

JOINT MEETING OF SCHOOL BOARD
and
ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
Greater Albany School District office
October 26, 2009
7:00 p.m.



Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

School Board Chair Liisa Reid called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Liisa Reid | School Board Chair |
| Sandi Gordon | gave advance notice of her absence |
| Frank Bricker | Director |
| Jerry Boehme | Director |
| Bill O'Bryan | Director |
| Amber Weber | Student Board Member |
| | |
| Sharon Konopa | Mayor |
| Dick Olsen | Councilor |
| Bill Coburn | Councilor |
| Floyd Collins | Councilor |
| Bessie Johnson | Councilor |
| Ralph Reid, Jr. | Councilor |
| Jeff Christman | Councilor |
| | |
| Maria Delapoer | Superintendent |
| Steve Kunke | Assistant Superintendent |
| Wes Hare | City Manager |

A list of others present is filed with the original minutes. It was noted that a quorum of the School Board and City Council was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

School Board Chair Liisa Reid led attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair Liisa Reid introduced Board members Frank Bricker, Jerry Boehme and Bill O'Bryan.

Albany Mayor Sharon Konopa introduced City Council members Jeff Christman, Bill Coburn, Floyd Collins, Bessie Johnson, Dick Olsen and Ralph Reid.

Albany School District Executive Assistant Jim Haggart introduced South Albany High School Student

Reporter Emily Christopherson. Mr. Haggart said that Emily is a senior at South Albany High School where she is taking AP English, AP Calculus, AP European History and German and her favorite subject is English. Mr. Haggart said that Emily is a soccer player and her family includes Sydney, an 8th grader at Calapooia Middle School and Lindsey, a sophomore at Western Oregon University. Her parents are Jon and Sandy Christopherson.

Board Chair Reid welcomed Emily Christopherson.

Mr. Haggart also introduced Memorial Middle School Student Reporter Forrest Thomas. Mr. Haggart said that Forest is an eighth grader at Memorial Middle School taking Geometry and Physical Science at West Albany High School and Language Arts, Social Studies, Computers, Career Explorations and P.E. at Memorial School. Mr. Haggart said that Forrest participates in football at the Albany Boys and Girls Club and track at Memorial School where he excels in the long jump and 100-meter dash. He has a brother Chance who is a graduate of Albany schools. His mother is Diane Thomas.

Board Chair Reid welcomed Forrest Thomas.

STUDENT REPORTERS

South Albany High School Student Reporter Emily Christopherson delivered her report. A copy of her comments is attached to these minutes.

Memorial Middle School Student Reporter Forrest Thomas delivered his report. A copy of his comments is attached to these minutes.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORTS

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Superintendent Maria Delapoe summarized the Safe Routes to School Program. She thanked Albany City Manager Wes Hare for organizing and continuing the Safe Routes to School Committee. She noted that Mr. Hare wrote the grant that funded the program coordinator position. She stated that the City was working with the district to extend sidewalks, position stop signs and install crosswalks so that students could develop a habit of safely walking or biking to school.

City Manager Wes Hare said that it would be appropriate to recognize the real force behind the Safe Routes to School Committee. He said that the City had nominated Jim Lawrence for the Governor's Fitness Leadership Award. Mr. Hare explained that the award is given to community leaders who promote fitness through their own example and sacrifice. Mayor Konopa presented the award to Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence thanked Mayor Konopa for his award. He spoke of the bicycle safety classes he conducts with elementary school children. He said that the Safe Routes to School Program complements those classes in helping children turn their bicycles into useful tools. He said that the best way to improve fitness is to build fitness into one's daily life.

Safe Routes to School Coordinator Tove Gilbert-Morgan delivered a slide presentation to report on the Safe Routes to School program. She stated that the program is a nation-wide initiative by community

leaders, schools and parents to encourage more children to safely walk or bike to school. She stated that the program seeks to improve student health, reduce traffic congestion, and lessen the impact upon the environment, making communities more livable for everyone.

