

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



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
May 11, 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 7:02 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
Hanna Riley	gave advance notice of her absence
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**

Daisy Scouts from Troop 20517 led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dawn Young is the troop leader.

**CORE PURPOSE/GOALS**

Director Utt 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 introduced Food Service Manager Kathy Pitzer. Ms. Pitzer presented a check for \$2,500 from the Sodexo Food Service Corporation for scholarships. She said that the \$1,000 was to go to a South Albany High School graduate, \$1,000 was to go to a West Albany High School graduate and \$500 was to go to an Albany Options School graduate.

**SPELLING CONTEST WINNERS**

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest announced the winners of the district spelling championship on behalf of Calapooia Middle School teacher Sue McGrory who guided the contest.

Elementary School Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Paige Rogers, Liberty Elementary School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dru Huddleston, Liberty Elementary School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Josie Maxfield, Oak Grove Elementary School

Middle School Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lane Gibony, North Albany Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Torin Christensen, North Albany Middle school
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ben Snider, Calapooia Middle School

High School Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Kyra Dickson, Albany Options School

Ms. Everest said that the winner of each category would be invited to participate in the regional contest on May 21 at Calapooia Middle School.

**STUDENT ALL - STARS**

Cody Cavyell, Adrienne Dickmann and Shayne Schuster of Clover Ridge Elementary, Kaydence Coats and Chloe Wallace of Lafayette Elementary, and Makinzie Cluver and Madison Wang of Liberty Elementary School were recognized for their success in school and the community. Carissa Halloran and Faith Jones of Oak Elementary and Brenda Ruiz Raymundo and Madison Veit of South Shore Elementary School were also honored.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Barry Hoffman of 1240 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW asked the Board to vote against the sister school proposal for Tadena and Central Schools. He said that the Board heard from parents and that the parents who resoundingly rejected the idea. He said that it was the role of the Board to do what was best for the district. He said that he is an involved parent. He said that he first learned of the May 11 work session last week. He said that there was an announcement in the flyer that went home with children but not every parent read that.

Missy Rice Cook of 934 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Albany in Albany thanked the Board for their time. She said that she hoped that regardless of the outcome of the Board's decision, all of the parents of both schools could work together.

Dick Olsen of 732 Broadalbin Street in Albany said that he started a petition which had 43 signatures. He said that the signers of the petition opposed the sister school proposal. He asked if there was a traffic study of the routes children would use to walk to the school. He said that he was a member of the City Council and that the City was interested in having children walk to school.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1) Minutes from April 27, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel
- 3) District Accountability Plan
- 4) Meal Price Increases
- 5) *JHCD, Nonprescription Medication*
- 6) *JHCDA, Prescription Medication*

Superintendent Maria Delapoer noted that the Consent Agenda included the assignment of Jon Dilbone as principal of North Albany Middle School.

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 Chair congratulated Mr. Dilbone on his assignment.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

#### **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT**

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that the Legislature was in session. She said that some education bills were still moving through the process. She said that a financial forecast would be released on May 14 and that would indicate if there will be additional revenue or if activation of the “kicker” will be necessary.

#### **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen said that there was a meeting of the District Facilities Advisory Committee (DFAC) on May 7. He said that good progress was being made but there was much information for them to digest. He said that that the committee has now received all of the information that was planned to be presented. He said that the members will have questions which staff will answer. He said that there will be one more meeting in May with the expectation that the committee will take the summer off. He said that at the next meeting he hoped to have the beginnings of a recommendation. He said that he planned to use the summer to bounce that recommendation off of various groups. He said that the DFAC committee would return in the fall for a final determination.

He spoke of the reconstruction of the South Albany High School cafeteria. He said that there was tons of material to be removed from inside the wall of the former structure. He said that he was working with the insurance company on the settlement amount. He said that another meeting was scheduled for that week. He said that the architects were working with the school representatives now that the initial designs were developed. He said that he was working with a longer timeline.

He said that the district also needed to replace the JV softball field which was taken up for the temporary classroom buildings. He said the school came up with a new location which was preferred over the previous site.

Board Chair Boehme asked when a building design would be available. Mr. Allen projected that an estimated settlement would be available this month. Director Gordon asked about design. Mr. Allen replied that at this point everything was still on the table. He said that the architects were working with representatives from the school band and choir. He said that Project Manager David McKay would be able to come to the June 1, 2015 Board meeting. He said that he expected to be ready then to ask the Board for their opinions regarding the rebuild.

