doing very well and expected to send runners to State this year. She said that her school would also host the PSAT on October 15. She said that the exam was required of all sophomores. She said that homecoming would be the following week and events would include dress-up day, lumberjack day, and Oregon team jersey day.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN* ***ENROLLMENT AND CLASS SIZES**

Human Resources Director Randy Lary said that he would provide data regarding school enrollment and classroom average sizes. He said that it was an annual report. He referred to information in the Board packet and said that middle school data was gleaned from the student

information system. He emphasized that the numbers were averages and he explained that there were a number of factors that would impact those averages. He said that factors would include overall enrollment and the number of sections assigned by the principal. He said that the numbers in parenthesis indicted the changes from the previous year.

He said that the report included class size information at the elementary level. He noted that in past years, staff reported on the number of grade-year blends. He said that this year there were no elementary blended classes. He explained, however, that removing the blended classes might cause a greater range of class sizes as the purpose of grade blending was to even class sizes. He said that Student Services Director Heather Huzefka worked with principals to find a place for every child.

Director Utt noted that the report indicated a high of 37 students at the fifth grade level. Mr. Lary replied that it was a single class in the dual language program at South Shore Elementary School. He said that a document at Board member places provided greater detail as to class sizes at each school.

Mr. Lary said that the district collected enrollment information weekly. He said that the business office was always comparing enrollment with projections.

Director Smith asked how current kindergarten enrollment would translate into first grade numbers. He also asked of projected full-day kindergarten enrollment next year. Superintendent Delapoer replied that other districts have experienced that full-day kindergarten draws greater enrollment. She estimated that Greater Albany would also enroll more kinders next year.

Director Utt asked for an estimate of the additional revenue the district could have received if the district had offered full-day kindergarten this year. Mr. Allen said that he would research that information.

TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen introduced Technology Director Richard Thomas and said that he would provide information regarding performance measures as well as department accomplishments in furthering district instructional technology efforts.

Mr. Thomas said that his department took on more summer work than was typical for a summer but the district had many instructional needs. He said that in addition to the migration information he provided in the Board packet, he wished to describe the increase in system usage. He said that the expansion of wireless systems meant that his department was seeing 1,100 - 1,500 devices connecting to the WiFi network every day. He said that was in addition to the 4,000 computers district-wide.

He explained that one of the instructional issues was that staff members connecting to the wireless network were seen as students and were subjected to student filters. He said that the change from Novell Network to Microsoft Active Director had yielded better results. He explained that previously the Microsoft system was too expensive.

Mr. Allen noted that previously students and staff were viewed by the server as the same and provided the same level of access. He asked what had changed. Mr. Thomas replied that the new system had engineered “plug-ins” that worked with Microsoft so that when a staff member logged into the network, the person could use the same login on a wireless device. He said that the wireless device would communicate with the wireless network which would then connect with the Microsoft network and pass user information through. He said that wireless staff members would then have access to the same level of wired staff member information.

Mr. Thomas spoke of staff challenges. He said that one employee moved to another state and one summer employee was accepted into a nursing program and left a month early.

He said that because the previous school year was extended further into June, his available summer work period was shorter. He said that meant that many of the work orders he normally would have been able to address piled up instead.

Mr. Thomas said that he department was making progress on work orders. He said that instead of the typical 400 open work orders, his office had it down to 233. He said that a new staff member was further attacking those work orders.

Director Utt commended Mr. Thomas for the amount of work his staff completed.

Director Smith asked about Google Apps for Education. Mr. Thomas said that almost everything his office does is with Google Docs because of the collaborative nature of the system. He said that the district had the storage space available and therefore he did not see a need for additional servers. He said that Google recently announced that it would move to unlimited space for education.

Director Smith said that staff cannot enter the “S” drive from home but they can access Google drive from everywhere. Mr. Thomas responded.

Mr. Allen said that Greater Albany was ahead of most districts in the state as far as what is now available in a network infrastructure.

Ms. Delapoer said that the department was also examining the way work orders were processed. Mr. Allen said that the goal was improving communication with the buildings.

Director Smith asked about technology staff. Mr. Thomas said that one new person would start next week and his team would then be fully staffed.

