

CORBETT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 18, 2009
GRADE SCHOOL LIBRARY/BOARD ROOM

Board Approved 12/16/09

The Board of Directors of Corbett School District No. 39, Multnomah County, Oregon, met at Corbett Grade School Library/Board Room in said district on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. The following members were present: Maureen Childs, Chairman; Brian James, Vice Chairman; Bob Buttke; Charlie O'Neil; Jeff Aho and Todd Mickalson. Mark Hyzer had an excused absence. Also present were: Bob Dunton, Superintendent; Jan Younker, Deputy Clerk (out at 9:25 p.m.); Robin Lindeen-Blakeley, Deputy Clerk and Randy Trani, K-12 Principal. NOTE: The minutes are prepared to coincide with time scheduled matters and the numbering system of the agenda and is not necessarily the actual order of happenings at the meeting.

7:32 p.m.

1.0 PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 CALL TO ORDER - FLAG SALUTE Maureen Childs – Board Chair
-called the regular meeting to order and led the flag salute.

1.2 Review and Acceptance of Agenda – Board Chair Childs noted that 1.6 would follow item 1.3.
Charlie O'Neil moved the acceptance of the agenda as revised and Bob Buttke seconded.

The vote was 6-0 in favor of the changes.

1.3 Approval of Minutes Action Item
Regular Meeting
a. October 21, 2009
b. Amended September 16, 2009 Board Workshop

Brian James moved and Bob Buttke seconded:

RESOLUTION NO. **42.11-09** - RESOLVED that the Board approved the minutes of the above listed meetings.

The vote of the Board was 6-0.

1.4 Board Chairman Report Maureen Childs

a. Results of Board Self-Evaluation (continued from last month) – Chairman Childs explained the score is based on a one to five rating. The last two evaluations were completed on October 22. She read aloud the eight areas rated with the performance average score of each.

Jeff Aho questioned how the Board was going through this, would comments be read at end?

Todd Mickalson commented that number three was tough, being a new board member, to evaluate the Superintendent. He looked at the scoring to be 3 equaled average, 4 above average, and 5 excellent, 2 below average and 1 sucks.

Chairman Childs said they need to see if that's right or if others view differently. The 1-5 is carryover from years past. We don't give kids A-F, so maybe we want to do comments too. Evaluation is a continuing process.

Brian James agreed that he scored like Todd Mickalson.

Todd Mickalson likes what teachers do, commenting to track student progress, and it would be better for us as well, especially for new board members.

Brian James asked if saying score and why is what Todd Mickalson would like.

Todd Mickalson said yes, better understanding of how to get to the score.

Charlie O'Neil concurred this would be tough for new board members, as each member does their own evaluation. He commented on number seven, which builds into community involvement, and sometimes

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the board sends mixed messages (regarding public meeting protocol). Also, number four's score is lower than he believes is a true reflection, but hard to measure, yet we do respond to questions. His response to number two is that there is no control over budget dollars. We get about \$500 less per student than most school districts. We manage our dollars on administration far better than the rest, so the score is reflective of frustration over State dollars.

Bob Buttke noted that streamlining more is better, we do this every month, so satisfaction – how time consuming? Mark Hyzer and Brian James came up with this form.

Brian James added that we have staff here at the Board meetings, administration is allowing “outside the box” teaching, and it shows every day.

Jeff Aho explained that he uses a scoring policy at work. Average not so necessary to explain, but other sides may need explanation in a comprehensive evaluation. Why not learn from it, improvement worthwhile and worth revisiting for the Board self-evaluation.

Chairman Childs asked if there should be a subcommittee to evaluate.

Charlie O'Neil mentioned that we can comment every month under “Matters for the Good of the Order”.

Jeff Aho read aloud his comments on each of the performance standards 1-6, as attached for the record.

Regarding performance area 1:

Mr. Dunton noted that 10th grade is the only standard, as the others are benchmarks, and they don't have predictive value for 10th grade scores.

Mr. Trani added that the State of Oregon says the third grade test is predictive, but it's not.

Performance area 2:

Charlie O'Neil says this has been talked about for years. ITAX good, but since economy crashed, we have continued to save programs and yet still have an Ending Fund Balance.

Mr. Dunton said we have no idea of Revenues for the rest of this year, and Reserves are being cut, but we are not like other districts. We haven't taken away from contracts or days. Our connection is with continued success of achievement.

