

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 28, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Jim Golden, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice Chair Micah Smith called the regular meeting of the School Board to order at 7:01 p.m.

Sandi Gordon	gave advance notice of her absence
Micah Smith	Board Vice Chair
Frank Bricker	Director
Jerry Boehme	Director
Lyle Utt	Director
Stephanie Dilbone	gave advance notice of her absence
Hanna Riley	gave advance notice of her absence
Jim Golden	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 Vice Chair Smith led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

RED CANOE CREDIT UNION

Superintendent Golden said that during the summer, the Red Canoe Credit Union collected school supplies for Greater Albany students. He said that the agency also promised to make a cash match for every pound of school supplies collected. Customers and staff of the credit union donated 1,539 pounds of school supplies which was delivered to the district FACT office. Those supplies were distributed to every school in the district.

He said that he received a check that day from Red Canoe Credit Union for \$1,539 which matched the 1,539 pounds of school supplies collected. He said that he also received a second check for \$134 which represented the cash donations collected by the credit union. He gave the checks to Business and Operations Director Russ Allen and directed that the funds be deposited in the FACT account so that district FACT professionals could give Greater Albany students more of the help that they needed.

EAST ALBANY LIONS CLUB

Superintendent Golden said that members of the East Albany Lions Club visited six Greater Albany elementary schools last week in conducting vision screenings of each child. He said that he visited the screenings at Liberty School on September 23. He said that Club visits to other schools were scheduled for November 3, 6, and 10. Mr. Golden explained that the Club uses a device similar to a camera that essentially records an image of each student's eyes and calculates his/her vision prescription automatically. He said that results would then be shared with the child's family. He stated that there was no need for the child to "read" an eye chart, making the device particularly useful for beginning kindergarten students. He thanked the East Albany Lions Club for their work for Albany children.

Director Boehme, who is a Lions Club member, said that screening results go to Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation in Portland which contacts the families directly. He said that the Lions Club can help children receive eye glasses.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AHEAD OF TIME

Superintendent Jim Golden requested that, when possible, Board Members convey their questions on Board meeting agenda topics to him in advance of the meeting so that answers could be prepared ahead of time. He clarified that if Board members had questions during the course of the meeting they were welcome to ask those questions at any time.

EFFICIENCY STUDY

Superintendent Jim Golden introduced Jerry Colonna, former Superintendent of the Beaverton and Redmond School Districts and president of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA). He said that Mr. Colonna was well respected throughout the State of Oregon.

Mr. Golden also introduced Dennis Dempsey, retired superintendent of the High Desert Education Service District and former national principal of the year. He said that Mr. Dempsey had a long history in education in Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon. He said that Mr. Colonna and Mr. Dempsey would discuss their proposal for a management efficiency review of the school district.

Mr. Golden said that funding for the proposal would come from available LBL ESD Tier II funds.

Mr. Colonna said that he wished to spend an hour with the Board in orientating them to the review process. He said that it would be a total systems analysis of the district. He said that the team would examine each system and make comments and recommendations for things that were going extremely well and areas that needed improvement. He said that it would be the Board's job that evening to ask questions.

He said that he and Mr. Dempsey were planning to start working next week and they hoped to be complete by February 1. He said that that it would mean a lot of work on the part of the district and his five member team.

Mr. Colonna described his background and described his career as a teacher and an administrator. He said that he now facilitates a COSA training program for new superintendents and he serves as a member of the State Board of Education.

He thanked the Directors for volunteering to serve on the Board. He said that of all of the volunteer positions in any community, school boards had the most leverage in helping children and young adults to have a greater future. He congratulated the Board for hiring Mr. Golden. He said that he knew him as a hard worker, an ethical leader, and a person of proven experience. He said that of all the decisions board members made, hiring the superintendent might be the most important.

Mr. Colonna said that his team had five members and they worked with a small communications firm located in Bend. He said that they put all of the material together and the communications team would put the information into a report. He said that his team wanted to be at the big picture level, the policy level, and they wanted to make decisions that really affected the ability of the district to be at its best. He said, however, that much of the superintendent's time was actually spent on short term items and things that needed immediate attention. He said that the efficiency process was intended to help the Board and superintendent to do the big system kind of work.

He said that he would be using a proven template from the Florida Department of Education. He said that the process was very extensive and each of the twelve areas included a set of questions and a set of measures. He said that he would also measure the Greater Albany District against similar sized districts.