Director Smith asked about staff numbers over time. Mr. Allen replied said that total staff numbers were higher than at any time during the past ten years. He said that he could not address staff to computer ratios. Ms. Delapoer said that as the district grew in its use of technology, it would require a larger technology staff to maintain that equipment. She said that staff was looking into having a class for high school students and consultant Jerry McIntosh would facilitate that discussion with the high schools. She said that she hoped to have a class up and running next semester at each high school.

Director Smith said that he benefitted greatly his own high school experience at the student help desk. He said that those students in a similar role would be a great force multiplier.

Director Utt said that students with IT experience could easily find part-time employment at any university.

Director Smith said that it was important that the network be available not at the start of school but when the teachers return prior to the start of school. He said that the week before school starts is coveted teacher preparation time.

Board Chair Boehme said that the words he heard from many teachers was, “This was a rough start of the school year.”

Director Bricker suggested that the district budget money for additional summer technology help.

REPORTS

STATE REPORT CARDS

Student Services Coordinator Heather Huzefka said that she would report on the State Report Cards. She said that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) publicly released school and district report cards on October 9, 2014. She said that Liberty Elementary School principal Kraig Sproles would later provide a short presentation to illustrate how the staff at his school uses OAKS data to create an instructional focus.

She emphasized that ODE indicates on every report card that the rating is based mainly on high stakes testing and accordingly represents a limited view of student performance. She said that the Instruction Department considers report cards as a jumping off point for conversations with principals about programs within their buildings.

Ms. Huzefka said that once again, Oak Grove Elementary and West Albany High School earned a Level 5 rating placing them “above average” as compared to all schools and more importantly, against their comparison schools. She said that South Albany High School, in comparison to high schools with similar demographics, was also rated as “above average.”

She said that fifteen of the district schools retained or increased their overall state rating. Of the five schools that dropped in their ranking, all were still at Level 3. She explained that Level 3 meant that the school’s score fell between 15 - 44% of all schools and Level 4 meant that the school’s scores fell between 44 - 90% of all schools. She said that they were very broad ranges and that caused staff to dig more deeply. She noted, for example, that Albany Options School had a 16% increase in the number of its students attending school at least 90% of the time. She said that attendance was important because if children were not coming to school they would likely struggle in their academic growth.

Director Bricker asked when the report cards would come out after the introduction of the Smarter Balanced testing. Ms. Huzefka did not know.

Board Chair Boehme noted that some schools were struggling. He asked what the district was doing. Ms. Huzefka said that she attends all of the levels meetings and data and programs are being discussed. She said that principals viewed student attendance as a big piece. She said that sub-group populations would be a focus.

Ms. Delapoer said that economically disadvantaged students continue to struggle. She said that a number of administrators and teachers were attending training to better work with students of poverty. She said that student attendance was often a part of that and the AVID program would address some of those kind of issues. She said that the district needed to get more specific on working with student sub-groups.

She said that Lafayette Elementary School was a Focus School and staff has been receiving coaching and staff development training through prescribed kinds of programs.

Board Chair Boehme said that the district had the same kinds of discussions five years ago. He said that he understood that those economic conditions were unchanged but he asked if the district was attacking the challenges correctly.

Ms. Huzefka referred to Board Chair Boehme's visit to Lafayette Elementary School and his observations of teachers in Professional Learning Communities as compared to several years ago when she was the principal. She said that the training teachers are receiving is raising the instructional bar. She said that current Principal Gina Ayers brought on a math coach who transformed work at the school. She said that the school recently added a reading coach. She said that many teachers worked during the summer to improve their instructional practices.

Director Bricker noted that as all schools across the state improve, some schools might be incorrectly viewed as declining if they were not advancing as fast as other schools across the state.

Board Chair Boehme said that he was concerned about schools which were behind. Ms. Delapoer responded that oversight of the schools has increased over the years. She said that the prescriptive things were put into place regarding professional development, implementing the Common Core, providing pacing guides for certain subjects, and the teacher and principal evaluation system. She said that student growth at the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) schools was far outpacing schools which did not have the teacher evaluation rubric.

Superintendent Delapoer invited Liberty Elementary School principal Kraig Sproles to describe how his school uses OAKS assessment data to improve instruction.

Mr. Sproles delivered a slide presentation. He said that Liberty Elementary has a history as a high performing school with a strong school community. He said that his staff wanted to balance celebrating who they are and the successes they have had, with being unafraid to look at data and say there was room for growth.