She said that the community was blessed to have an amazing coalition of City leaders including Wes Hare, Ron Irish, Willis Hill and Marilyn Smith. Ms. Gilbert-Morgan thanked Superintendent Maria Delapoer, school principals Tonja Everest, Jason Hoffert-Hay, Heather Huzefka, and teacher Justin Roach. She also thanked Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission members Bill Pintard and Jim Lawrence and Albany police officer Ken Fandrem.

Ms. Gilbert-Morgan said that the program seeks to increase the percentage of children who walk to school from 20 to 30 percent and to increase the percentage of students who bike to school from 5 to 10 percent by the end of the school year. She said that the program also seeks to reduce the number of parent-driven arrival trips by 10 percent and to reduce the number of school bus routes by one route per school by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. She stated that the third goal was to establish a walking/riding rate of 40 percent at the new Timber Ridge School. She summarized the walking, riding, busing, and family-provided transportation rates at each of several campuses. She also described the district's participation in the International Walk and Bike to School Day on October 7. She noted that 77 percent of the Oak Elementary School children participated that day.

She spoke of the program's "Wish List" to include improving sidewalks, increasing signage, implementing crossing guards, and providing covered bike parking at the schools.

COMMUNITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: CITY GROWTH TRENDS

Albany Community Development Director Greg Byrne said that Albany is growing faster than state and national trends. He said that he expected that growth to continue after the economy improves. He said that single family home development activity in the City is down sharply. He provided a slide to indicate the available growth locations of the City.

Mr. Byrne reported that the City Planning Commission reviewed that day, a proposed cooperative agreement between the City and the Greater Albany School District and recommended the document be forwarded to the City Council. He said that he met recently with Superintendent Delapoer to discuss community growth and new school location requirements. He recommended that the City and school district "Not get excited right now, but get excited in approximately five years." He estimated that future growth would be greatest in the northern and eastern regions of the city.

He spoke of jobs in the community and noted the future closing of the International Paper plant. He noted that Albany's Oregon Freeze Dry and enerG2 received substantial grants from the federal stimulus package. He said that he expected the federal grants to yield some construction at the Oregon Freeze Dry plant, noting that the company represents 60 percent of the freeze drying production in the country. He said, however, that the expansion would not produce many long-term jobs. He said that his office was seeing some construction at Absorbent Technologies and noted that Waverly Assisted Living recently received an operating license. He said that he was working with state agencies regarding the placement of a Loew's store on Ninth Avenue and probably a WalMart store east of the interstate highway. He said that the Downtown Economic Development Committee was formed.

COMMUNITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: FUTURE ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Albany School District Student Services Coordinator Wayne Goates said that he is a former member of the Safe Routes to School Committee. He described the committee as a cooperative effort between the city, school district and citizens of the community. He congratulated Jim Lawrence on his award. He recalled that when someone broke into the bicycle safety trailer and stole a number of bicycles, Mr. Lawrence spent the night in the trailer to prevent any further thefts. He said that Mr. Lawrence then pedaled throughout the surrounding neighborhood and recovered 7 of the 9 bicycles. Mr. Goates said that dedication like that makes the community a great place to live.

Mr. Goates presented a slide program to indicate recent and projected student enrollment. He noted that during the three year period of 2004 – 2007 the district grew by 650 students. He estimated that enrollment would grow slowly during the next two years before growing rapidly after that. He attributed the growth to very high birth rates in 2006-2008. He said that during the 1980's school enrollment declined by 931 children. He said that school populations increased by 915 students during the 1990's and further increased by 1,188 students from 2000-2009. He forecasted a growth of 747 children in the next ten years.

He recalled that when the school districts merged in 1979, the Greater Albany School District closed nine very small schools including: Crabtree, Dever-Conner, Knox Butte, McFarland, Millersburg, Oak Creek, Oakville, Price and Riverside. He explained that the vast majority were two- or three-room schools.

