Ashland School District No. 5, Jackson County, Oregon - The Board of Directors met in regular session August 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ashland Council Chambers. Present were:

Mat Marr   )  Chair
Ruth Alexander  )
Keith Massey   )  Board Members
Heidi Parker   )
Amy Patton  )

Juli Di Chiro, Superintendent
Pamela Lucas, Business Manager
District Administrators
Media Representative
Jeanne Peterson, Administrative Assistant

I.  Call to Order

   The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Marr.

II.  Pledge of Allegiance

III.  Roll Check

   A roll of the board was taken and all members were present.

IV.  Welcome Visitors

   Chair Marr welcomed visitors. Chair Marr introduced Steve Mitzel, Ashland High School Football Coach, Matt Lipski and Jack Rasmussen who spoke about the Japan trip.

V.  Consent Agenda

   A.  Approve minutes of Capital Project Advisory Committee meeting of July 2, regular session of July 9, and work and special sessions of July 16, 2007.

   B.  Personnel

      I.  Employment Recommendations

         Sheryl Cochran was recommended as a half-time temporary Willow Wind Teacher replacing Andy Bayliss who is on leave.

         Rebecca Jones was recommended as a temporary full-time primary teacher at Walker Elementary replacing Elisa Stevenson who is on leave.
Emily Phelps was recommended as a temporary .20 Music Teacher at John Muir Elementary School. Ms. Phelps filled this position on a temporary contract this past year.

II. Retirement Requests

Dale Rooklyn, Ashland Middle School Principal, submitted a request for retirement effective February 1, 2008. He further requested a 1039 contract to complete the 2007-08 school year. It was recommended that his retirement request and request for a 1039 contract be approved as presented.

Karen Scott, Fourth Grade Teacher at Helman Elementary, submitted her request for retirement effective August 31, 2007. She further requested a 1039 contract to complete the 2007-08 school year. It was recommended that her retirement request and request for a 1039 contract be approved as presented.

III. Resignations

Debbie Burnett, Walker Kindergarten Teacher, submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately. It was recommended that her resignation be accepted as presented.

IV. Request for Leave of Absence

Rebecca DeSalvo, Ashland High School Science Teacher, requested maternity leave until January 24, 2008. It was recommended that her request be approved as presented.

Director Alexander moved that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Parker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Hear Public Requests not a part of the agenda

There were no public requests.

VII. Reports

A. Review Board Policy KJA and KJA-AR on Materials Distribution

Samuel Bogdanove reported on how the process has worked and responded to questions. Superintendent Di Chiro explained that the policies are working well, issues that arose have been resolved, and recommended no amendments at this time.
B. English Language Learner Program

Michelle Zundel, Director of Instruction, reported on the English Language Learner Program and reviewed the guidelines. The purpose of the program is to incorporate renewed research and focus in the program. An evaluation of the program will be completed in the spring and she will report to the Board next June on that evaluation.

C. Project Management Update

Gary DeCock, Project Manager, reported on the activities completed in the last month on construction projects, and announced the scheduled design team meetings.

D. Facilities Plan Recommendation

Superintendent Di Chiro reported that the plan was developed in September of 2006. The plan is based on the final report of the Bond Planning Committee, and outlines how the work might be completed for future bonds. The Board will hold a work session in the fall to discuss this further.

E. Opening of Schools Information

Superintendent Di Chiro reported on the opening of schools and the changes that were made. Lunch prices reflect an increase approved by the Board. The time schedules also reflect changes for the elementary schools to allow for early release on Wednesdays.

F. Personnel Update

Superintendent Di Chiro reported that 17 teachers have been hired this year and all are highly qualified. Meetings for teacher mentors have been scheduled as well as technology training for PowerSchool.

The Board recessed at 8:12 p.m. and reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

G. District Financial Report

Pam Lucas, Business Manager reported on the district finances as of the end of June. She further discussed the results of the district bond investments since June 21, 2007. The total interest earned at that time was $283,695.95.
H. Board Reports

Board members reported on the OSBA summer conference, Capital Project Advisory Committee, the Japan football game, an Environmental Leadership Institute workshop, and activities of the Executive Oversight Committee.

I. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Di Chiro reported on summer library participation, Adequate Yearly Progress results, the administrative retreat, teacher mentor program, inventory of technology, and textbooks.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Local Option Levy

The Board reviewed the proposed Ballot Title Option A and Option B for the Local Option Levy and introduced Curt Bacon and Chuck Keil who responded to questions. The Ballot Title must be submitted to the Elections Department by September 6. The Board agreed upon language in Option A as follows.

