

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



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 26, 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 7:02 p.m.

Sandi Gordon	gave advance notice of her absence
Micah Smith	Board Vice Chair
Frank Bricker	Director
Jerry Boehme	gave advance notice of his absence
Lyle Utt	Director
Stephanie Dilbone	Student School Board Member
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

The National Anthem was sung by the Calapooia Middle School Choir. Teacher Margo DeYoung is the choir director.

CORE PURPOSE/GOALS

Student School Board Member Stephanie Dilbone 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:

- Every day we provide every student with a safe environment that promotes 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
“THE RIGHT CONVERSATION”

Superintendent Jim Golden said that he and other superintendents were beginning a conversation about improving funding for schools in the State of Oregon to a place that would be the national average. He said that right now, Oregon has one of the least funded school systems in the United States. He recalled that during the recession, school districts had to reduce programs to save money. He said districts were beginning to bring things back and it was nice to hear music programs again. He said, however, that Oregon schools were woefully underfunded. He said that superintendents would be engaged in an 18 month campaign to draw better funding so that Oregon schools could at least meet the national average.

Board Vice Chair Smith said that Board members would be willing to help.

STUDENT ALL-STARS

Austin Erickson, Kayla Jones, Devanee Pappas, Zachery Patten, Mattis Stephen, and Sariah Young, of Calapooia Middle School and Abraham Bartholomew, Casey Brooks, Mitchell Giles, Kenzie Harris, Cole Stenger, and Hannah Thorp of Memorial Middle School were recognized for earning the highest scores at their schools in English, Mathematics and Science on the 2014-15 State assessment.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Susan Thompson of 5199 Mallard Circle SW in Albany encouraged the Board to put forth a bond measure to construct two auditoriums, one at each of the high schools. She said that she previously served on the Budget Committee before a family move to eastern Oregon. She said that at the first opportunity, her family returned to Albany because of the music and performing arts programs offered at the middle and high schools. She said that she and her husband spent countless hours over the past 20 years in volunteering, driving, fund raising, and sitting on cold metal folding chairs in watching their children and listening to their performances. She said that she could rarely actually watch her sons, however, as they both played the trumpet and happened to sit at the back of the band.

She said that music programs were a huge source of pride for schools and communities. A band or choir could draw a crowd of fans who would take great pride in the traditions and accomplishments of the school. She said that the very nature of the community was that it gathered at an auditorium for that purpose. She stated that the value of the auditorium could increase when it was opened to the public for community events and groups. She said that music brings people and communities together. She noted the huge response from the community after the South Albany High School fire. She said that Albany needed a proper venue to showcase the talents of its students in all areas of academic life. She urged the School Board to support a bond measure for two auditoriums. She pledged her support and vote.

Sonia Plascencia of 4173 Benton Place in Albany said that her two daughters had a wonderful experience in attending South Albany High School. She said that her son was now attending Memorial Middle School. She said that when she reviewed literature on the positive impacts of music, she was very happy that her children wished to participate. She said that the benefits of

singing and playing an instrument were amazing. She said that high school auditoriums would be a wonderful blessing for the community.

Shannon Fanourakis of 3617 Lafayette Street SE in Albany said that because the district was in the planning stage for a possible school bond, she wanted to indicate her support for high school auditoriums. She said that her daughter was a member of the Calapooia Middle School choir which performed for the Board earlier that evening. She said that she had the pleasure of watching her daughter and her classmates develop many important life skills through their participation in the performing arts.

She said that a lot of time and effort goes into creating a polished performance. She said that thanks to the high expectations of her choir director, her daughter and her classmates were making that happen. She said that it was disheartening that the performances had to be held in school cafeterias or gymnasiums with terrible acoustics, poor lighting and visibility, and limited seating that were not conducive for the performing arts. She hoped that the proposal to build auditoriums at the two high schools would move forward to fruition.

Theo Warren of 1560 Walden Circle in Albany said that he supported the proposal to build auditoriums at the two high schools. He said that Oregon ranks poorly on academic standards. He said that music could improve that situation. He also said that Oregon had a high percentage of children under medication. He said that music could help that as well.

He said that he was a veteran and in traveling the world he learned that music is culturally important everywhere. He said that it appeared to him that some children wander with nothing to do. He said that having two auditoriums would provide students with the opportunities children in other states have but Oregon does not. He said that his daughter is a singer and musician at Calapooia Middle School.

Music teacher Julie Buchert of 3777 Three Lakes Drive in Albany said that she would read a letter from parent Krystal Morvay. Ms. Morvay's letter indicated that she recently attended the Willamette Symphony performance which was held in a church. She said that until then she did not realize that none of the schools in Albany had an auditorium. She said that the school district was doing its students a disservice that could be remedied by building a place for students to perform. She said that it was too bad many students did not know what they were missing.