Director Gordon asked for design feedback from the band and choir teacher. She said that her daughter is a choir member.

Director Smith asked about delivery date. Mr. Allen replied that he was not a contractor or a project manager. Instead, he has been relaying to the Board the information he is hearing. He said that the August 15 date was mentioned in the very beginning under the assumption that there would not be hazardous materials that had to be abated from the building and construction could be happening at this point. He said that the date was also dependent upon the erroneous assumption that the district would build back what was there and construction would sprint from that point. He said that the assumption was that the insurance company would pay for expedited work. He said, however, that once it was learned that the asbestos abatement would take five weeks, plus the extra design work that has been going on, the mid-August date quickly went away. He stated that a December 1 occupy date became more realistic, but he cautioned that even that date assumed expedited work. He said that was one of the discussions he would have with the insurance company.

### ***BOARD MEMBER REPORTS***

Director Gordon said that she attended the awards ceremony at South Albany High School where her daughter received an award.

Board Chair Boehme said that this was a great time to get into the schools as there would be many end-of-year events.

### ***STUDENT REPORT***

South Albany High School Student Board Member Stephanie Dilbone said that her school had an awards ceremony on May 5. She said that spring sports were wrapping up. She said that the district golf tournament would be May 11 and 12 and track would compete on May 13 and 14. She said that the choir competed at the state level and had a wonderful time. She said that Smarter Balanced testing and AP testing was underway. She said that course forecasting for next year was complete. She said that the spring play was "This is Going to be Epic" and performances would be May 15-18. She thanked the many Albany business which conducted fundraising events for the school.

Board Chair Boehme thanked Miss Dilbone for her report.

**REPORTS**

***SOUTH ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL ELEMENTARY MENTORING***

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest introduced South Albany High School principal Brent Belveal and said that he would describe the school's elementary mentoring program.

Mr. Belveal thanked the directors for the opportunity to address the Board. He said that South Albany High School teacher Hillary Mehlhoff and some of her students would describe the program. He said that about four years ago, his school started the conversation as to how the school could help students at the grade school level. He said that he set some goals around career exploration for high school students, providing an opportunity to grow self-esteem, and giving back to the community. He said that his school wanted to help the elementary school classroom teachers, help students reach important benchmarks, and help students connect to the high school. He said that the high school students would help with reading, writing and math and be role models.

He said that during the 2011-12 school year South Albany High School students helped at Lafayette Elementary School as outdoor school counselors. He said that in 2012-13, thirty high school students helped at Lafayette Elementary. He said that South Shore Elementary was added the next year and fifty high school students were involved. He said that this year, students assisted at Lafayette, Oak, Periwinkle and South Shore Elementary Schools and 72 high school students participated during the first semester. He said that during the second semester, his school added Sunrise Elementary and 82 high school students were participating. He said that the students were out every day in the classrooms. He said that course forecasting indicated that 160 students wanted to participate next year. He said that the district provided bus transportation during the third and fourth class periods.

Hillary Mehlhoff said that she teaches child development and child psychology. She said that the mentoring program provided an exploratory study for what teachers really do behind the scenes. She said that she brought several student with her that evening to share their experiences.

South Albany High School student Will Vermilyea said that this was his first time in the elementary mentoring class. He said that he leads with small reading groups and helps in Math.

Student Katie Baker said that she is a junior who assists at Sunrise Elementary. She said that the partnership helps her understand how people learn. She said that she works with one student with reading and writing. She spoke of getting the student to open up to her.

Ms. Mehlhoff spoke on behalf of Elizabeth who was present but had had lost her voice. She said that Elizabeth works at Lafayette Elementary with kindergarten students. She said that one kinder has a tough home environment and has difficulty staying focused. She said that when Elizabeth arrives, the student opens up to her.

Another student said that she teaches art, science, reading, math, and writing at South Shore Elementary. She said that the class is enjoyable but it also helps students be a success in life.

South Shore Elementary School principal Michael Ann McIlvenny said that she appreciated the 40 South Albany High school students who come to her school every day. She said that it was a great opportunity for Hispanic students to take on a leadership role and decide if they want to be teachers or education assistants.