THREE YEAR LOCAL OPTION OPERATING LEVY

Shall Ashland School District levy a local option tax of $1.29 per thousand of assessed value beginning July 1, 2008? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

This measure may be passed only at an election with at least 50% voter turn out. Inspiring students to be lifelong learners, responsible citizens and stewards of the world: this is the core mission of the Ashland School District. The Youth Activities Levy (YAL), which has helped support this mission since 1994, will expire June 30, 2008. As all students attending Ashland Public Schools have benefited from Youth Activities Levy funding, the District is asking voters to renew this funding. Recent rulings of the Oregon Supreme Court have encouraged the Ashland School District to reconfigure the YAL into the Youth Activities and Academics Levy (YAAL). The YAAL will provide revenue for student athletic, arts, and activities, as well as for enhanced academic programs and classes. Because the YAAL will raise revenue from the entire School District, the rate of the YAAL levy will be lower than that of the YAL.

A rate of $1.29 per thousand of assessed value is estimated to raise $2,992,845 for the 2008-09 academic year, $3,142,487 for the 2009-10 academic year, and $3,299,611 for the 2010-2011 academic year for a total of $9,434,943 over three years. The estimated tax cost for this
measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate.

The Board emphasized the distinction between the YAL and the YAAL. The YAAL may include academics, and revenue will be collected from everyone residing in the school district. The Board also emphasized that the YAAL will generate more money than the YAL. The Board also emphasized the importance of variety and diversity. The Board also emphasized its continued support of the programs provided by the YAL.

Director Massey moved that the Board accept Option A as a Ballot Title for a three year operating levy as presented tonight, and as technically wordsmithed by the superintendent, and as approved by legal counsel. Director Parker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed and amended Resolution #2007-11 to read as follows:

RESOLUTION #2007-11

WHEREAS, Ashland School District’s core mission is Inspiring Learning for Life;

WHEREAS, our shared vision is Empowering students to be lifelong learners, responsible citizens and stewards of the world;

WHEREAS, we believe that students, families, community and staff working together is essential for students to become responsible participants in local and global communities;

WHEREAS, we believe in challenging students to become creative and critical thinkers;

WHEREAS, we believe each student is unique and benefits when provided choices and guidance in education;

WHEREAS, we believe learning is a lifelong process requiring motivation, inspiration and opportunity;

WHEREAS, our federal and state governments have failed to fund K-12 education to the Oregon Quality Education Model’s targeted funding level;

WHEREAS, the Ashland School District appreciates the strong partnership between the City of Ashland, the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department, and the community that has been formed through the Youth Activities Levy;
WHEREAS, our community values strong academics, arts and a wide variety of athletics and activities for our children’

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ashland School Board supports the Ashland Youth Activities and Academics Levy and commits to continuing to provide as many options and programs as possible to promote both academic and extracurricular success for all students.

The Board expressed appreciation to Amy Amrhein and Rick Barth for drafting the resolution.

Director Patton moved that the Board adopt resolution #2007-11 as amended. Director Alexander seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business

A. Approve Contract for Construction Manager/General Contractor

Gordon Odette of Heery International presented a Contract for Construction Manager/General Contract for Ashland High School, and recommended that the contract be awarded to Adroit Construction.

Director Massey moved that the Board approve the contract with Adroit Construction to be the Construction Manager/General Contractor for the Ashland High School additions, renovations and improvements as presented. Director Patton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Approve Changes in Student Handbooks

There were no further changes to student handbooks.

C. Ashland High School Curriculum Handbook Changes

Superintendent Di Chiro reviewed the changes to the Ashland High School Curriculum Handbook and responded to questions.

Director Alexander moved that the Board approve the student handbook changes as presented. Director Massey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
D. Award Ashland Middle School Roofing Bid

It was recommended that the Roofing Project at Ashland Middle School be awarded to Lawless Roofing in the amount of $177,279 as presented.

Director Parker moved that the Board award the Roofing Project at Ashland Middle School to Lawless Roofing in the amount of $177,279 as recommended. Director Alexander seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

X. Announcements and Appointments

The Board will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Willow Wind Community Learning Center for a design team meeting.

The Board will hold a Work Session on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room to discuss sustainable options for the bond project.

The Board will hold a Work Session on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 10 of Lincoln School for an Ashland High School Design Team meeting.

The Board will hold a Work Session on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. for a design team meeting.

The Board will hold a Work Session on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at Helman School at 1:00 p.m. for a design team meeting.

The Board will hold a Work Session on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at Walker School at 11:00 a.m. for a design team meeting.

The Board will hold a Work Session on Friday, August 17, 2007, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Buckhorn Springs to discuss annual goals.

The All District Welcome Back Breakfast will be held on Thursday, August 30, 2007, at 7:30 a.m. in the Ashland High School Commons.

A Capital Project Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.

The next regular session will be held on Monday, September 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ashland Council Chambers.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

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Chair                          Clerk

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Peterson, Administrative Assistant.