She said that there is no feeling like performing on a stage. She said that for kids who are shy, a stage would give them the opportunity to be in the spotlight while at the same time be part of a group of their fellow performers. She said that the students work hard and it feels rewarding to have their performance taken seriously. She said that she fully supported auditoriums for the two high schools.

Cecelia Easdale of 3725 Mariposa Drive in Albany gave Board members copies of her research. She said that her son was previously very shy but he was transformed by being on stage. She said that her son made many friends and developed confidence and teamwork when putting a play together.

Shelly May of 2312 41st Place SE in Albany said that she is a South Albany High School graduate. She said that she has two children who are South Albany High School graduates who were involved in the band, choir and theater arts program and a third who is involved as a sophomore. She said that the skills she learned while singing in the choir and acting in the theater were ones that she still uses today. She said that not only did she develop a life-long love of music and theater; it made her a more confident person. She said that she was now able to watch her children perform and watch their confidence grow.

She said that having a new auditorium at each of the high schools would greatly increase the benefits of the performing arts programs. She said that there were currently challenges in hearing and seeing the performers due to poor sound and lighting conditions. Setting capacity was also an issue. She said that a new auditorium would remedy those situations and would open new opportunities for school faculty to teach technical theater classes that would help students learn skills that could be used in almost any career field.

Audrey Southwick of 2114 Main Street SE in Albany said that her children have participated in choir and band programs at South Albany High School. She added that her middle schooler was interested in theater. She said that she was always impressed by the teachers and volunteers who work hard to make up for the district's lack of facilities. She said that after observing plays at Calapooia Middle School for the past several years she was astounded by the amount of work that goes into assembling a sound stage each time. She said that she was also the parent sitting on the benches and in the pews for choir concerts. She said that in attending performances at South Albany High school she was often standing at the back of the room because of overcrowding.

She said that South Albany High School theater performances were a joy to watch. She said that it would be very nice if the schools had an auditorium.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes from October 12, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel (with Addendum)
- 3) *KJA, Materials Distribution*

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

None.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Utt said that he attended the regional meeting with the Oregon School Boards Association representatives. He said that part of the discussion concerned employee sick leave.

He said that under the new law, for every 30 hours of work the employee would earn one hour of sick leave. Business and Operations Director Russ Allen spoke of the accounting challenges.

Board Vice Chair Smith said that he received several school flyers via the Peachjar notification system.

DISTRICT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Director Smith said that he met with Superintendent Golden, Business and Operations Director Russ Allen, DLR group and with community leaders to discuss the work of the District Facilities Advisory Committee.

STUDENT REPORTS

SOUTH ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

Student School Board Member Stephanie Dilbone said that things at South Albany High School were going well. She said that most of the problems with the temporary cafeteria were fixed. She said that Homecoming Week went well. There were several assemblies including one featuring a one-man volley ball team. Superintendent Golden said that he attended both the homecoming and volleyball assemblies and said that he was quite proud of the conduct of the students.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

None.

REPORTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL AVID UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that she and Secondary Curriculum Director Jason Hay would report on the AVID program at the middle school level.

Mr. Hay said that AVID's mission was to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. He said that AVID provides a framework, curriculum materials and professional development to build a program for underserved and underrepresented students in the middle. He said that the program serves students who could but typically would not go to college.

He said that AVID would focus on students who were in the AVID elective and rolling AVID out in a school-wide format. He said that there were 4 middle school programs. He said that the program at Timber Ridge School would also include some of the school's elementary students.

Mr. Hay said that each school had a site team of 8-10 people who were accountable for writing a site plan. He said that there was a common vision for the school-wide implementation including instructional improvement. He said that the site teams were blending with site councils. He said that the common goals included site team development, organization, and the needs of the school. He said that many of the schools were using Cornell Notes or were developing critical reading strategies.

He said that the middle school programs had begun. He said that the district received a grant from the Miller Family Foundation to begin the AVID program in a school-wide way without

starting the AVID elective in the first year. He clarified that there was no middle school AVID elective this year but there would be an elective next year.

Mr. Hay said that AVID was a program that gives the district strategies for improving instruction. He said that it did not necessarily provide overall practices. He said that district staff members were studying high-leveraged instructional practices. He said that the staff studied schools that that have done very well with AVID. He said that Parkrose Middle School in Portland was an AVID demonstration school. He said that the school truly changed their culture. He said that the students have a very high amount of poverty and more than 20 languages are spoken there and the school's achievement data was "off the charts." He said that a school like that could not change their culture overnight. Dramatic improvements take time, typically years. He said that AVID was just a part of the overall cultural shift.

