

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



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

April 3, 2015 9:00 a.m.

Minutes

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Boehme called the special meeting of the School Board to order at 9:03 a.m.

Jerry Boehme	Board Chair
Micah Smith	Board Vice Chair
Frank Bricker	Director
Sandi Gordon	Director
Lyle Utt	Director
Maria Delapoer	Superintendent
Tonja Everest	Assistant Superintendent
Russ 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. Persons present also included members of the Superintendent Screening Committee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Boehme led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC SESSION

Board Chair Boehme said that the purpose of the special meeting was to consider Resolution 14/15-6 Declaration of Emergency, following the fire at South Albany High School of April 1, 2015. He asked for a quick update on South Albany High School.

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that April 3 was a scheduled Staff Development and Grading day and no students would be on the campus. She said that there was a safe room in Building 11 for students and staff on April 2. She said that most of the people who came to the safe room were staff members. She said that as of that morning, staff had access only to building 11 which was distant from the site of the fire and had an independent heating and ventilation system. She said that West Albany High School, Memorial Middle School and Timber Ridge School would prepare meals for the elementary schools and the Boys and Girls Club and that structure would continue for the remainder of the year.

She said that by April 13, modular buildings would be installed near the swimming pool and would permit staff to prepare and serve food and have some limited seating capacity. She said that until then, food would have to be prepared off site and brought to the South Albany High School

campus. She said that next week, meals would be served in the high school gymnasium. Business and Operations Director Russ Allen estimated that the food service department would use the kitchen at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center for food preparation.

Director Gordon asked about menus. Mr. Allen replied that menus were to be determined. He noted that the federal nutrition requirements would have to be observed.

Ms. Delapoer said that the plan was to occupy the South Albany High School campus on Monday, April 6. She said that heating and lighting were restored to the campus, and that staff would be permitted to occupy buildings 6 and 8 (Front office and the theater/student center) after the fencing and diagonal bracing to the cafeteria building was in place. She noted that due to the new heating and ventilation system controls, the ventilation was automatically shut down when the fire was detected and no smoke was transmitted to other classroom buildings. She said that the Head Start program would move off campus for the coming week. She said that South Albany High School had a classroom plan for Monday, April 6.

She said that the insurance company has been very responsive and available. She said that not all costs would be covered but the majority of the losses would be met. She said that some personal items might not be fully reimbursable. She said that most of the contents and structure would be covered. She said that four modular classrooms for the band, choir and child development programs would be installed on an athletic field at the south side of the campus on the junior varsity softball field. She estimated that the structures would be available on April 20.

Director Gordon asked how contractors were identified. Mr. Allen replied that the companies were identified and recommended by the insurance company who had worked with those firms before.

Mr. Allen said that representatives from Sodexo Food service were very helpful in gathering food service equipment.

Ms. Delapoer said that the band teachers working with our district and other districts to obtain musical instruments. Mr. Allen said that the South Albany High School would participate in a music festival on April 6 and all students would have instruments to play.

Director Gordon asked of the cost of replacing the lost musical instruments. Superintendent Delapoer said that fortunately, the music teachers had just completed an inventory of all instruments in the district and made a presentation to the District Facilities Advisory Committee on March 31. She said that the teachers estimated the loss of musical instruments at more than \$300,000. She said that teachers were trying to determine if personally owned instruments were lost. Mr. Allen said that any instruments lost in the fire would be replaced. He said, however, that the insurance payments might be based upon the depreciated value of instrument. He said that was one area where financial contributions might be applied.

Ms. Delapoer said that a number of people had contacted the district with offers to donate musical instruments. She said that the Curriculum Department was collecting that information. She noted that two area music stores had offered to clean and refurbish those instruments, She said that the process would take some time.

Board Chair Boehme said that Gracewinds Music Store in Corvallis would provide a free appraisal of donated instruments.

Superintendent Delapoer said that financial contributions were being routed through the Albany Public Schools Foundation which had prepared a separate account for South Albany High School. She said that the Foundation would not take a fee for their administrative costs in that work.

Ms. Delapoer said that Deen Castronova, drummer for the band “Journey” had promised to donate \$10,000 which would be routed through the Albany Public Schools Foundation.

Board Chair Boehme emphasized that donated monies should go to the Foundation. Ms. Delapoer explained that donors could direct how they wanted their money to be used.

Ms. Delapoer said that the Foundation iCelebrate event on April 18 would be dedicated to South Albany High School.

Teachers association president Sue McGrory asked about foods classes. Ms. Delapoer said that South Albany High School was considering offering fractional credit and then moving students to other electives.

Board Chair Boehme said that most important thing was to get the school reopened.

Director Gordon said that some students were fearful about going back to school thinking that the school was targeted. She said that some students were worried about copycat actions. Ms. Delapoer said that the school resources officers would be on the campus Monday.

Ms. Delapoer said that arson suspect was arraigned on April 2. She estimated that he would likely remain in jail because the bail was set so high due to his previous arson conviction. She said that she met the previous day with the district attorney’s office crime victims specialist who will work with the district.

Board Chair Boehme suggested having parents at the school in the morning when school reopened on April 6.

Director Gordon said that South Albany High School would begin the week with an assembly.

Director Gordon asked if people participated in the safe room on April 2. Ms. Delapoer replied that some students attended but most of the participants were staff members. She said that there was donated food available. She said that she appreciated the response from the community.

Superintendent Delapoer asked Facilities Supervisor Doug Pigman for an update on the cafeteria building. Mr. Pigman replied that perimeter debris would be removed that day and diagonal bracing would be installed to prevent the walls from falling. He said that a structural engineer was reviewing plans with the construction crews.

Board Chair Boehme directed the Board's attention to the resolution before them. He said that the document would declare an emergency which would permit the district to conduct immediate repairs.

Action: Director Gordon moved to approve Resolution 14/15-6 Declaring an emergency due to the fire at South Albany High School on April 1, 2015. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Boehme thanked the first responders. He said that he was impressed with how well the agencies worked together. He noted that the fireman and police officers emphasized safety and security.

Ms. Delapoer noted the quick apprehension of the arson suspect by the Albany Police Department.

Board Chair Boehme adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Jerry Boehme, Board Chair

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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