Mr. Dempsey said that he hired Mr. Golden as a special education teacher many years before. He said that one of the challenges of being a superintendent was that you do not know what you do not know. He said that superintendents needed to know what was working well and what needed more attention.

He said that the team would include three other people. He said that Dr. Roark was a human resources person in Vancouver, Washington. He said that she was also a former superintendent in

Oregon and vice president of a college in Washington. He said that she has been in education for 43 years.

He said that Tim Collier was an MBA. He is the Director of Finance and Regulatory Services for METRO in Portland. He said that he was also the finance officer at the Northwest Education Service District and the Banks School District.

He said that Jim Mabbott was the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and the former superintendent of the Northwest Education Service district and the former superintendent of the Riverdale School District. He said that Mr. Mabbott would bring a lot of experience.

Mr. Dempsey said that this was his 41st year as an educator. He said that he was a principal for 20 years and a superintendent for 15 years. He said that he supervises the Catholic schools on the east side of the mountains of which there are five. He said that he also supervises the beginning administrator course in central Oregon for the University of Oregon and is vice chair of the board at St. Charles Hospital in Bend.

He said that he and his team would look at what was going well and what could be better. He said that at the end of the day all that mattered was the children. He said that if the team could help the district do the job better, that would be great.

Mr. Dempsey said that one of the areas he works on is school safety. He said that he also works on the technology things. He said that he would examine the back end systems such as servers and routers. He explained that where the district went in the future would be dependent upon the technology systems at the back end.

Superintendent Golden said that the district was a \$90 million business and having an outside look was an important thing. He projected that the recommendations from the District Facilities Advisory Committee (DFAC) would likely include a recommendation to go out for a school bond. He said that because he was new to the community, it would be a perfect time to look at all of the district's systems. He said that the results of the review would give the district things to work on and address things before the bond, as this would help the public know where the district excelled. He said that the strategic plan needed updating because of the transition to the Smarter Balanced testing. He said that the team would use a standardized model that was developed in Florida, and from that, come up with a series of recommendations to make the district better and demonstrate to district patrons that the district was being good stewards of the public money.

Board Vice Chair Smith noted that the template was prepared in Florida. He asked if the template would be useful in Oregon, Mr. Colonna responded that the format could be used for any school district. He said that the last district review his team conducted included 70 pages of information on the template and an additional 56 pages of interpretations.

Mr. Colonna said that he wanted to help the Board understand what he was trying to do. He said that in the largest districts, a new superintendent might have in the contract that a management

efficiency review be conducted either before the hire or within six months of the hire.

He recalled that when he was the superintendent of the Beaverton School District the new Board Chair said that the most important job of the Board was to make the superintendent be successful. He said that the report that the Board would receive would help Superintendent Golden and the district be more successful.

Mr. Colonna said that it might be time to look at the district strategic plan which was developed in 2011 and updated in 2013. He suggested that it would be appropriate to develop a new strategic plan for the 2016-17 school year.

He said that it would be difficult for a new superintendent to be critical of the district. He said that the best approach for a new superintendent was to be very positive about the history and culture of the district. He said that it would be worthwhile for the new superintendent to have a comprehensive review of the district to use as a reference.

Mr. Colonna spoke of the district budget in Beaverton. He said that because of the amount of the budget and its complexity and the interest in the community, he started the budget process in November. He said that Greater Albany expected to do the same. He said that the work the team would do would be informative to the budget process.

He said that it was not about the money the district has, it was about what the district did with that money. He said that Harvard professor Robert Kaplan said that many strategic plans fail because sufficient money is not applied. He said that executives are often hired to carry out a strategic plan or to create a new strategic plan.

Mr. Colonna said that he read Mr. Golden's transition plan and he thought that it was one of the best he had seen. He said that Mr. Golden wished to, "review agency structure, climate, budget and key work processes to ensure alignment of resources, efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the educational needs of all students and the organizational needs of stakeholders."

Director Boehme asked if the strategic plan was the District Accountability Plan. Mr. Colonna said that it was.

Director Boehme asked about the administrative structure. Mr. Colonna said that he would do that work himself.

Director Smith asked if the recommended changes would include an economic impact. Mr. Colonna said that he could do that.