He said that the objective was to use the information to examine historical data and begin to articulate next steps and their shared instructional focus. He said that teachers shared discussions

with their colleagues and then wrote “If...Then...” statements such as “If we do “X” then our students will do “Y.”

Mr. Sproles said that it was important to look at results over time as OAKS scores were not just a one-time test. He provided a graph which indicated improvement in reading and math scores over the past six years.

He said, however, that the report card indicated an area of concern; students who were economically disadvantaged. He said that Liberty was not a Title school with a high percentage of students eligible for the free and reduced fee meals program. He said that he compared the test scores of the free and reduced fee students with the non-free and reduced fee students. He said that the results indicated a gap in student performance. He said that in 2010-11 there was a 31 % gap in the percentage of students who passed the math OAKS test. In 2011-12 the difference was 30 % and in 2012-13 the difference was reduced to 24 %. He emphasized, however, that he did not want to say that student performance was related to family income. He said that income was not a predictor. He said that research indicated that the most powerful impact upon student learning was the classroom teacher.

Ms. Delapoer asked for a specific of what the school might be doing to improve student performance. Mr. Sproles said that it was not an individual teacher who produced an achievement gap. Rather it was a structural gap. He said that the school has a math enrichment time where teachers kept the children who were performing at or above grade level and the students who needed extra help were sent out to a support teacher. He said that he reversed that so the teachers could keep the children who were struggling and the enriched students went to another classroom. He said that the school also increased its reading interventions. He said that the Kindergarten Readiness Assessments give him an early idea of children who will additional help.

Director Smith asked about the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. He asked if teachers told parents that their kids were behind and would struggle in reading. Mr. Sproles responded. Ms. Delapoer said that some of that information would be shared with parents at conferences.

Director Smith asked about parent participation at conferences. Ms. Delapoer said that nearly all elementary parents attend. Mr. Sproles said that his school was seeking 100% parent participation.

Director Bricker asked about cohort data. Mr. Sproles said that he did not have that information but there was little turnover at Liberty School.

Student Board Member Nate Burman said that it was awesome that schools were involving parents.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that he was recommending a Budget Committee

calendar. He clarified that the first meeting on the calendar was November 5, 2014 but the document would go to the committee as a recommendation and the committee members would formally adopt the calendar. He said that the first session would begin with a review of recommendations generated at the September 22, 2014 Work Session as well as a district financial update.

Board Chair Boehme said that the calendar looked fine to him.

Action: Director Smith moved to approve the Budget Committee calendar as presented. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

2014/15 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that he was recommending that the Board adopt a slightly revised 2014/15 Budget Resolution appropriating funds. He said that no dollar amounts were impacted; only a change to how the South Albany Turf Field funds were categorized to accurately reflect how the dollars were budgeted. He explained that rather than have all \$215,000 categorized as Debt Service, only \$15,000 should be Debt Service with the balance (\$200,000) categorized as Facilities Acquisition/Construction.

Board Chair Boehme directed that the topic be moved to the Consent Agenda of the next meeting.

PROMISE OF OREGON RESOLUTION

Superintendent Maria Delapoer spoke of “The Promise of Oregon” campaign which aims to create a groundswell of public support for K-14 education in meeting the 40-40-20 goals and lifting student achievement and graduation rates. She requested the Board’s endorsement of Resolution 14/15-5 supporting “The Promise of Oregon.”

Director Utt said that the effort was to communicate with the general public the value of public education.

Director Bricker said that he agreed with the objective but suggested that resolutions such as this were not worth the Board’s time.

Action: Director Smith moved to approve the Resolution 14/15-5 as presented. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS ***STAFF REPORT***

Human Resources Director Randy Lary provided a summary of experience and educational levels for certified staff hired this year. He noted that district hired 75 new educators.

Board Chair Boehme said that he was impressed with the quality of the new teachers.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Boehme said that the next Regular Board Meeting would be October 27, 2014. He said that Director Bricker and Director Gordon would participate in the October 21 AIM Meeting. He said that the Oregon School Boards Association conference would be 14-16 November, 2014.

Board Chair Boehme adjourned the Board meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Jerry Boehme, Board Chair

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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