

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2015 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.

Jerry Boehme	Board Chair
Micah Smith	Board Vice Chair
Frank Bricker	Director
Sandi Gordon	Director
Lyle Utt	Director
Stephanie Dilbone	Student Board Member
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

Director Smith 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

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart directed the Board's attention to a poster in the Weatherford Room behind the Directors. He said that the poster which read "Thank You for the Im'Prints' You Leave on Our Learning" was prepared by Clover Ridge Elementary School and included a fingerprint of each student.

STUDENT ALL - STARS

Alice Whiteside, Cadence Pritchard, Abraham Bartholomen and Kenzie Harris of Central Elementary School and Joey Wheeler Markham, Abby Gish, Alexis Franklin and Matthew Manske of Takena Elementary School were recognized. Gabriel Callow and Julia Goode of Waverly Elementary School were also honored.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Laurie Dunmire, Executive Director of the Community Before & After School Child Care Program, 250 Broadalbin Street SW in Albany, addressed the Board. She said that the Community Before & After School Child Care Program was a private, non-profit child care organization, and the only state certified and licensed child care after-school program in Albany. She said that CAP was governed by a committed and dedicated board of directors.

She said that CAP was a very grateful recipient of a long-standing relationship and partnership with the Greater Albany School District. She said that for nearly 27 years, CAP has provided child care for Greater Albany elementary-age children and their working parents before and after school, as well as during the day for kindergartners. She said that this wide-range partnership had generously provided CAP with the use of school classrooms and cafeteria space, land-use for a modular building, busing service to and from each CAP site, nutrition services for the after-school supper program, and free summer food service during CAP's summertime program. She said that CAP currently serves 503 children and their families at six elementary school locations.

She said, however, that with schools operating beyond capacity combined with all-day kindergarten beginning in 2015-16, the uncertainty of CAP reaching its 28th year weighed heavily on her mind. She said that recently she met with several school principals to discuss a possible solution that would include a mobile site at selected schools with dedicated cafeterias.

Ms. Dunmire said that the most crucial concern was in maintaining child care services to the combined 140 children from North Albany and Oak Grove Elementary Schools and the 70 children from Clover Ridge Elementary schools. She said that it was because of the district's commitment to excellence both for its students and the community that CAP owed its very existence and continued success. She requested that the Board consider the CAP organization in its many difficult and challenging space-needs considerations.

Rene Smith, Executive Director of the Family Tree Relief Nursery, 1005 Springhill Drive in Albany also addressed the Board. She said that Family Tree was a child abuse prevention and early childhood education agency which worked with high risk families to help prepare children to be future Greater Albany students. She said that over the last ten years, her organization helped

more than 1,000 children from chaotic families transition into kindergarten students. She said that during the past three years, her agency had the pleasure of operating out of the Fairmount building. She said that Family Tree helps stabilize families so that parents can work on the early literacy foundations with their children. She said that 100% of her students were from poverty, 90% were from families of drug or alcohol abuse, 80% were from families of physical abuse or violence, and 70% were from families of untreated mental health issues. She said that her agency helped adults bond with their children, read with their children, and ensure that their children had adequate health care resources.

She acknowledged that the Board had difficult choices ahead and noted that her agency's lease would expire on June 30. She said that if the Family Tree Relief Nursery had to seek another location, it would mean a disruption to the 100 children who were presently preparing to enter Greater Albany Schools. She asked that Board to consider the Family Tree Relief Nursery in its plans for the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from January 26, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel (with Addendum)
- 3) June Board Meeting date
- 4) Financial Audit
- 5) *KL, Public Complaints*

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

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that the Legislature was in session with 400 bills relating to education. She said that the Co-Chair's Budget would provide more to the State School Fund than the Governor's budget, but both would mean less money per student than the district needed.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Smith said that he was a safety observer for "Polar Plunge" fundraising event for the Special Olympics. He said that there was a great turnout by South Albany and West Albany High School students.

STUDENT REPORT

South Albany High School Student Board Member Stephanie Dilbone said that the dance and cheer squads took first and second places in their competitions during the past two weekends. She said that swim and wrestling district competitions were coming this week.

REPORTS

WEST ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX

Superintendent Delapoer introduced West Albany High School principal Susie Orsborn and said that she would discuss a proposal for improvements to her school's athletic facilities.