Director Bricker said that giving students a chance to see the classroom from the other side is was valuable. Director Gordon said that her daughter participates in the program.

**DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN**  
**CHARACTER EDUCATION**

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest introduced Teacher on Special Assignment and Positive Behavior Intervention Support Coordinator Joel Sauter, ENVoY trainer Stephany Holt, and Behavioral Specialist Sandi Washburn and said that they would report on the integration of their programs to support both students and staff in the area of character development and behavior systems.

Mr. Sauter said that part of his job is supporting students in the “Green Zone” of the Continuum of School-wide Instructional and Behavioral Support. He said that the second half of his job is supporting all of the Title I schools. He said that he would discuss the “Green Zone” support that evening.

He said that the data provided in the packet was a compilation of observations performed in the fall. He said that data was collected by staff members at each of the elementary and middle schools. He said that it was exciting to see an increase in the number of participating schools. He said that with better data the team could move forward in determining how it could best support the schools.

Mr. Sauter said that the other evaluation conducted in the fall was called a “set” evaluation. He said that the PBIS team went out to each of the buildings as requested by the principals. He said that evaluation was the team’s assessment of what they were seeing. He said that a majority of the schools were showing a 90% implementation rate. He said that the data drove what he would do for the remainder of the school year. He said that he focused on Calapooia Middle School and Tangent Elementary School. He said that he went to each of the other schools least once a month.

He said that he also offered two facilitator meetings this year during which the district provided for a half-time substitute for up to five members of the staff at each of the buildings. He said that the turnout was very good and it was an excellent opportunity for staff to learn best practices. He said that an additional meeting permitted school staff members to share what was happening in their buildings. He said that meeting led to a group online folder for idea sharing.

Director Gordon asked Mr. Sauter to identify PBIS. Mr. Sauter said that it was Positive Behavior Intervention Support and stated that it was a behavior matrix that was designed for every building. He said that it included specific expectations as to how we wanted students to behave. He said that it included consequences and a rewards system.

He spoke of character education poster contest and said that he wanted to make it more of a community event and he partnered with the city library to display the artwork in that building and invited library patrons to help select the winner in each category. He added that he wanted to grow that into a poetry and writing contest next year.

Ms. Everest said that the PBIS team started a Professional Learning Community team of its own.

ENVoY trainer Stephanie Holt said that she teaches half-time at Timber Ridge School and works half-time with teachers in the classroom. She said that the ENVoY training helps teachers be aware of their non-verbal communication or body language. She said that she has trained 600 staff members in communication techniques. She said that she started training elementary level employees but she hopes to expand to the middle and high school level staff.

Ms. Washburn said that she conducted monthly trainings for classified employees. She said that she works with Behavior Consultants Jason Crow and Al Ross with students who are in the yellow or red zone with conduct or attendance problems.

Director Smith thanked the team for their work in keeping children in school.

Director Gordon said that their work would be an asset to young teachers.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ***CENTRAL AND TAKENA SISTER SCHOOLS PROPOSAL***

Superintendent Maria Delapoer requested Board action on a proposal to configure Tadena Elementary School as a grades K-2 campus and Central Elementary School as a grades 3-5 campus. She said that the topic was discussed publically for several months. She said that staff attempted to research and respond to the questions and concerns that were raised. She said that there was no doubt that there would be some disruption to the current system and she acknowledged that change could be difficult for parents and children and some of those people would be upset if the Board chose to make that change. She recalled that several years ago the district introduced the Professional Learning Communities which was to help teachers help each other become better teachers. She said that she believed that the sister school program between Tadena and Central Schools would have a similar positive effect. She asked the Board to weigh the disruption for parents and students against providing high quality instruction for all students.

Board Chair Jerry Boehme explained said that there was a Work Session from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. earlier that evening, specifically to discuss the Central and Tadena sister school proposal. He said that stakeholders had the opportunity to ask questions and hear responses.

He said that public work on the proposal began in February. He said that there were several public Board meetings and several Board members met individually or with small parent groups to explain the purpose of the proposal.

Director Smith said that he appreciated the participation of stakeholders. He said that he was still at odds with the matter. He said that he wished the proposal had been rolled out differently. He said that the sister school proposal was intended to improve student learning. He said that it

would be difficult to say to a student that there was a better instruction model available but it would not be extended to the school. He noted that Lisa Shogren was the fourth principal in five years at Central School. He said that he had heard from the nine educators in his family.

