

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 17, 2013**

**Regular Session and Executive Session**

**Meeting Location: Canby High School, Applied Technology Center, OMNI Room**

**Board members in attendance** were Brendan Murphy, Angi Dilkes Perry, Kristin Downs, Diane Downs, Mike Zagya, Tom Scott, and Andrea Weber. Also in attendance were Dr. John Steach (Superintendent), and Caryn Davis (Board Secretary).

**Signed in guests:** No guests in attendance signed in.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Board Chair, Brendan Murphy, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Steach led the flag salute.

**2.0 INTRODUCTIONS**

The audience members introduced themselves.

**3.0 CHANGES TO AGENDA**

No changes were made.

**4.0 PUBLIC FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Brendan Murphy opened the floor for public comments. No comments were made.

**4.1 CARE AWARDS**

Canby Area Recognition of Excellence (CARE) Award recognizes local teachers, administrators and staff who excel in educating local children. The award originated with State Farm Insurance agent Matt Olson, a member of Canby Kiwanis. Nominations for the award can come from anyone. Dr. Steach read a letter from a student in nomination of Andrew Pauls, Ninety-One School Teacher. Dr. Steach and Matt Olson awarded Andrew Pauls with a plaque in recognition of being September's recipient of the CARE Award.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**Diane Downs moved to approve the Consent Agenda, with two minor changes to the October 3, 2013 minutes. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.**

Included in the Consent Agenda:

- 5.1 Work Session and Executive Session Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2013
- 5.2 Personnel Changes

**6.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Steach commented on the following: Commended the Staff and Administrators for the way they handled the changes they have been going through; we seem to have hit a turning point this week. Conferences are in progress this week. Canby High School's conferences were well attended. Baker Prairie Middle School's conferences are currently in progress. Staff and administrators are continuing to work on fine-tuning the requirements of Senate Bill 290. Last Friday the District provided a professional development session with teachers, which seemed to be very beneficial. Nancy Golden, Oregon Education Chief Officer, is now in charge of the State's P-20 plan. Tracie Heidt is facilitating the Teacher Adoption Program, with the help of some State funding. Dr. Steach commended Tracie for her work with the program.

**7.0 BOARD COMMENTS**

**Angi Dilkes Perry:** Commented on her attendance at the conferences this week. Our teachers are so enthusiastic about having the kids in their classes. Despite grading issues, most parents seemed excited about the conferences. From the parent's perspective, the transition went relatively smoothly.

**Andrea Weber:** Attended a White Building Committee meeting. The group would like a representative to come to the Board with their status and permission to move forward.

**Mike Zagya:** After listening to Pat Johnson speak about the ASPIRE program, he went and visited, signing up as mentor. He is very impressed with the program.

**Diane Downs:** Had the opportunity, earlier in October, to attend a collaborative team meeting at Canby High School; it was nice to see teachers jumping right in. Curriculum alignment is more of the focus, at this point. She also attended a teacher development workshop at Knight Elementary School with K-8th grade teachers. It was very interesting and encouraging seeing multi-levels of teachers digging into math concepts so they can better help their students. At the end of September she went to Knight Elementary and sat in with Christine Taylor, Knight Elementary Principal, on the Terrific Kids for the Month selection team. She also attended her class reunion.

**Kristin Downs:** Extended appreciation to all staff, teachers and principals; she has a strong sense of how much they have been going through, holding on to the belief that it will be better in the end.

**Tom Scott:** During the past 1&1/2 months he hasn't been in the schools as much as he would have liked. He has, although, had many discussions with people outside of the schools. He realizes that it is an extremely busy time for staff, with much going on.

**Brendan Murphy:** Believes a lot of things are coming into smoother water. Most of the Board attended the Fall Regional Meeting; there was a strong Canby presence at the event. He attended Parent Teacher Conferences; he thought the report card explanation went very well.

## 8.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### 8.1 Technology Discussion:

Dr. Steach wanted to verify that he and the Board were on the same page, regarding the progress of the District's technology program. He asked that the Board look ahead at a long-term vision and let him know where they would want to be in the future. Do we want to stay at the device to student ratio that we are currently at, move towards 1:1 devices, a greater ratio of devices, or a smaller ratio? He believed that the Board wanted to move towards a greater ratio of devices, but after the past Board Work Session, he felt that some of the board members were hesitant.