Ms. Orsborn recalled that she had spoken to the Board last spring and said that she was back to ask the Board's permission to begin fund raising for the West Albany sports complex. She said that she had with her that evening, 1987 West Albany High School graduate Pat Richards.

Mr. Richards said that when he addressed the Board in June he stated that he wanted to examine the feasibility of making upgrades to the West Albany complex which serves West Albany High School, Memorial Middle School and Liberty Elementary School. He recalled that he wanted to take the time to develop a comprehensive view of the needs and existing assets.

He said that he prepared a comprehensive plan to address both artificial and natural surfaces. He said that he was proposing an artificial surface baseball field and an artificial surface softball field. He said that he also examined an artificial surface for the playing field at Memorial Stadium and an artificial surface for a multi-use field behind the high school.

Mr. Richards said that as everyone learned from the construction of the turf field at South Albany High School, one needed a place to put a lot of dirt. He said that part of the value engineering of the artificial turf projects would be to remake three natural surface fields. He said that for scale purposes, he was considering soccer sized fields. He said that plans included proper drainage, proper irrigation and proper grading. He said that when all the work was completed the complex would have three natural surfaces and four artificial surfaces. He said that the total budget would be large.

He said that Phase 1 would begin with Memorial Stadium. He said that in order to make the field accommodate soccer, lacrosse and football on the current site it would be necessary to redo the track as well. He explained that the track has an older style layout and is narrow and long. He said that in its current configuration, the corners of the football end zone actually touch the track. He stated that the field was shifted to the east inside the track. He said that the first thought of the contractors was to move the field but that would have centered the stadium seating at the 35 yard line. He said that the solution was to move the track 60 feet to the east which would center the football field within the track. He said that the proposal would also center the track within the light poles. He said that in comparison with the field at South Albany High School, this proposal would cover about 25% less surface in artificial turf.

Mr. Richards said that he and Ms. Orsborn were asking for permission that evening to begin fundraising. He said that the Phase 1 budget would be roughly \$1.5 million. He said that he wanted to be able to commit to vendors by May 1 so that construction could begin in June and the project could be completed in August.

He spoke of the soccer fields and stated that it might take more than one year to have the natural surface fields available for play. He noted that the current coaching staff would prefer to play on natural grass.

Mr. Richards said that he wanted to establish procedures for eventual resurfacing of the turf fields. He said that turf fields typically have a ten-year lifespan and he did not want to leave an expense for the future. He estimated costs at \$9 per square foot for initial construction and \$4 per square foot, in today's dollars, for resurfacing.

He told the Board that this project was something the community wanted. He said that South Albany High School was already seeing tremendous use of its artificial surface field and he believed that the community needed more such fields. He said that the comprehensive plan would benefit Memorial Middle School and Liberty Elementary School as well as the high school.

Director Smith asked if the proposal considered the district's plans for wells and irrigation systems. Mr. Richard said that the proposal did so.

Director Gordon spoke of the artificial surface field at South Albany High School and said that it was fantastic asset.

Director Bricker said that he appreciated the long-term look.

Board Chair Boehme estimated that the community needed 10 such facilities in the city and stated that Albany children deserved those opportunities. He said that he would like to see a similar field at each of the district schools.

Director Smith asked Student School Board Member Stephanie Dilbone for the South Albany student perspective on the turf field at their campus.

Miss Dilbone said that the field revitalized student interest in athletics. She said that everyone wanted to go to the first football game and football and soccer players were ecstatic. She said that the field enhanced school pride. She added that her mother is a PE teacher and she gets to use the field every day.

Mr. Richards requested Board permission to begin talking to people about making contributions. He said that the West Albany High School Sports Foundation was ready to take the lead.

Director Smith moved to approve the West Albany High School Sports Foundation's request to move forward with fundraising. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
TRANSPORTATION

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen introduced Transportation Supervisor Kim Crabtree and stated that she was available to discuss the Transportation Department's report in the Board packets. He said that she would also be available later in the meeting when the Board considered bus purchases.

Ms. Crabtree said that the Board packets contained a mid-year update which was very similar to the previous year's report.

She referred to bus utilization and said that her department would begin tracking in-town and out-of-town bus capacity and utilization separately. She said that buses in-town were full, but out-of-town buses were less full.