Director Bricker acknowledged that the proposal would be disruptive but stated that twenty years from now it might be a common practice. He said that the Board needed to look at the long term.

Director Smith spoke of the sense of community. He said that there was nothing to replace a tight knit community centered around a school. He spoke of the value of the School Resource Officer in building that school-community bond.

Director Gordon said that she drives three children to school at different campuses each morning. She said that this was the best decision.

Director Utt said that his links to Tadena Elementary were long. He said that his wife and children attended Tadena School and he has a second grader at Tadena as well. He said that the merging of the schools would be positive but because of his ties to the school he would abstain from voting unless a tie breaking vote was necessary.

Board Chair Boehme noted that Maria Delapoe was in her final months as superintendent and it would have been easy for her to postpone the matter to the arrival of the next superintendent. He said that the reason Ms. Delapoe took on the matter was it was the best thing for kids.

He said that Board members entered the matter with an open mind and listened to parents and staff. He said that they went back to the community for more information. He said that the directors sought the perfect answer and unfortunately there was none. He said that the Board had to weigh what was best for the education of the kids as presented by the staff.

Board Chair Boehme said that the Board looked at one time at moving all of the children to Central School and that was an option that could still happen. He said that Central School was large enough to absorb all of Tadena School. He said that the Board decided that was not the best option and they left Tadena School open although it was more expensive to do so. He said that every parent would want their child in a small school but unfortunately that was not economically practical. He said that the Board chose to leave both schools open. He said that the directors heard from the parents and tried to weigh it all out. He said that it would not be a perfect solution but stated that the district would educate children in the fall in the best way possible. Board Chair Boehme said that however the Board voted, he and his colleagues would work to do what was best for kids.

Director Gordon recalled that she did not like the plan for the traffic circle on Knox Butte Road near Timber Ridge School. She said that the school made it work by placing a volunteer or staff member at the circle to help children at the crossing. She hoped that the district would have the same safe school mentality when it came to the walking routes for children walking to Central and Tadena Schools.



Action: Director Bricker moved to approve the sister school model for Central and Tadena Elementary Schools. Motion APPROVED By MAJORITY. Director Bricker, Director Gordon and Board Chair Boehme voted to approve. Director Smith voted to oppose. Director Utt abstained

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WEST ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL TURF PROJECT**

Superintendent Maria Delapoer introduced West Albany High School principal Susie Orsborn and said that she would describe a proposed artificial turf project for her school.

Principal Orsborn thanked the directors for the opportunity to address the Board. She said that she was fortunate to have two West Albany alums to guide the project. She introduced 1987 graduate and Director of the West Albany Sports Foundation Pat Richards and thanked him for his work.

Mr. Richards recalled that he spoke to the Board in February and described the Foundation's desire to install a turf field at the West Albany Memorial Stadium and make improvements to other athletic facilities. He said that he wanted to provide an update that evening.

He said that fund raising had begun. He said that to date, ten individuals and business had chosen to make one-time and multi-year tax-deductible contributions totaling in excess of \$300,000. He said that there were also eleven active requests for support being considered by potential donors with an estimated value of \$150,000. He said that he expected that gift-in-kind contributions and grant requests would yield an additional \$200,000. He said that the foundation believed that once the project became more visible in the community, the opportunity to raise funds at smaller increment levels would greatly improve.

He said that in order to make the necessary space available for an artificial playing surface that could accommodate interscholastic football, soccer and lacrosse competition, the track base had to be realigned. He said that the current track surface was seven years old and the manufacturer suggested that a surface such as this would last ten to twelve years. The company stated that the current surface was in typical condition for a surface of that age and estimated that the surface was two-thirds worn. He said that the Foundation would accept the responsibility for the resurfacing of the track with a higher grade material, but the Foundation was requesting that the district accept the responsibility of a one-time capital facility improvement and allocate \$180,000 for the realignment and paving of the track base. He said that with Board approval, work would start as soon as possible.

Director Gordon asked where the money would come from. Mr. Allen replied that it would be considered in the same manner as any other request from the Board. He said that staff would consider whether the request was eligible for money from the Construction Excise Tax fund or from district reserves. Ms. Delapoer said that the budget did not include this expense.