Mr. Dempsey said that the review would include 11 topics; Administrative and Instructional Technology, Communications, Facility Use and Maintenance, Fiscal Management Systems, Framework for Schools, Management Structure, Performance Accountability Systems for Employees, Personnel Systems, Safety and Security, Organizational Structures, and Transportation.

Director Boehme noted that the study did not mention food service. Mr. Dempsey said that he did not plan to study that activity because the district contracted that service but he could do so.

Director Smith asked how the team would get people to share their thoughts and recommendations. Mr. Dempsey responded.

Director Bricker asked about cost. Mr. Dempsey said that the cost would not exceed \$41,000.

Board Vice Chair Smith said that there would be ample opportunity to earn that money back. Mr. Dempsey said that he was very impressed with the way the district's budget was laid out. Mr. Colonna said that if the study did not save the district money through efficiencies, the team would not be doing its job.

Director Boehme said that there were a number of things that the Board did after listening to community members, such as having a PE and music teachers in every elementary school. He asked if the team would help the Board look five years down the road. Mr. Colonna spoke of best practices which would be included in the report. He said that the Board's part would then be to adjust district funding to reach those objectives. He said that the timing felt right.

Mr. Colonna was asked if the budget committee would have a part. He said that they would be included in the budget analysis.

Mr. Golden said that the timing was right. He said that the district was experiencing a new superintendent, full-day kindergarten, a new teacher evaluation system and other changes. He said that the study could help if the district later went out for a school bond.

Mr. Colonna said that the Greater Albany School District has had several really outstanding leaders. He mentioned Bob Stalick, Rob Saxton and Nancy Golden.

He said that the team would ask for key documents. He said that they would tour the community and get a sense and feel of the community. He said that they would visit every school and conduct telephone and face-to-face interviews. He said that much information would come from the Board. He spoke of roles and responsibilities of the Board and the superintendent, key lines of demarcation and operating culture.

Mr. Colonna spoke of resource allocation. He asked how often student achievement topics appeared on the Board meeting agenda. He asked of community member involvement and asked if the district website was providing patrons with the information they needed. He said that procedures and processes were important.

Mr. Colonna said that this was to be the Board's efficiency study. He asked if there were other areas that needed to be studied. Board Vice Chair Smith asked that the team evaluate the food service program. Board members nodded in agreement.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from September 14, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel
- 3) Financial
- 4) Budget Committee Calendar
- 5) *JOA, Directory Information*
- 6) *JOB, Personally Identifiable Information*
- 7) *KGC, Tobacco Use on District Premises by Public*

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

BOARD REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Golden said that he and Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest would meet soon with State Senator Sara Gelser regarding the fifth-year program. He said that Senator Gelser and her committee were charged with putting together a package for the short session of the State Legislature in February.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Boehme said that he attended a Professional Learning Community session for kindergarten teachers. He said that 35 teachers participated.

He said that he met with State Senator Sara Gelser about the fifth-year program. He said that she was passionate about the program but he estimated that changes would be necessary because of interest in the Promise Oregon program.

Board Vice Chair Smith said that he participated in State Representative Andy Olson's Town Hall meeting on September 17 to discuss children and marijuana use.

DISTRICT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Allen said that the Committee met on September 24 and were guided by DLR Group. He said that the goal was to provide the Board with a recommendation regarding a school bond.

He said that there was a consensus within the group that there were overwhelming needs. He said that there was a focus on the age of the district facilities. He explained that buildings have fixed life expectancies and at some point buildings reach the end of their useful life and either needed to have a major renovation or simply needed to be replaced. He said that DLR Group was taking comments and recommendations.

He said that the next step would be to convene a review committee of community and business leaders. He said that would be a second level of review. He said that there would be two meetings in October and then the DFAC would be brought back in November. He said that the committee would work to refine their recommendation to the School Board. He said that the goal was to bring a recommendation to the school board in January. He noted that the efficiency study and the ongoing enrollment study would each play a role in those decisions.

Director Bricker asked if the Board would have an opportunity to review the report before it come out. Mr. Allen replied that when the previous DFAC did its work the Board did not review the document before it became public. He said that it was the Board's committee and the committee would do whatever the Board directed. He said that the idea was that the committee was making a recommendation to the School Board and it needed to be the committee's recommendation. Director Bricker said that he has had problems with reports coming from this kind of committees and it was almost impossible to make changes. He said that he would hate to have a Board Member vote against the bond because there was a recommendation that could not be changed.