**Andrea Weber's** comments regarding 8.1:

- We can't stay with the status quo, technology is part of our everyday life, need to incorporate more technology into the schools.
- Mobile devices instead of computer labs offer a lot more to our students.
- If we invest, we need to invest in what has the greatest applications.
- If we tie the devices to a particular direction, we will catch achievement; if we target a curriculum group, we will get equity.
- Curriculum continuity is very important.
- After reading through the grant proposals, if necessary to choose a direction, I would favor reading over math.

**Diane Downs'** comments regarding 8.1:

- The question is how fast will we progress?
- Over time, we should move to more technology, rather than less.
- If asked to prioritize technology over all else, my answer would be no.
- Apparently, curriculum continuity has always been a problem. If a child changes from one school to another, within our District, the curriculum should be consistent.
- I have talked to a number of teachers and they all think there is no way that all of our curricula could be digital. There needs to be tension and balance. Seems we could wait awhile and see what others develop. I am skeptical that we have what we need to be able to role out our own curriculum.
- It creates hard feelings in the community when parents feel their student is not being served because their kids were not children of poverty.
- Could we consider iPods instead of iPads for the younger ages? The cost would be less and there seems to be significant results with the iPods.

**Brendan Murphy's** comments regarding 8.1:

- The more developed the plan is, the better for me. I can support the implementation, if we have a well-defined plan.
- I feel like there are gaps and I would want to get the most bang for the buck.

**Mike Zagya's** comments regarding 8.1:

- Technology is our future; we will never be at the cutting edge, because that changes monthly.
- If asked to change technology for people, my answer would be no. Staff always comes first.
- Over time, we can move to more technology, not less.
- Our ultimate goal has to be mobile iPad technology in the classroom for every student.
- Plans need to be developed; we need to be able to adjust as we go along. It needs to be a substantial, step-by-step, well thought out program.
- One student having a device and another not, that doesn't look right.
- All students in the same grade level should be taught the same thing.
- If curriculum were to be built, it would have to happen during the summer. I have known people who have developed their own curriculum and it was done well.
- If a team is needed to develop the curriculum, it may be more cost effective to buy or have a hybrid curriculum.
- Equity is important, but it needs to be across the board, not poverty driven. We should service not only students that are on the bubble, but above it as well.

**Tom Scott's** comments regarding 8.1:

- Biggest concern is sustainability; whether we make it 1:1 or hold back, I am in between – sustainability is a big thing. I don't want to have regrets later.
- We should try to reach all students at all grade levels. We should do this in a fashion that makes sense and benefits large numbers of kids.
- It is the District's responsibility to supply the curriculum to our teachers.
- I am against targeting poverty and the lowest achievers; it doesn't serve our District. In the 5 years I have been on the Board, there was never a discussion on how we serve our high achievers. Every kid is just as important as the other.
- Our administrators should tell us what the best way is for us to make the most significant dent and why.

**Kristin Downs'** comments regarding 8.1:

- I am cautious of the unknown; will we be able to maintain this?
- With curriculum, what has come to light is how far behind we are. This should be a huge focus. I believe we have to talk about curriculum and technology together.
- I am surprised that there is not more continuity between buildings. I would expect a strong district to provide continuity and consistency in curriculum.
- Subjects should be covered regardless of what school you attend.
- So much research goes into the development of curriculum, how can we expect our teachers to do that in one summer?
- Regarding consistency of device access, we should cover all of one grade level, regardless of building; it may be better to start at the high school.

**Angi Dilkes Perry's** comments regarding 8.1:

- In order for people to participate, they need to buy into it. What do teachers want? Going down the road, I would like to have conversations that give teachers a chance to weigh in.
- It is important not to connect poverty versus assistance; the two are not the same. Being equitable is the most important thing we can do.

**Dr. Steach's** comments regarding 8.1:

- I think we can get to the point where we can bring a very solid plan to you at the next meeting.
- The reason curriculum has come into the discussion is because I looked into the purchase of curriculum

and we couldn't afford standard textbooks. To bring all curricula up to date would decimate the District. Do we wait 7 years and create our own digital curriculum or go back to curriculum adoption? Heading into the future, do we say the District will provide textbook or digital curriculum or do we develop our own curriculum? I think we need to step back from the curriculum discussion and ask ourselves what direction we are going with technology, first.

- As far as device deployment, what priority should we use? How we do this depends on where we put our value. It could be an 8-year strategy to get to 1:1, maybe first target the ones that don't have home access, what gets us there fastest or what has the biggest impact; we need to be strategic.