Mr. Allen said that this was really two requests, one request to contribute to the resurfacing of the field and one request for the track foundation. He said that if those were priorities of the Board, considering the dollar amount, he would likely recommend taking the money from reserves or

from some other location in the budget as determined by the Superintendent. He said that it would not be his preference to borrow the money.

Student Board Member Stephanie Dilbone said that she heard of other cities having had problems with ducks killing themselves by flying into blue colored surfaces. Mr. Richards estimated that local ducks were smarter. He said that the Foundation was planning green colored surfaces.

Board Chair Boehme said that he believed that Albany needed ten all-weather surfaces. He asked about media lines at the perimeter of the athletic fields. Mr. Richards responded.

Board Chair Boehme asked if the school had identified a project manager. Mr. Richards said that the Foundation was working with David Reece of Reece & Associates in Albany. He said that additional contractors and friends were alumni.

Board Chair Boehme asked of community use of the field. Mr. Richards responding that community use would be up to the district. He estimated that many athletic groups would want to use the facility.

Director Smith asked if other districts moved their tracks. Mr. Richards said that he was not aware of any schools that had to move their track. He estimated that it was a matter of when they were built. He said that the Memorial Stadium field and track served the school for 60 years.

Director Bricker said that he did not want a field that was useful only for football. He said that he wanted to have the field available for soccer as well. He suggested that the district borrow the needed money.

Director Smith said that a football field is mostly a male sport but boys and girls play soccer and run track. He recalled that when the turf project for South Albany High School was considered, people spoke of economic development and described working with the City Parks and Recreation Department. He said that he was pleased to see that the City was contacted about this project as well.

Director Utt said that he appreciated the work of the West Albany Sports Foundation. He said that he agreed with Director Bricker to borrow the money.

Director Gordon spoke of the excitement at South Albany High School when that school installed a turf field. She noted that the district has to rebuild the South Albany High School cafeteria and may need additional funds for that project. She said that she is a banker and she favored seeking a loan to pay for the West Albany High School field and track improvements.

Board Chair Boehme noted that South Albany High School might also come to the Board and ask for \$180,000 also. He said that the district might ask the public for a school bond in the future and taxpayers might ask why the district spent money on turf projects instead of building improvements.

Board Chair Boehme asked for funding proposals at the June 1, 2015 Regular Board meeting. He asked if that information would be needed before the Budget Committee meeting of May 18. Mr. Allen replied that he would create flexibility in the proposed budget document.

Director Smith suggested that the Board give the OK to move forward on the project and identify the funding source in the future.

Director Bricker noted that none of the Board members objected to the proposal. He agreed with the suggestion to approve the project.

Director Smith moved to approve \$180,000 for the realignment of the track base at West Albany High School's Memorial Stadium. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Smith moved to approve an expense of \$240,000 to the district for the installation of a turf surface at West Albany High School's Memorial Stadium. Motion APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL MATERIALS ADOPTION***

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that information in front of the Board described a portion of the middle school and high school social studies and science materials purchase for next year. She introduced Secondary Curriculum Director Jason Hay and said that he would be able to answer the Board's questions.

Director Gordon asked if the purchase was in the budget. Ms. Delapoer replied that it was.

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

#### ***NORTH ALBANY/OAK GROVE BOUNDARY CHANGE***

Business and Operations Director Russ Allen proposed moving the attendance boundary of a small number of properties east of NW Scenic Drive to avoid the possibility of having to serve the same neighborhood with buses from two different elementary schools.

He said that notification went out to the people that the proposal would impact and he heard no objections.

Board Chair Boehme directed that the topic be returned to the Board at the Old Business portion of the agenda.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Boehme said that the Budget Committee would meet at 7:00 p.m. on May 18, 2015 at the District Office. He said that the next Regular Board meeting would be June 1, 2015. He said that the West Albany High School graduation ceremony would be 7:00 p.m. on June 4, the

Albany Options School graduation ceremony would be 7:00 p.m. on June 8 at the Russell Tripp Auditorium and the South Albany High School graduation ceremony would be 6:30 p.m. on June 9 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Board Chair Boehme adjourned the Board meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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Jerry Boehme, Board Chair

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Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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