Mr. Goates projected that Albany schools would have sufficient capacity for the next ten years, although high school enrollment would be tight. He cautioned that high school enrollment would near 3,000 students within ten years after which the district would have to address those numbers.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

Assistant Superintendent Steve Kunke said that he and Student Services Coordinator Wayne Goates would discuss the number of methods by which teachers and administrators measure the performance of schools. He said that several tools have become very public within the last several years. He said that the measurements consider state and federal accountability. He said that Mr. Goates would discuss the Oregon Report Cards.

Mr. Goates said that State regulations dictate that school districts report to all parents by January 15 with a district and school report card. He said that schools are rated as either "Outstanding, Satisfactory or In Need of Improvement." He said that specifics of the 2008-09 reports would not be releasable to the public until November 10, but he could state that none of the Albany schools were graded as "In Need of Improvement" and a third of Albany schools were graded as "Outstanding."

He reported that the report cards examine student academic performance, attendance and graduation rates. He said that a new measurement this year examines growth. He explained that if a student does not meet the state benchmarks, the state would review the student's scores in grades 3-8 to determine if the student is making the necessary growth now to later achieve the benchmarks. He said that if the student is making sufficient growth, the school would receive credit for helping the child.

Mr. Goates spoke of "Closing the Gap." He said that there are a number of student sub-groups such as special education, low income, English Language Learners, and minority students. He said that one under-performing student subgroup could cause the school or district to receive a "In Need of Improvement" grade and that an individual student could be counted in multiple student subgroup categories.

Mr. Kunke said that he would discuss the federal Adequate Yearly Progress requirements. He stated that the rating is a component of the No Child Left Behind Act. He said that Adequate Yearly Progress is all about sub-group performance. He stated that there are indicators such as attendance, testing and graduation rates, but the most important criteria is whether students in each of the nine sub-groups meet the academic requirements. He said that the academics can be achieved either by passing the state assessment tests or by showing 10 percent of improvement in the area the subgroup did not pass.

Mr. Kunke displayed an overhead slide to summarize student achievement in reading in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10. He said that the highest measurements on the slide indicated the test scores of Albany students as a whole. He said that a slightly lower line indicated the achievement of Albany students who are economically disadvantaged, that is, eligible for the free and reduced lunch meal program. Mr. Kunke noted that a still lower line indicated the performance of Hispanic students. He stated that the fourth and fifth lines, representing smaller percentages of achievement, reported the performance of special education students and English Language Learners.

He reported that for the current school year, the district is required to have 59 percent of students in every sub-group pass the mathematics test and 60 percent of students in every sub-group pass the reading test. He stated that this is the third year of those standards. He said that next year, (2010-2011) the district will be required to have 70 percent of students in every sub-group pass the tests. He said that the following year, (2011-2012) the district will be required to have 80 percent of students in each subgroup pass the tests. He said that by the school year 2013-2014, 100 percent of students in every sub-group will have to pass the tests. Mr. Kunke said that there would be federal consequences, chiefly in the way Title I and Title II money is spent, for districts failing to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress.

Councilor Olsen asked if sixth grade is the first year of middle school. Mr. Kunke replied that it is. Councilor Olsen asked if tenth grade is the first year of high school. Mr. Kunke replied that ninth grade is the first year of high school. Councilor Olsen noted that passing percentages appear to decline at the sixth and tenth grade levels. He asked if the tests for the older grades are more difficult. Mr. Kunke replied that the tests are more challenging at the middle and high school levels. Student Services Coordinator Wayne Goates reported that Albany sixth graders scored slightly below the state average while tenth graders scored above the state average.

Councilor Johnson asked if it would be possible for special education or limited English students to achieve the passing rates required by the federal standards. Mr. Kunke said that he did not wish to count out Albany teachers in achieving the best possible results with their students.