Mr. Golden spoke of the superintendent advisory committee. He said that he would welcome a Board Member's participation in that group.

Board Vice Chair Smith said that he would have a hard time reviewing the DFAC report in advance of it becoming public because the Board put the committee in the position to advise the directors and to trust what the community stakeholders were saying about priorities for the schools.

Director Boehme said that he did not wish to discount the work of the committee.

Mr. Golden asked if Director Bricker and Director Boehme wished to participate in the community advisory committee. Both agreed to do so.

SOUTH ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Allen spoke about the cafeteria building at South Albany High School. He said that a bid package would come before the Board at their next meeting. He explained that the district had a 1971 building that was insured as a 1971 building. He said that there might be instances of things that had to be changed, not for code improvement, but simply to meet a current need, that would be an additional cost that the district would have to bear. He said that one of the things he hoped to bring to the Board at their next meeting was an idea of the magnitude of those costs.

Director Utt estimated that the code would not address networking requirements.

Director Boehme asked if ancillary issues would be discussed at the next Board meeting. Mr. Allen said that he expected project manager David McKay would attend.

STUDENT REPORTS

None.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
TRANSPORTATION

Business and Operation Director Russ Allen introduced Transportation Supervisor Kim Crabtree and said that she would report on the operations of her department.

Mr. Golden said that he was very impressed with Transportation Supervisor Kim Crabtree and her staff. He said that the department adjusted for full-day kindergarten, added buses to support the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce activities, and transported more than 6,000 students each day. He said that typically, the superintendent receives a number of complaint calls during the first few weeks of school regarding bus service. He said that he received no calls from parents during that period.

She said that her report was similar to the previous year. She referred to the bus utilization rates. She said that she would prefer a utilization rate of 60 percent but she had some buses which were 20 percent full and others which were 99 percent full.

Ms. Crabtree said that the department did a very good job of projecting the impact of full-day kindergarten. She said that she did not have to add any routes because of full-day kindergarten but many of the buses were quite full. She said that she was able to reduce one regular education route this year because of some bell time changes at the elementary level.

She said that it was still early in the year and some parents were still driving their children to school. She said that it was still possible that the department would have to add another bus route to carry additional riders.

Ms. Crabtree said that the department transported an average of 6,328 regular education students per day during the previous year. She said that her staff was attempting to refine how that ridership was calculated.

She said that the numbers of special needs students had climbed as had ridership for the McKinney-Vento students. She said that McKinney Vento was labor intensive as many of the students were from individual homes in neighboring cities.

Director Boehme asked about on-time performance. Ms. Crabtree said that 95 percent of bus runs were arriving within 10 minutes of the schedule school dismissal times. She said that there were just a few runs that were consistently late. Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that some of the schools adjusted their bell times last spring.

Board Vice Chair Smith asked about McKinney Vento riders. Ms. Everest said that the routes were shared with other districts.

Director Bricker asked of the number of McKinney-Vento students who live outside the Greater Albany District. Ms. Crabtree estimated that all but 20 of the children live in other cities.

Ms. Everest said that if the Board was interested, she could ask FACT to deliver a report on the McKinney-Vento program

Mr. Golden said that the transportation facility was undersized for the number of buses that it served.

Ms. Everest asked about the criteria used to determine bus replacement. Ms. Crabtree said that the district has to replace buses which have old emission systems. She explained that the special needs buses have particularly high numbers of engine hours because that have more idling time in picking up and discharging special needs students. She said that she wished to replace five buses this school year.

CLEARED VOLUNTEERS/STAFFING NUMBERS

Superintendent Golden said that Human Resources Director Randy Lary was absent as he was busy becoming a grandfather that evening. He said that information in the packet indicated that the district had 3,075 cleared volunteers.

He said that the district had 1,113 total staff members which included 519 certified employees, 547 classified employees, 6 confidential employees and 41 administrators. He noted that the district hired 75 new teachers.

REPORTS

NIKE UNIFORM AGREEMENT

Superintendent Jim Golden said that the information came to him as a proposal from West Albany High School Athletic Director Rich Engel. He said that the proposal was available to both high schools. He said that he was told that each of the high schools spends approximately \$15,000 on uniforms each year and each of the athletic departments already purchase nearly all of their uniforms through NIKE. He said that he wished to inform the Board of his intention to move ahead with the proposed agreement with NIKE.