Charlie O'Neil says that the Board and Budget Committee have made conscious decisions to not dismantle programs. Our operating levy failed, so had to do something, drawing other students from outside the district. It's a vicious circle, and good decisions have been made.

Maureen Childs noted that the evaluation and information is from last year, and is good for discussion.

Jeff Aho thanked the Board, as he values this, and feels it is important for the public to hear.

Performance area 3:

No comments.

Performance area 4:

Jeff Aho commented that it is always nice to hear teachers' perspectives.

Brian James takes two to three Mondays a month to visit administration and classrooms of his students.

In his eight years on the Board and eleven years of kids in the school, he's always seen involved parents and is a regular field trip chaperone. Usually there is not enough room for all the parents that want to attend, so is confused by Jeff Aho's comments, based on what he sees.

Jeff Aho says it's the communication with the community as a whole, example being the sports levy, where he believes there was a lack of information, only two to three weeks of information before vote.

Maureen Childs verified that a Town Hall meeting was held prior to the vote.

Todd Mickalson asked about money being spent on sports, and is it currently going there.

Maureen Childs answered that we've been through lots of changes and always ways to improve. We've made the push to let parents know with lots of online information. The best line of communication is with the teachers, supporting their time and professional development.

Our focus is on teachers' time and resources for parents, and to represent the district.

Jeff Aho justified his opinion that he is not picking board apart, but sees room for improvement.

Performance area 5:

Charlie O'Neil noted that each individual Board member does things differently.

Performance area 6:

Charlie O'Neil cautioned that Board members have to be careful, because we can make teachers and people nervous.

Jeff Aho expressed that this was talked about at OSBA convention, how to help community to support the values, example like a parent support group.

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Charlie O'Neil said that's assuming we don't already do this.

Mr. Dunton said it is a question of scale. OSBA talks about a 20,000-40,000 student district, and the safeguards for that size. Mr. Trani has more contact with students than most administrators do in six months. Our circumstances are different so we leverage a positive impact.

Maureen Childs added that it is a matter of how accessible we are to community, and it is so much more than larger districts as other communities don't even know their representatives.

Brian James noted his knowledge is through his students in 5th through 12th grades, and the majority of focus being middle/high school. With the AP program, every 10th-12th grader has the same shot for his resume; it's up to the student and their effort. The staff, (especially teachers) is excellent at helping students succeed. An example is the middle school 7th period physical education class.

Charlie O'Neil can't imagine a student "falling through the cracks" here.

Maureen Childs confirmed to not get in the way of teachers and administration's accomplishments, and we'll see if next year is better.

Performance area 7:

Todd Mickalson agreed with Charlie O'Neil, we need to be consistent regarding public comment.

When do we actually respond?

Chairman Childs said that she sets the agenda with Mr. Dunton, and look at agenda and minutes to see how involvement works.

Charlie O'Neil said the information is on the agenda regarding public comment. He comments under "Matter for the Good of the Order" to audience comments made.

Performance area 8:

Brian James gave all areas a rating of "5" except this one.

Charlie O'Neil says the OSBA conferences do validate what Corbett School District does.

b. OSBA Annual Convention held November 12-15, 2009

Maureen Childs noted the best participation by Charlie O'Neil and Jeff Aho. The keynote speaker reiterated on a lot of the things we do at Corbett School District – focus on individual kids, no grades, give teachers professional development and planning time and to remember that kids learn at different times.

Charlie O'Neil noted that we are also better at making kids do school work.

1.5 Review of Correspondence to Board
a. none at this meeting.

1.6 Student Report- Megan Shaw (Teacher KG-3rd Charter School) and Kristin Wold (Teacher 1st-3rd Corbett Grade School) reported. Mrs. Shaw thanked the administration for following the vision. These two teachers approached Mr. Trani and Mr. Dunton last spring, and they took time to trust how to best serve children. The temporary wall between their classrooms is down, and 90% of the day they operate as one class of 50 students. They feel there is positive achievement and two teachers offer two perspectives on each child. They find it nice to bounce ideas back and forth and share responsibilities for teaching and lessons, which allows deeper subject matter. Similar teaching philosophies but separate strengths and passions, and the kids benefit from the shared expertise.