Councilor Olsen asked of test scores for eleventh and twelfth grade students. Mr. Kunke replied that students are not tested at the eleventh and twelfth grade levels. He stated, however, the district was proud of its declining trend in high school dropout rates.

City Manager Wes Hare said that the City of Albany made a conscious effort regarding performance measurement. He said that several years ago the City joined the International City/County Management Association's performance measurement consortium. He said that this year, the city earned an award of distinction for performance measurement. He referred to the City Web site, "www.cityofalbany.net" and a page entitled "Dashboard." He stated that the site provides citizens with an impressive array of information about the City budget and a depiction as to how the City performs relative to other municipalities.

City staff member Bob Woods open the Web site and took viewers to the "Dashboard" page. He clicked on the large red button on the center of the page and caused the program to download. He explained that "Dashboard" program links to the City's financial system and generates reports. He noted that the City budget is cumbersome and difficult to read. He said that the "Dashboard" program is report generated and noted that it is possible to view information about a single City department. He turned to the budget of the Police Department as an example. He referred to separate accounts of the Police Department and noted that the information is updated each evening.

Mr. Woods said that the program delivers both performance and financial information. He said that the same page provides performance data and a comparison against national benchmarks. He said that the program also indicates performance goals for the future. He displayed a graph of the number of Police Department service calls and clearance rates for violent crimes. He explained that the City uses the program to ask, "Why are things happening like this? And what can be done to make things better?" He cited as an example the Police Chief's goal to reduce violent crime.

Mr. Hare said that the city has a low rate of violent crime but a higher than average property crime rate.

Mr. Woods said that he was not aware of any city which has a greater amount of financial informational available online to the public.

Board Chair Reid asked how City Council members use the information available. Councilor Reid said that he does not have internet access. Councilor Olsen said that he has not used the information. Mayor Konopa said that she refers to her paper copy of the budget. Councilor Collins said that the City Council uses the information to estimate what could be accomplished in the long term. Mr. Hare said that the program will help policy makers, staff and citizens better understand their city.

BUDGET ISSUES

Superintendent Maria Delapoer said that the school district's operating budget of \$68 million is approximately \$7 million less than would have been necessary to maintain last year's operating levels. She said that because of that budget reduction, the district has fewer teachers, classified employees and administrators. She said that each of the schools took a 20 percent reduction in their school supplies accounts and the district purchased fewer textbooks this year. She said that funding for athletic programs and after-school activities was reduced. She said that staff development programs were eliminated except for programs funded by federal grant money and the facility maintenance account was reduced to nearly emergency repairs only. She said that the summer school program was reduced and the child care center at Albany Options School was eliminated. She said that all of the district employees took unpaid furlough days.

Ms. Delapoer said that classroom numbers are up, approaching 30 children in elementary classes and 35-40 students at the high school level. She stated that some high school teachers have as many as 200 students to instruct and mentor each day.

She said that the Albany School District Budget Committee met on October 21 and discussed a number of budget variables such as the tax measures in January and whether the revenue forecast would allow the statewide release of \$200 million of additional funds. She said that the worst case scenario might require that the district reduce the 2010-11 budget by \$2-3 million. She said that the worst case scenario for the 2011-2012 budget might require the district to reduce expenditures by \$7-8 million.

Councilor Coburn asked if the amount of Title I money received was anticipated. Ms. Delapoer said that this year, the Title I monies permitted the district to backfill some activities but she emphasized that there are many restrictions and reporting requirements associated with Title funds.

A Councilor asked about the impact of the closing of the International Paper mill. Ms. Delapoer replied that it would be difficult to measure. She said that the closure would directly impact the families of some of the district children, but explained that the loss of property taxes from the plant would be felt statewide, rather than locally.

Mayor Konopa asked about the potential impact of the tax measures. Superintendent Delapoer replied that the 2009-2010 budget appears to be in place, but the tax measures could have an impact on the school district's 2010-2011 budget.