Ms. Crabtree said that the number of regular students transported was similar to last year but the number of McKinney-Vento students was up by about 30 children. She said that many of those students lived in the Lebanon and Brownsville areas.

She said that on-time performance was less than the previous year. She said that there were four buses consistently running late due to the route and bell times at Waverly Elementary School. She said that she was also participating in the planning for all-day kindergarten.

Director Smith asked if there was an increase in athletic trip mileage by moving West Albany High School athletics to the 6A level. Ms. Crabtree said that there was not much difference except for travel to Forest Grove which was a long trip. She explained that getting through Portland is time consuming. She noted that if a driver returns after a certain hour they cannot drive again the next morning.

Ms. Crabtree said that completed mechanic work orders were steady as were accident rates.

Director Smith said that she sometimes sees buses stopped at outlying locations. Ms. Crabtree replied that they were probably layovers between routes as it might not be efficient for the driver to return to the garage between routes. She said that the buses get only 9 miles per gallon of fuel.

OLD BUSINESS

KINDERGARTEN PLAN

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that she would summarize preparations toward offering full-day kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year. She said that schools in the North Albany area received a lot of attention at recent Board meetings but preparations were being performed all of the sites. She said that the addendum provided at member places provided more information about each school. She said that the document also included key principal thoughts concerning staffing, professional development, and elementary school day start times. She said that other staff members were looking at curriculum and technology.

She said that one of the schools with a space issue was Clover Ridge Elementary. She said that staff was planning for the installation of a modular classroom at that site. Facilities Supervisor Doug Pigman said that he expected to receive initial approval for Clover Ridge School on February 27. He discussed the planned location of the structure. He estimated that the building would be used as an intervention space and a computer lab. He said that the modular would not have restrooms because restrooms were available nearby in the existing school structure.

Ms. Everest spoke of space concerns at Periwinkle Elementary School. She said that Periwinkle School currently hosted the student support classroom for high-needs elementary students and it might be necessary to place those students elsewhere. She said that she was working closely with Special Programs Director Ryan Mattingly.

She said that Waverly Elementary School has a developmental learning kindergarten class. She said that it would be April or later before the school could better estimate what its fall enrollment would be. She said that current projections indicated that the school could keep the developmental learning kindergarten. She said, however, that should incoming students require it, she might have to consider placing that program at another school.

Ms. Everest said that in addition to making preparations for full-day kindergarten, she was also considering space for interventions, specialized learning classrooms and the Community After School Program.

Superintendent Delapoer said that she would discuss the proposals for accommodating full-day kindergarten. She noted that staff considered a number of options and quite a few were taken off the table. She said that she wished to discuss several that evening, with the advantages and disadvantages of each so that the Directors could make an informed decision.

She said that Option 1 would be to open Fir Grove School as a grades K-1 campus for Oak Grove School. She said that the down side would be the requirement to spend the money to have Fir Grove operational. She estimated that cost at \$250,000. She said that the option would also require adding a modular classroom at North Albany Elementary, which staff believed the district would be able to do, at a cost of \$114,000. She said that common spaces such as gyms and cafeterias would be tight. She said that there would also be the cost for the front office staff.

Ms. Delapoer said that Option 1b would be a slight variation in that the north wing of Fairmount School would be opened as a grades K-1 school. She said that the option would have the same common space concerns.

Director Smith asked of the locations of the developmental kindergarten, early intervention and Linn Benton Community College pre-school programs. Ms. Everest said that the developmental kindergarten class was at Waverly School, and the Early Intervention and LBCC pre-school programs were at Timber Ridge School.

Ms. Delapoer said that Option 2 would open the north wing of Fairmount School as a grades K-1 feeder for North Albany Elementary and open Fir Grove School as a K-1 feeder for Oak Grove School. She said that the option would include the expense of reopening Fir Grove School at an estimated \$250,000. She noted that the district had approximately \$2.5 million dollars in the construction excise tax account that could potentially be used for that purpose. She said that there would also be the overhead cost of operating two front offices. She emphasized that the option would provide the most extra room at four schools. She said that the additional space could be used for computer labs, intervention spaces, or specialized programs.