He said that the agreement would require players and program staff to wear and/or use exclusively NIKE products during games and other official program activities. In return, schools would receive a 25 to 45% discount on NIKE clothing and equipment and athletic directors would receive a \$15,000 retail product rebate. He explained that any product purchased by an individual student would be exempt from the agreement (e.g. soccer cleats, basketball shoes).

Mr. Golden said that it would be a five-year agreement. He said that the language of the document permitted the district to separate from NIKE if it did not like the agreement.

Director Boehme asked for clarification regarding warmup gear. Mr. Golden said that the agreement would apply only to items purchased by the school district, not items purchased by parents.

Board Vice Chair Smith asked of a team which participated in a fundraising event to purchase warmup gear through the school. It was explained that the items would have to be NIKE but they could be purchased at a greatly reduced price.

Director Boehme said that it would be important that the athletic directors make players and coaches aware of the requirements. Board Vice Chair Smith said that the booster clubs would have to be aware of the requirements.

Mr. Golden said that no Board action was required. He said that he would sign the agreement himself.

AOL!

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest introduced teacher Emily Pfister-Valdez and said that she would report on the Albany Online! program. Ms. Everest said that it was two years since the last report to the directors.

Ms. Pfister-Valdez said that the program was initially intended to capture students who left the district for other online programs and to serve students who were unable to attend regular classes due to medical reasons. She said that there were 24 students during the first year.

She said that the second year, the program was further opened to include in-district students. In order to qualify, students had to be referred from their previous school. That year there were 43 students.

Ms. Pfister-Valdez said that this year, the on-line school added credit recovery and space for interdistrict transfer students. She said that there were now 90 students enrolled. She said that total included elementary, middle and high school students.

She said that Albany Online! offered a selection of courses from remedial through honors and advanced placement. Students could also choose from more than 100 electives. She said that instruction could be tailored to meet the student's needs. She said that she has a second grader who is taking first grade math, third grade reading, and the rest of her courses were at the second grade level. She said that one of the benefits of the program is that when students reach "Mastery" they can move on.

Ms. Pfister-Valdez said that some of the students were transitioning from home school and other students previously felt harassed or bullied in their regular school classrooms.

Director Boehme asked if a traditional high school student could take an elective not offered at the high school. Ms. Pfister-Valdez said that possibility was not available now but it might be possible in the future. Mr. Golden said that it was presently a funding issue. He detailed the requirements of Senate Bill 300.

Director Boehme said that online programs help students transition to college as they are responsible for their own work.

Director Utt said that that one district used online programs to avoid the "summer slide."

Director Boehme said that he was interested in virtual classrooms between the two high schools.

ADVANCED DIPLOMA

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest introduced teachers Dani Blackwell and Angela Spencer and said that they would report on the Advanced Diploma program.

Ms. Blackwell said that last year's numbers were provided in the Board packet. She said that work group considered targeting the program to students who were first generation college students as they historically need more help in applying for and adjusting to college. She said that it was decided to open the program to all students.

She said that she was not happy with the first year results. She said that of the 233 students initially enrolled, just 65 percent of the students finished the year. She said that the college rate was slightly lower at 62 percent.

Ms. Blackwell said that part of the reason for the poor completion rate was that she backed off from the requirement to take 12 credits each trimester and instead allowed working students to vary their course load. She said that was not successful as students who attend part time tend to take much longer to finish.

She referred to the second page of her report which provided grades in the math and writing courses. She said that Math 95 was equal to Algebra II in high school. She said that 33 percent of the students who took the course failed.

Ms. Blackwell said that math instruction was a huge problem in colleges across the nation. She said that many high school graduates entering college were not prepared and 75 percent have to take some remedial courses.

She estimated that many high school graduates do poorly in college math because they do not take math during their senior year. She explained that the minimum math requirement is three course and those can be completed during the first three years. She said that could result in 15 months without math.

Ms. Blackwell said that the pace in college is much different. She said college is a ten week term and high school is 36 weeks. She said that some Advanced Diploma students attempted to take math just two days a week which was a poor idea because it resulted in them receiving three or four lessons in one class period. She said that last year, she required students to be in the four day a week class.

She said that in high school, most of the learning occurred in the classroom. She said that in college, most of the learning was done on your own.