He estimated that each school would eventually have one or two AVID elective classes which would be focused classes at each grade level. He estimated the program would require 4 FTE. He said that the grant from the Miller Family Foundation totaled \$174,820 for three years. He said that the amount awarded in Year 1 would be larger than the amount in Year 3 and district funds were expected to increase so AVID would be fully funded by Year 4.

Superintendent Golden asked of the estimated cost per site per year. Mr. Hay estimated \$40,000 - \$50,000 for each middle school and perhaps \$95,000 - \$100,000 for each high school. He said that the district was using some education service district Tier 2 money for that program. He acknowledged that the program would be expensive and require additional staff development time.

Director Bricker stated that AVID would be a long-term investment that might take years to fully show improvement.

Director Smith asked how the district would ensure that the same programs were implemented across the district. Mr. Golden said that was what you pay for. He said that part of the cost is the training for staff so that the program is properly implemented. He said that AVID does not permit schools to be AVID sites unless the program is implemented with fidelity across the system. Mr. Hay detailed the staff development structure.

Director Bricker asked if middle school AVID students would move into the high school AVID program. Mr. Hay said that, typically, they would but students would still have to go through the application procedure.

Board Vice Chair Smith asked if the district was fully funding high school AVID. Mr. Hay said that it was not. He estimated that the district was \$100,000 short. Board Vice Chair Smith said that AVID tutors were an increasing cost. Mr. Hay said that in offering the AVID elective, one had to be cognizant of the master schedule.

Board Vice Chair Smith said that the district has been communicating about AVID since early 2014.

Director Bricker asked about the number of students when AVID was fully implemented. Mr. Golden estimated 760 middle school students and 800 high school students. He projected that if AVID were effective, the requirement for remediation at the high school level would go down.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT CARDS AND SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that she and Superintendent Golden would discuss district Report Cards and results of the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Ms. Everest said that the Board packet had the district Report Card and the addendum had a summary of the individual school scores.

Mr. Golden said that during the weekend he pored over all of the school report cards. He said that there were some bright spots but he was not satisfied with the district as a whole. He said that there was much work to do. He said that high leveraged practices such as AVID would help change the trajectory of the school district.

He spoke of attendance. He said that Oregon has one of the shortest school years of any state in the nation. He said that attendance percentages were very poor with some schools at 80% and some schools at 70%. He recalled the report at the previous meeting by South Albany High School principal Brent Belveal regarding the Employability Grade. He estimated that any person in the room who was employed would not keep their job for long if they had an 80% attendance rate. He said that a short school year combined with poor attendance could not do anything but hurt the students.

Mr. Golden said that the district had some work to do. He said that when one considered comparators against like school districts, Greater Albany did not compare favorably. He said that he was proud of the work district teachers do but he was not satisfied by the results. He said that one of the reasons the district hired him was to make things better.

He said that the district was eight weeks into the school year. He said that the good news was that the things the district was doing were the right things. He spoke of AVID and ReadyGen and said that both were being implemented with a high degree of fidelity. He said that all of the students were being instructed in the same manner. He said that math scores were better thanks to Math Studio and language arts scores were improving. He noted that math scores were better than language arts scores which was unusual and statewide the situation was typically reversed. He projected that ReadyGen and RTI would move the dial in language arts. He said that the Curriculum and Instruction staff and the Board chose wisely in selecting curricula and high level practices being implemented across the district. He said that he was also examining supports for when students do not learn.

DISTRICT TRANSFER POLICY

Assistant Superintendent Tonja Everest said that she and Superintendent Jim Golden would discuss in-district and inter-district transfers.

She began the discussion with historical data provided in the Board packet. She said that high school 2015-16 numbers were within range of what happened in the past. She said that the

second part of the report provided inter-district transfer information. She explained how transfer laws were recently changed and indicated how she wished to amend district transfer directives.

Mr. Golden spoke in favor of online applications. He said that he wanted to avoid any potential for discrimination.

Director Bricker asked if the electronic registration program possibly coming next year would have a component for school transfers. Ms. Everest said that she would investigate.

Director Utt suggested that if transfer information was placed on the new website, that it be easy to find.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT

The Board packet contained a written update on the district's investment in technology.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice Chair Smith said that November 2, 2015 would be a staff development/grading day and November 11, 2015 would be the Veterans Day holiday. He said that the next Board meeting would be November 16, 2015.

Board Vice Chair Smith adjourned the Board meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Micah Smith, Board Vice Chair

Jim Golden
Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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