Board Chair Boehme asked of the cost to reopen Fairmount School. Facilities Supervisor Doug Pigman spoke of SmartBoards and components to the ceiling mounted projectors. Business and Operations Director Russ Allen estimated the cost at \$10,000, mostly in furnishings. He said that the facility itself was ready.

Ms. Delapoer said that Option 4a was a possibility that the district could use for several years to buy some time. She said that the option would open the north wing of Fairmount School as a kindergarten hub for Oak Grove and North Albany Elementary Schools. She said that all kindergarteners in north Albany would be in the north wing of Fairmount School. She said that the proposal could work for several years depending upon growth in the area but there would still be the same lack of space at Oak Grove, North Albany Elementary and Fairmount Schools. She said that this option would be the least expensive. She said that it might be possible to place the early intervention and developmental kindergarten classes in the south wing of the Fairmount building. She said that a disadvantage of this option was that it did not provide certainty to staff or parents about what would happen in the future.

She said that Option 6 would be to open all of Fairmount as a grades K-1 feeder campus for both Oak Grove and North Albany Elementary School. She said that option would use all of the Fairmount building. She said that because there would be 250 students, it would necessary to hire additional administrative staff. She said that the option would not provide any additional space for interventions. She said that it would be possible to install a modular classroom at the site for an estimated expense of \$114,000. She said that the building has just one small gym/cafetorium. She said that there were also concerns about parking, parent drop-off spaces and traffic on Springhill Drive.

She said that the option would free two classrooms each at Fir Grove and North Albany Elementary Schools but it would displace the 25 members of the special education staff. She stated that some, but not all, of the staff could potentially move to the building on 24th Avenue that the district was acquiring from the county. She said that she would prefer to use the building on 24th Avenue for the Transition Program which was outgrowing a modular building between Memorial Middle and West Albany High School.

Director Smith asked about instruction. Ms. Delapoer said Option 2 would provide the most instructional options. She said that it would provide the most breathing room and create nice environments, but it would be the most expensive as there would be two new office staffs and it would be necessary to repair Fir Grove School. She said that there were costs with the other options as well.

Director Gordon recalled that a nearby district once had a large number of modular classrooms. She stated that modular classrooms could become an eyesore.

Ms. Everest said that it would be possible to place a modular building at North Albany Elementary School. She said that staff would prefer that option as they did not want their school divided into two locations.

Ms. Delapoer said that the installation of a modular building at North Albany Elementary could buy some time. She said that later, the Board might decide to build a new elementary school in North Albany.

Director Smith asked about special needs students in Option 1. Ms. Delapoer responded in detail.

Director Gordon encouraged the use of all four schools. She said that she would not vote for a school bond for the construction of a new school if she saw an empty school building. Ms. Delapoer responded, noting that small elementary schools were inefficient and expensive.

Director Smith said that staff did not know what the District Facilities Advisory Committee would recommend. He noted that if they recommend a school bond that would be several years away and at least another year for the construction of a new school, if that was their recommendation. He said that north Albany could not wait that long. Director Smith said that he did not see an option that would provide an opportunity to support district partner agencies without opening Fir Grove School. He suggested Option 1, opening Fir Grove School, adding a modular classroom at North Albany Elementary and keeping Fairmount as it is as a location for supporting agencies.

A kindergarten teacher asked if the district was considering two modular buildings at North Albany Elementary School. Ms. Everest replied that the proposal would install just one structure.

Director Bricker spoke about Fir Grove School and suggested that the Board consider more than just classrooms. He said that opening the building would also provide a gymnasium and an eating area which would alleviate some of the pressure on the facilities at Oak Grove School.

He said that he had not previously heard of problems with the Fir Grove roof. He said that if a building was deteriorating, the district needed to fix it. Facilities supervisor Doug Pigman said that leaks were being fixed as they occurred. He said, however, that district was putting Band-Aids on a roof that needed to be renovated.

Superintendent Delapoer requested that the Directors consider the options and contact her if there was other information they wanted. She said that staff would continue to drill down on what made the most sense.

Board Chair Boehme asked of making “brick and mortar” permanent additions to Oak Grove School. He estimated that Fir Grove School would be a money pit. He stated that he would rather see money go to permanent classrooms. Ms. Delapoer replied that staff would have to investigate the capacity of things like the gymnasium/cafetorium and the sewer/septic system at each school.