Mrs. Wold noted that differentiation fits into multi-age arrangement with flexibility, with reading in small groups, large groups and with individual attention. Learning and listening from peer group at morning meetings. Guided reading, math and writing groups of three to seven kids, with always changing students, based on skills. The Board received a refrigerator magnet and handout entitled "What about Math?" as well as their blog address, which they give to their parents, to let them know about philosophy of the

classroom. She feels this is the best year of her 20 years of teaching in Corbett. She welcomed the Board to come visit.

Jeff Aho asked how this works for a K-3rd classroom.

Mrs. Wold answered that there is a bag of books to read independently and then they read and write in groups.

Brian James commented that this is outstanding and proof that the bar for levels is raised for kids and teachers. It's great that you approached the idea with administration, and then hear how successful it is.

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Charlie O'Neil says that's the theory with multi-age, to force teachers on different levels.

Mrs. Wold agreed that she is trained to look at all kids individually.

Mrs. Shaw concurred that it helps students to be in peer groups.

Maureen Childs commented that it is important to hear teachers in front of the Board, and appreciate their work.

Randy Trani added thanks for Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Wold for coming to the meeting, and noted how good it feels as soon as you walk through their classroom door.

1.7 K-12 Principal Report

Randy Trani

Mr. Trani thanked Mrs. Wold and Mrs. Shaw, as it highlights what is happening at the grade school. The "vertical theming" is lots of work and has gone swimmingly; even with the alvae (the temperature is tough to keep optimal).

Jeff Aho asked if they will be released in Buck Creek.

There are four field trips this week, with Imaginative Education in prevalent use in the classrooms.

In the middle school they held the Author's Café, where students have spent six to seven weeks of preparation in writing their student's memoirs, and about eight are chosen (best of each group) after listening to themes, reading to audience and gathering authentic assessment.

The winter athletics have begun with lots of participation. There are 30 boys and girls in wrestling. They also have a ski conditioning strand and optional Fridays for groups to go ski.

Corbett High School – Girls placed 5th at state and it's nice to see how they've enjoyed themselves in the last couple of years. Boys' soccer also went to state.

The integration of culinary arts has blossomed over the last three years.

Seniors received their first letter regarding their graduation prospects for 2010.

Corbett School - Holly Elvins-Dearixon, Curriculum Coordinator, and Mr. Trani are doing state testing, and working on predictions.

End of first trimester November 19, 2009 and finals testing.

Schools like Scio HS, Oakridge, KF Hedrick, Trinity Lutheran, LaCenter, and Gervais visited and toured our school. Gervais sent their entire teaching staff with principal and curriculum coordinator, and plan to have Superintendent come as well later. Our students are used to these tours.

Our philosophy we share is not to bandage wounds and try to not inflict damages in grade level and grade level expectations. We know our school size and kids. The amount we spend is the lowest funded in Multnomah County, about \$8,000 per student compared to Portland Public at about \$12,000 per student. If you look at graduates, and compare, we're the best. We had 38 graduates in one year at about \$70,000 less per graduate than any other local school, and about 50% less than others, yet we produced outstanding results.

Brian James said there were 53 graduates that walked last year and how many total students in class?

Mr. Trani answered 55 students, and only one did not graduate, 54 made it.

Charlie O'Neil asked how Imaginative Education is used in Charter School versus Corbett School, and what sense is there of how many teachers use it and with what latitude.

Mr. Trani says there is latitude and that it's dependent on the teacher, it is a continuum, with all the grade school classrooms involved.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTS OF GUESTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Board Chair Childs reminded all about procedures for public comment, a three minute limit and no comment back from the board.

2.1 Eric Stevens, parent, reported on sports and Booster Club. He reiterated Mr. Trani's report about the successful teams, with volleyball and boys soccer at state. Also, girls' soccer made district playoffs. He thanked Brian Davis for working with youth football. The Booster Club has 70+ members. Sponsorships are down a little this year due to the economy, but the teams have been doing fundraising too. There is definitely gym space at a premium with three boys' basketball teams, and good participation and competition this winter season.

2.2 Becky Annus, parent, was at the meeting to support role of Mrs. Shaw. Her daughter has been with Mrs. Wold since first grade, and loves it. The teacher teamwork can be felt, and how welcomed and appreciated the parents are. She said these teachers are doing

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an awesome job of educating the parents with a newsletter, blog and notes that come home with students. No barriers. She also attended the Author's Café and noted the hard work involved.