Ms. Blackwell said that students now have to declare a major which gives them a reason for taking the math and writing courses. Students failing a class have to repeat it the next term. She said that declaring an academic major helps the student receive an academic advisor who is familiar with their field. She said that LBCC students also get three hours of free tutoring every week.

Board Vice Chair Smith spoke of academic rigor. He said that if the high schools were not having a large number of students failing Algebra II in high school, why were so many failing when they took the same course in college.

Ms. Spencer said that some seniors think that if they have completed the minimum math classes they need not take math during their senior year. She said that they needed to take the math their senior year to avoid having 15 months without math. Ms. Blackwell agreed, noting that some seniors consider their 12th year as a “slack-off” year.

Director Utt cautioned about changing the graduation requirements to require four years of math. He was concerned about students who enter high school unprepared and need four years to complete the three years of math.

Director Boehme said that he was not proposing to increase the diploma requirements. He suggested that the district might have to change its expectations from getting students through high school to preparing students for college. Director Utt agreed.

Board Vice Chair Smith suggested that the Board talk to high school principals and consider a work session to discuss what they wanted a high schools graduate to look like.

Mr. Golden noted that during the economic recession, high school principals, in an effort to reduce class sizes when laying off teachers, permitted students to have open periods in their schedules.

Director Boehme said that the AVID program teaches students how to learn which was a good step.

Director Bricker estimated that Oregon State University was enrolling students who were not capable of finishing.

Ms. Blackwell introduced teacher Angela Spencer and said that she would be assuming leadership of the Advanced Diploma program.

Ms. Spencer said that she is a first generation college student and she first entered college without the resources, support or know-how to be successful. She said that she did not do well. She said that she eventually entered Chemeketa Community College and found the support system she needed.

She provided the Board with program enrollment figures but stated that the enrollment numbers were changing daily. She said that one student dropped earlier that day because his family moved to another state. She said that current enrollment was 264 which was about 100 more than the previous year. She summarized the academic programs that the students were declaring.

Ms. Spenser discussed some of the things being done to help the students be successful. She spoke of the “Welcome Day” before school started for all incoming freshmen. She said that all of her students participated in a mandatory meeting where the students participated in motivational activities. She also presented academic success information.

She said that all Linn Benton Community College students were taking “Destination Graduation” which was an eleven-week program which discussed educational plans and the courses one would have to take to reach that goal. She said that students were also learning of the educational resources available at the college.

Ms. Blackwell said that the Destination Graduation program could be structured for students who have a major and for students who are undecided.

OLD BUSINESS
BOARD POLICY, EXPULSIONS

Senate Bill 553 sought to minimize the development of students onto a conduct-discipline track that caused them to drop out of school. The bill added an age restriction as to when a district could impose an out-of-school suspension and required that the school “take steps to prevent the recurrence of the behavior that led to the out-of-school suspension.” The thought was that there should be some kind of corrective action along with the punishment. Senate Bill 556 stated that truancy may not be used as a reason to impose expulsion. House Bill 2597 required that notices required for noncompulsory attendance must include a notice that the parent may request an evaluation of the students current IEP or an evaluation to determine if their student needs an IEP. Board Policy *JGE, Expulsion* was further modified to indicate how the Board might hear the appeal of an expulsion.

At the September 14, 2015 meeting, a Director was concerned that if a student under 18 years of age was being considered for an expulsion, and the student’s parents chose not to get involved in the expulsion, the students would not be able to request an appeal by himself/herself. Conversation with the Policy Branch of the Oregon School Boards Association indicated that unless the student was age 18 or emancipated, the student would be under the jurisdiction of the parent. The office indicated that there was no provision in the law for a minor to represent himself/herself.

Because of the late hour, Board Vice Chair Smith directed that discussion on the topic be postponed to the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION

The Board packet contained recommended changes to Board Policy *KJA, Materials Distribution*. The new language indicated that requests to distribute flyers would be forwarded to the assistant superintendent who would decide whether materials would be distributed and the method by which they should be distributed if they were considered to be appropriate. Principals would be the final authority in deciding if and how materials would be distributed in their building.

Board Vice Chair Smith directed that discussion on the topic be postponed to the next Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice Chair Smith said that said that October 9, 2015 would be a staff development day. He said that the next Board meeting would be October 12, 2015.

Board Vice Chair Smith adjourned the Board meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Micah Smith, Board Vice Chair

Jim Golden
Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)
Business and Report Items - Document Reference (filed with original minutes)