Councilor Olsen commented that Oregon ranks 49th nationally in business taxes. That is, only one state has a lower rate of business taxes, he said. Councilor Olsen said that opponents of the tax measure forecast that businesses would leave Oregon if taxes were increased. He stated that he doubted that notion as only the State of Tennessee has lower business taxes. Councilor Olsen noted that Oregon also ranks 49th in class sizes. He said that only one state has larger class sizes. He encouraged voters to support the tax measures.

Mr. Hare said that the City is not seeing a reduction in revenue. Rather, he said, the City is experiencing a slowing of the rate of increase of income. He stated, however, that the City was not experiencing a slowing of the rate of increase in expenses. He said that utility revenues were healthy, but noted that the revenues have to be strong because the City invested more than \$100 million in new infrastructure during the past five years. He said that he was realistic enough to know that during the next few years, the City would need to make changes in the way it delivers services.

Director Boehme estimated that the school district would experience a \$3 million dollar increase in PERS costs beginning 2011. He asked of the expected increase for the City. Mr. Hare estimated that the additional PERS cost would be \$1 million.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Superintendent Maria Delapoer presented a slide program. She recalled that in November 2006 voters in the community approved a \$55 million bond to address growing enrollment and meet the educational needs of students. She said that \$17 million of that bond went to local vendors in Linn and Benton County and more than \$4.5 million went to businesses in the cities of Albany and Tangent. She stated that more than 185 projects were completed so far.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

Councilor Johnson asked about the closure of the Oregon School for the Blind. Ms. Delapoer replied that the district mainstreams its blind students and has not used the services of the School for the Blind for several years.

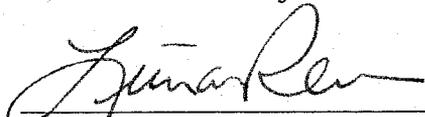
Director Boehme commented that the Safe Routes to School Program included the installation of crosswalks near some of the schools. He said the flashing lights near South Albany High School appeared to be very effective. He asked if similar crosswalks were planned for other school sites. Mr. Hare replied that more crossing sites were planned.

Councilor Olsen congratulated the district on the new paint on Central Elementary School. He said that he was impressed with the enthusiasm of the school district maintenance employees.

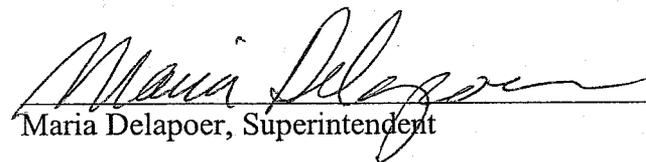
Board Chair Reid announced that the School District newsletter "Extra Credit" was now available online from the district website.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Reid adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.



Liisa Reid, Board Chair



Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

(Recorded by Jim Haggart)

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

Copies of documents presented for action and report purposes are located in the district audit folder prepared for permanent record.

Report of South Albany High School Student Reporter Emily Christopherson, October 26, 2009

Good evening Superintendent Delapoer and members of the Board

As you heard, my name is Emily Christopherson and I will be presenting the South Albany High School report to you this year.

As this is the first report, there is a lot to cover for you.

Construction projects that have been going on at South are very close to completion. Staff and students are very appreciative of the improvements that have taken place in the science, industrial technology and physical education facilities. From what I hear, the bus ride in the repaved bus loop is much smoother now, too. New curtains and a wheelchair lift in the cafeteria are additional improvements along with upgraded restroom facilities in several locations. We are especially looking forward to the completion of the theater. This renovation will be a big improvement with new flooring, seating, handicapped seating, projection and sound system, stage flooring and curtains. This is scheduled to be complete by the end of this week and our drama classes are very excited. Thank you to the Board and to the community for supporting these improvements.

The first edition of the *Sentry*, our school newspaper, has been published and we encourage you to read the latest student writings. Beginning last year, the *Sentry* went to an on-line publication for better distribution and a reduction in production costs. You can catch it on the South Albany Web Page by clicking on the *Sentry* Button.