3.1 Report

Information Item

Mr. Dunton said that Expenditures fairly well set within salaries/benefits. Supplies and Materials and Purchased Services should keep within projections. With \$400,000 Contingency, Projected Ending Fund Balance \$143,886. Projected Beginning Fund Balance \$450,000, and continued high interest rates look like \$140,000 increase for our 70 employees. PERS increase of 8%+ push us, especially if tax measures go down, there will be a half million shortfall for the state to then reconvene to see how to make ends meet. The good news is that this fiscal year's goals are met. The bad news is that next year's will maintain this year's Revenue, but in June there will be uncertainty. This equates to a \$400,000 question and significant to afford increases or distribute increased expenditures. To a degree we have some control over and will play out as projected, after January election.

Bob Buttke asked when announcements are made on costs.

Jan Younker said that PERS is July and health insurance in October.

Jeff Aho asked about this increase for cap. Side accounts?

Mr. Dunton said the question will be who picks up the costs, district or teachers or spread out between individuals. We do not have PERS side account and presently 14 – 14.2%.

9:25 p.m.

3.2 Extension of Deadline for SSCA Earnest Money

Action Item

Charlie O'Neil moved and Bob Buttke seconded:

RESOLUTION NO. **43.11-09** – RESOLVED that the Board extended the deadline for the 2nd \$1,000.00 payment on the earnest money for Springdale School until February 1, 2010, with closing no later than May 31, 2011 for Springdale School and property.

Mr. Dunton was approached by SSCA for this one time delay request on payment because of unanticipated costs.

Brian James asked why, but understands struggles due to economy.

Jeff Aho said he had heard because of traffic study and engineering cost.

Todd Mickalson asked if same closing cost.

The Board voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Charlie O'Neil moved and Brian James seconded:

4.0 Consent agenda resolution items 44.11-09 through 50.11-09** Action Items**

****9.2 Verification of Hours for Certified Employee**

****RESOLUTION NO. 44.11-09****- RESOLVED that the Board confirmed that teacher Andy Blanc works 7.75 hours per day and his FTE is .86 effective November 2, 2009.

****9.3 Hire of Winter Coaches**

****RESOLUTION NO. 45.11-09**** - RESOLVED that the Board confirmed the hire of the following coaches for winter season 2009-2010: Roy Altman, Head Boys Varsity Basketball; Aaron Long, Head Varsity Wrestling; Randy Lee, Head Girls Varsity Basketball; Brandon Sause, Head MS Cross Country; Chris Detherage, Head MS Girls Basketball; Jonathan Beckman, Head MS Boys Basketball; and Peter Monahan Head MS Girls Basketball. Includes more names on the attachment to minutes for the record.

****10.1 2010 OSBA Officer Candidates**

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****RESOLUTION NO. 46.11-09**** - RESOLVED that the following candidates for Oregon School Boards Association officers are recommended by a vote of the Corbett School District Board of Directors as follows: OSBA President-Elect – one year term for Bobbie Regan, Portland 1J; OSBA Vice President – one year term for Randy Tweten, LaGrande 1; and OSBA Secretary-Treasurer – one year term for Kris Howatt, Gresham-Barlow 10.

****10.2 OSBA Resolution 1: Voting by Education Service Districts and Community Colleges**

****RESOLUTION NO. 47.11-09****- RESOLVED that the OSBA Constitution be amended to establish that when a member district, education service district or community college boundary spans more than one OSBA region, that member board must declare in which region it intends to vote and vote only in that region.

****10.3 OSBA Resolution 2: Establish a Finance Committee in the OSBA Constitution**

****RESOLUTION NO. 48.11-09-** RESOLVED that the OSBA Constitution be amended to establish a Finance Committee in the OSBA constitution.

****10.4 OSBA Resolution 3: Election of OSBA Officers**

****RESOLUTION NO. 49.11-09**** –RESOLVED that the OSBA Constitution be amended to allow the OSBA Board to select its officers and discontinue the practice of referring a slate of officer to the membership for ratification.

****10.5 OSBA Resolution 4: New OSBA Board of Directors Positions**

****RESOLUTION NO. 50.11-09**** – RESOLVED that the OSBA Constitution be amended to add two OSBA Board of Director positions to represent the regions of the immediate past president and president, respectively, during their terms in those offices when those officers come from regions that have only one representative.