### **8.2 State Report Cards**

Dr. Steach presented and reviewed with the Board a handout showing the Peer Position Rating and what each school is rated at.

### **8.3 Elementary Math**

Marilyn Wood, Director of Student Achievement – Elementary, distributed a handout titled: Keeping Student Understanding & Achievement at the Core. She talked to the Board about where we are with the elementary math program, with a Key Note presentation titled: Math K-6 Canby School District.

### **8.4 Synergy**

Dr. Steach thanked Susie Strangfield for leading the effort for our District's Synergy conversion; many people have put in lots of time. In the past 2 weeks, many problems have been solved through program upgrades. Multiple teachers can now access the Gradebook. Susie loaded the comments for teacher use with the report cards. Personal management standards on progress reports were not loading and a work around was given at the last minute. Other issues were creating problems in printing the report cards, but they were able to get the last report printed 10 minutes after conferences started. K-6 IEP access has been added. StudentVue and ParentVue access was successfully opened. People are starting to see the capabilities that Synergy has to offer. There were some State issues related to kindergarten students showing as full-time and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students showing as half-time. Food Service is having problems with the free and reduced not showing correctly. There have been statewide Special Education issues with medical alert tags not showing up. There are still a number of custom reports that are being worked on. Thanks to our staff and the Clackamas ESD staff, it has been a tough roll out for them. It was a monumental task and I am impressed with what everyone has done.

### **8.5 Report Cards and Grading Practices**

Dr. Steach noted that report cards and grading practices have been another challenge of implementation. Calibrations on assignments to the 1-4 rubric have led to many discussions over the past month with principals and teachers. He commented on the following related issues:

- Behavior not being part of a grade.
- Standards on assessments.
- Anchor papers on the elementary rubric.
- Re-implementing the Report Card Committee, in recognition that we will want something different for next year.

Pat Johnson, Canby High School Principal, reported that at Parent Conferences, parents came to talk about their kids, not report cards. He had a sense that the response was positive. This was the largest attended conference since 2009, with 628 report cards picked up.

### **8.6 Budget/Enrollment Numbers**

Mary Knigge, Director of Finance, explained her Board Packet handout. The ending fund balance is an estimate until the audit is complete. The district office staff is very lean. Providing the information to the auditor was a lot of very hard work for the district staff, although it has gone very smoothly. 5490 is the weighted enrollment number; this won't be finalized until May 2014. The District built a budget based on an anticipated weighted enrollment number of 5518. In anticipation of Canby's estimated share of the recently designated State funds, some staffing decisions for this year were made, although the funds will not be received until next year.

### **8.7 ESD Opt-Out Notification**

Dr. Steach explained that State Bill 529 allows districts to opt-out of participation in their local ESDs. The Board

discussed whether the District should write a letter to the State expressing their possible intent to opt-out. Dr. Steach informed the Board that the District is not in a position to benefit from opting out. The Board decided that they would not entertain the option of opting out this year.

**9.0 Future Agenda Items**

The following items will be addressed at the next Board Session:

- CCSS Implementation
- Trost DLI Program Status
- SB-290 Evaluations
- Technology
- School Safety
- Canby Advanced Manufacturing Metals and Machine Summit
- Synergy Update

**10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Brendan Murphy exited the Board from the Board Regular Session and entered into an Executive Session at 9:09 p.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(b) to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or hear complaints or charges brought against, a board member, employee or contractor, with no action to follow and ORS 192.660 (2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Board members in attendance were Brendan Murphy, Diane Downs, Kristin Downs, Angi Dilkes Perry, Mike Zagyva, Andrea Weber and Tom Scott. Also in attendance were Dr. Steach, Superintendent and Caryn Davis, Board Secretary.

It is requested that information discussed in the Executive Session not be disclosed and information discussed in the Executive Session shall not be made public by the news media.

Brendan Murphy exited the Board from the Executive Session and reentered the Regular Session at 9:24 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board decided to cancel the Optional Board Work Session, originally scheduled for December 5, 2013.

The Board decided to hold the November 7, 2013 Board Work Session at Canby High School in the Applied Technology Center's OMNI Room, instead of the District Office's Meridian Room.

**11.0 Adjournment**

Brendan Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Caryn Davis  
Board Secretary

Brendan Murphy  
Board Chair