The 7th Annual Bulldog/Rebel Golf Classic was recently held at Springhill Country Club and the event was another great success in helping raise funds to cover the athletic funds reduction at both high schools. 32 teams of golfers participated in this joint venture and everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Superintendent Delapoer and Board members O'Bryan, Reid and Boehme for their hole sponsorship contributions in support of the event.

Junior students at South will be participating in the "nextStep" program this year as part of their graduation requirements in meeting the career related learning standards for their diploma. Trained community volunteers will meet with juniors and provide mentoring support as students prepare for their career after high school. Whether this involves a four or two-year college experience, trade school exposure or job skill training, the program is designed to provide resources to help the student identify a pathway beyond high school that will meet their needs and goals. Mrs. Jackie LaBonte, Career Technician is working with community volunteers to provide this new experience for our students.

Student success has been a hallmark of South and these first months have been no exception. Starting with this summer, we had a great representation at both Boy's and Girl's State this year. Boy's State Representatives included Joe Anderson, Aaron Koob, Cody Gerig, T.J. Anundson, Shane Eichelman and Ralph Leatherman. Our Girl's State contingent was comprised of Megan

Ayers, Amanda Anderson and Stephanie Bristow. South would like to thank the American Legion and Auxiliary for their continued support of this worthwhile program.

This year's Linn County Junior First Citizen Representatives from South are two top seniors who exemplify high academic achievement, social commitment and outstanding extracurricular involvement. ASB President Joe Anderson and Senior Class President Megan Ayers are definitely making the most of their high school experiences. From honor roll recognition to chairing community service projects, these two young adults are true examples of student success. Throw in cross country and soccer and you can see they really need to balance their schedules to maintain such high success.

Another student deserving congratulations is Senior Victoria Harkins. Victoria is another in a long-standing tradition of South students who have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a Commended Student. Her scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test as a junior qualified her for this national recognition. Victoria, who is also a member of our state qualifying choir, is recognized as one of the top 16,000 students in the nation and truly should be commended for her hard work and study.

Last Monday evening was the first choir concert of the year. The choirs, under the direction of Mr. Brett DeYoung, performed before a standing-room-only audience at the Russell Tripp Auditorium on the Linn-Benton campus. The Rebelation Jazz Choir, The MAN Choir, not a mis-read here, they really are the MAN Choir, and the Concert Choir and Rebel Singers thrilled the crowd with a variety of selections including a hilarious rendition of "Animal Crackers" that had the audience howling. Please join us at our next concert, December 9th at Linn-Benton Community College.

Fall sports at South are experiencing "play-off bound" success. Boy' soccer is currently 3 and 2 in league with a big match coming up tomorrow as they travel to West Albany to take on the bulldogs in the annual rival match. The next day, Girl's soccer will host West Albany on the Rebel Soccer field. And then don't miss the annual football civil war as South will host West on Friday night in a game with huge play-off implications. Playing on the South field for the first time since 2006, the Rebels are ready to be challenged in what could be the game of the year in the Mid-Willamette Conference. Cross Country is experiencing outstanding team success and again hosted the Brooks – Harrier Classic at Bryant Park this past October 3rd. Over 1500 runners converged on what has become one of the premier cross country events in Oregon. Over 30 schools come to the annually growing event that is run by coach Chris Van Cauteran. Volleyball is also in the hunt for a play-off spot having recently defeated Crescent Valley this past week. Volleyball also hosted the 1st Annual "Pink Out" in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Sporting pink uniforms sponsored by community businesses, such as Boehme and Running, CPA's, team members honored cancer survivors and raised over \$1,000.00 for "The Cause."... And then they defeated Crescent Valley to cap the evening off.

As you can see, there are lots of exciting and outstanding events and activities happening at South Albany. We sincerely hope that you feel invited and welcomed anytime you would like to visit school or attend an event. Thank you for this opportunity to address the board.