The vote of the Board was 6– 0 in favor of Resolution No. ****44.11-09** through ****50.11-09**.

5.0 CURRICULUM

5.1 No information at this time in the meeting.

6.0 STUDENTS

6.1 No information at this time in the meeting.

7.0 TRANSPORTATION, BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE

7.1 No information at this time in the meeting.

8.0 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

8.1 No information at this time in the meeting.

9.0 PERSONNEL

9.1 Vacant Positions
aloud by Chairman Childs:

Information Item – read

The district has vacant positions at this time for Substitute Bus Drivers and on-call Instructional Assistants for 2009-2010.

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9.2 See 4.1

9.3 See 4.1

9:27 p.m.

RECESS – The Board took a break.

9:40 p.m.

RECONVENE – The Board reconvened to public session.

10.0 POLICY

10.1 See 4.1

10.2 See 4.1

10.3 See 4.1

10.4 See 4.1

10.5 See 4.1

11.0 SUPERINTENDENT DUNTON'S REPORT

11.1 District Report Card – Mr. Dunton predicts a story from The Outlook will publish on Saturday, November 21. There are now three categories instead of five, making K-12 more efficient. Achievement index is only based on assessments, and depressed compared to recent years. 100 meets, 66 nearly meets, 33 low and 0 is below low. Credit in 4th/5th/6th and up except 10th. When the benchmark is missed by one point, count equals zero. Our attendance rate 11/17/09 was 95%. With the volleyball game on Friday, 11/13/09, attendance was 80% in the high school. This goes into the participation rate, with good results. The school performance data shows not much gap in math and reading in 3rd-10th combined. There is so much emphasis on improvement, not on achievement. One year spike, middle 70's satisfactory.

Brian James asked if this is for public schools only.

Yes, public charter schools too, per Mr. Dunton.

The back side of the report from The Oregonian shows the averages in our multi-age are not same as state.

Maureen Childs said this is opposite the trend of most schools.

Mr. Dunton said that if you do what the State wants you to do, it forces an artificial height without the base. We build a pyramid with a richer base to hold them up.

9:55 p.m.

RECESS – The Board recessed to:

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – ORS 192.660(2)(d) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

All members of the Board were present as at the beginning of the meeting (except Jan Younker).

Information related to executive session included questions/follow up regarding an ethics workshop, fee schedule from attorney, distribution of current certified contract to Board.

11:05 p.m.

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION – The Board reconvened to public session. Brian James moved and Charlie O'Neil seconded to extend the meeting past 11:00 p.m. The vote of the Board was 5 – 0 – 1 (abstention from Bob Buttke).

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13.0 ACTION ON PROPOSED OR TABLED MATTERS TO FOLLOW EXECUTIVE SESSION

13.1 None at this meeting.

14.0 MATTERS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

14.1 Brian James thanked Mr. Killgore for his excellent teaching, as military band is easy, reported a past senior. He thanked the K-3rd teachers for coming to give their good report. The memoirs of the middle school and the coffee shops were excellent, and helped these kids and teachers think, bringing lots of purpose, started at beginning of the year and compiled in a book that is very artistic. This knocked out part of the Cardinal 3 requirement for 8th graders to be published before promotion, a great success to build on.

14.2 Mr. Dunton announced that his past senior would like to trade some professors for teachers Phil Pearson and Larry Swanson.

14.3 Todd Mickalson asked if Kindergarten has music.

14.4 Randy Trani said Mrs. Ortman does her own music, as her degree was in music. With half day funding for kindergarten, couldn't eek out another Tracie Swanson. A ramification of operating levy defeat.

14.5 Jeff Aho expressed his hopes for Tracie Swanson to teach all music classes.

15.0 COMING EVENTS

15.1 Thursday and Friday, November 26-27, 2009, Thanksgiving Holiday, no school

15.2 December 4, 2009, Friday, In-Service (full day MS/HS, half day GS)

15.3 Winter Break, December 21-31, 2009

15.4 Wednesday, January 13, 2010 – Conferences eve MS/HS

15.5 Monday, January 18, 2010 – MLK Jr.'s Birthday, Non-Paid Holiday

15.6 Wednesday, January 20, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting, GS Board

Room/Library, 7:30 p.m.

15.7 Friday School Day, January 22, 2010

15.8 Monday, February 15, 2010, President's Day Holiday

11:12 p.m.

16.0 ADJOURNMENT