Board Chair Boehme said that he wanted a long term solution for north Albany. He estimated that if the district developed a good, viable solution for the schools in north Albany it would be supported by the community.

Ms. Delapoer said that if the Board decided to seek a school bond, it could add a gymnasium or cafeteria to some of the small schools or upgrade a sewer system.

Director Gordon asked if it would be better to build a brick and mortar classroom at North Albany Elementary School. Mr. Allen said that a brick and mortar addition would be a preferable but it would be more expensive. He said that the cost would be much more than the \$114,000 expense of a modular classroom. He said that classroom space was more of a concern at Oak Grove School but simply adding classroom space would not solve all of the concerns at that campus.

NEW BUSINESS
BUS REPLACEMENT

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that he would discuss the school district's need for replacement school buses and would recommended the purchase of six full-sized 84 passenger buses from Bratrain Bus Sales at approximately \$115,000 each. The purchases would be a 2015-16 expense.

Transportation supervisor Kim Crabtree said that she wanted to replace six 71 passenger buses with six 84 passenger buses. She said that the buses to be replaced were more than 20 years old and had 200,000 to 250,000 miles on them. She said that two of those were a model for which it is difficult to find parts. She said that the purchase would put the district on track to meet strict emissions standards coming in 2025.

Board Chair Boehme asked if there was a long term plan. Ms. Crabtree said that there was a ten year plan. She stated that she does not have enough 84-seat buses for the in-town routes and athletic trips. She said that there was also a need for backup buses. She said that the department still had 20-25 buses which were 72-77 passenger vehicles. She said that the smaller capacity buses were used out for the outlying routes. She clarified that the 84 seat buses could carry three elementary children per seat or two middle or high school students per seat.

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

OPEN ENROLLMENT AND INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that House Bill 3681 "Open Enrollment" created a new transfer process that did not require consent of the school district in which the student lived. She said that the law allowed districts to continue to enter into voluntary inter-district transfer or tuition agreements. She said that under Open Enrollment, the district in which the student resided had no ability to deny the transfer under this law. She said that for all purposes, students who transferred under this policy become resident students of the district in which they attend school and that transfer could not be revoked.

She said that in 2014, the Board declared that the district would have zero openings through this method of transfer. She recommended that the Board similarly declare that the district has zero openings available for the 2015-16 school year through the Open Enrollment method of transfer.

Ms. Everest turned the discussion to inter-district transfers. She said that the policy permitted the acceptance of out-of-district students. She said that those students became grandfathered in unless they failed to maintain the transfer requirements in behavior and attendance.

She recalled that there was considerable inter-district discussion last year because of changes in the law. She recommended that the district identify 30 transfer slots for elementary students, 30 slots for middle school students, 50 slots for each high school, and 30 slots for the Albany Online program.

Board Chair Boehme directed that the topic be returned to the Board at the Old Business Agenda.

BOARD POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS, APPEALS

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart said that the requirement to revise Board Policy *KL, Public Complaints* caused staff to review other district directives. He said that Board Policies *IGBHE* and *LGA* and Administrative Regulations *JFCF-AR, IGBBA-AR, and LGA-AR* provided guidance in the submission of appeals and informed the public of their right to request review by the Oregon Department of Education, Office of Government and Legal Affairs.

BOARD POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION, DISCRIMINATION

Executive Assistant Jim Haggart said that the requirement to revise Board Policy *KL, Public Complaints* also caused staff to review additional district directives. He said that Board Policies *AC, ACA, GBA, JB and JFCF* and Administrative Regulation *ACA-AR(2)* pertained to discrimination and each provided guidance in the submission of appeals. He said that revisions to the documents would inform the public of their right to request review by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

He said that Board Policy *AC, Discrimination* also included as a legal reference, the federal "Equal Access to Public School Facilities" also known as "Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act." The listing of organizations identified in the act included Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Future Farmers of America, and Little League.

Director Bricker recommended that all twelve documents be moved the Consent Agenda of the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Boehme noted that February 16 was President's Day and students would not be in school. He said that the date had previously identified as a possible snow make-up day if necessary. He said that the next Regular Board Meeting would be February 23, 2015. Ms. Delapoer said that an Executive Session would be needed before the February 23, 2015 meeting.

Board Chair Boehme adjourned the Board meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Jerry Boehme, Board Chair

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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