

**MINUTES OF THE
CANBY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP SESSION**

February 8, 2007

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rodney Beck called the Workshop Session to order at 6:38 p.m. in the Eccles Elementary School Cafeteria. Board members in attendance were Rodney Beck, Dr. Michael Harms, Dick Adams, Andy Rivinus, Marty McCullough, Sandy Ricksger and Guy Gibson. Also in attendance were Deborah Sommer, Linda Martin, David Moore, Hank Harris, Carol Meeuwsen, Pat Johnson, Lou Bailey, Joel Sebastain, Joel Stuart, Diane Berthoin-Hernandez, Jennifer Turner, Marilyn Wood, Ricardo Marquez, Ryan Oliver, Tom Feller, Mark Webber, Andrea Weber, Jennifer Dorsey, Lisa Bach, Lewis Moller, Michelle Webber, Tom Millbrooke, Joe Minson, Sheila Daniels, Cindy Bauer, Bob Webber, and Danielle Peterson. Several attendees did not sign in.

2.0 PUBLIC FORUM / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Webber presented Deborah and the Board a letter in support of the Traditional Calendar to begin the day after Labor Day and end the first week in June. The letter, endorsed by 161 parents, students and staff shared a list of issues of concern with the current calendar. Some of the concerns are childcare before Thanksgiving, kids in vacation mode between Thanksgiving and Christmas, unable to attend church and sports camps held in early June, competing for summer jobs, harder for kids to concentrate knowing other schools are out and friends in other districts making money. Mark also felt the survey results were misleading and the comments told the real story.

Lewis Moller shared his concern that childcare issues present a hardship for many families with the long breaks and students not being able to get summer jobs. He would like to see the Board make compromised adjustments with the long breaks. He also said it's easier to obtain childcare for only 1 or 2 days.

Tom Feller asked Deborah why there were no Local School Committee meetings last year at the District level. She told him currently we have several vacancies on the LSC's. There are no meetings planned at this time, but Deborah asked Tom to call and set an appointment. Tom also shared the accomplishments of the Canby High Snowboard Team, including Megan Montgomery finishing in 2nd place.

3.0 INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Calendar Discussion Continuation

Dr. Harms attended a luncheon at Baker Prairie Middle School. He shared comments by parents wanting continuity and consistency with the calendar.

Some would like to see a four or five year calendar. Sandy Ricksger noted the present calendar was adopted for two years and the board said they would evaluate the calendar after two years, which they are doing. Andy Rivinus agreed families need consistency. Rod Beck asked the principals about their perceptions. Pat Johnson said that from the survey the students completed, 85% liked the current calendar. Pat said it does present challenges for fall coaches with other schools starting earlier. He said presently the leagues are already planning for next year.

Guy Gibson said we do need a multi-year calendar and we need to look at the educational values of that calendar. Doc Harms said last time he was not in favor of changing from the traditional calendar; however, the attendance data does show improved attendance in the majority of schools. He does like an earlier start and would like to see more class instruction. Lewis Moller asked about data and Deborah shared it was given out at past meetings.

Ryan Oliver felt the survey questions were skewed. He felt the impact on fall sports is huge and while other schools have had the week off before summer activities, Canby is still in school.

Lou Bailey said the parents want consistency and like the trimester breaks. Joel Sebastian reported most of the parents he talked to don't have strong opinions and the majority of his staff like the current calendar. Doc asked the elementary principals if they felt the learning process was affected with the breaks. Joel Stuart responded the Winter breaks are really no different. Thanksgiving Break was the main difference from past calendars.

Lewis Moller would like to see YMCA childcare programs and afterschool programs in all the schools. People are upset because of the hardships presented with childcare.

Ricardo Marquez had favorable comments from Trost parents and staff. Joe Minson, CEA president and teacher pointed out state testing needs to be completed by May 25 and with Version 1 and 2 there are eight days after that date that could be used for student instruction.

Guy Gibson said the calendar survey was not done for the purpose of voting. It is not a scientific study. It was done for the purpose of gathering information. It is the Board's job to adopt the calendar. There are also contract issues with staff and once again the bottom line is what is best for student achievement. Rod Beck commented he is split in terms of his own goals/feelings about the calendar.

The decision on the calendar will be made at the February 15, 2007 meeting to take place in the CHS OMNI room.

3.2 Chalkboard Presentation

Charlie Stinson shared with the Board his involvement with the Chalkboard Project. Their mission is to create one of the top ten school systems in the country as measured by student achievement. Improving the quality of public education is their top priority. Chalkboards 2007 Legislative Priorities center on four areas that represent the strongest research about how to improve student achievement. One of the proposals is to create early learning success by lowering class sizes to 15 students in K-1 grades and provide tutors or other individualized reading support for K-3 students not reading at grade level. Providing mentors for new teachers and administrators for three years as well as making sure every teacher has ongoing training focused on raising student achievement and meeting school performance goals is also proposed.

Another issue is 40 percent of Oregonians don't believe schools are spending their money efficiently. Chalkboard proposes to increase efficiency, accountability and savings through better financial practices by identifying and sharing best financial practices with all school districts and monitor their use. Restructuring the transportation funding formula to encourage more busing cost efficiency and to phase out all permanent early retirements contracts would save money.

Oregon has one of the most unstable school funding systems in the country and Chalkboards last proposal is to strengthen school funding by providing a guaranteed level of state spending per student to ensure providing K-12 services at current levels and invest in proven practices to raise student achievement and double the size of the state's education stability fund to protect education services. Guy Gibson commented the legislature needs to really look what it costs to run a good educational building.

3.3 Budget Priorities for 2005-2010

Deborah Sommer and David Moore reviewed the information handed out at the Budget Priorities meetings. Very few people have attended and Deborah has received only a few emails. The State School Fund Revenue forecast is for 6.0B and we need 6.3B. She also shared the "Investing in Student Achievement" menu options to be used if additional dollars are received. We will build our budget to the current service level and bring public input on the priorities in development of the budget. Guy Gibson said the lack of PE, music and library time are the most glaring of the ramifications of reductions. Deborah said we need \$240,000 to bring back PE and music to its prior level. Deborah also reported according to the demographer, we will be losing approximately 100 students next year. One possible reason is the defeat of several annexations and the lack of affordable

housing in Canby for those needing a “starter home” with young families. Deborah has staff meetings scheduled in all buildings to share budget information.

3.4 Baker Prairie Field Proposal Update

Deborah met with the group involved in proposing the artificial turf fields. The high school and Canby Soccer have been included in conversation, but there is concern among Canby Kids organizations that youth football and girls soccer have not been included. There is also a meeting set next week to discuss the project and why the high school field is not being considered. One of the requirements for funding from United Soccer requires regulation size fields and the high school space is not big enough. Also, there are potential issues from the city with the original site approval being for grass fields, no lights and it was not a revenue producing facility. The school district has not given approval for this project and all funds will need to be raised before hand as there is no district money included.

Sandy Ricksger voiced a concern from a district patron regarding the danger at the intersection of Redwood and Township due to heavy traffic at times. Lou Bailey heard the city was possibly doing a study in regards to the possibility of making it a 4-way stop.

Rod Beck adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Martin
Board/Superintendent Secretary

Rodney J. Beck
Board Chair

Date _____

