

SANTIAM CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT 129J

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Santiam Canyon School District Office

September 13, 2023, 5:30 pm

Santiam Elementary

The Board of Directors of the Santiam Canyon School District 129J, Linn and Marion counties, met with Todd Miller, in attendance were, Mary Richards, Elizabeth Reeser and Richard Moore. Lynda Harrington was in attendance and was sworn in at the meeting.

- 1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Richard Moore called the board meeting to order at 5:33 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2.0 Approval and/or Changes to the Agenda: Todd suggested moving 6.8 up before the Oral Reports.
- 3.0 Public Comment/Audience Inquires: None
- 4.0 Rich Moore introduced Lynda Harrington and made a motion to swear her into the board position, Zone 2, Position 1. Mary Richards seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Lynda was then sworn in by Richard Moore.
- 5.0 Oral Reports:
 - 5.1 Allison Galvin, Oregon Charter Academy - Allison Galvin shared that ORCA was recognized as the best Mid Valley Charter School. They also received an NASPT recognition for SPED. They are the only charter school recognized in Oregon ever, and one of only three other charter schools recognized nationally to receive that NASPT. This coming Friday is the ORCA open house, where students and parents come to the Santiam Canyon to meet their teachers and other students. Allison shared that as of today their enrollment is 2067. There was a discussion around graduation rates, and Allison clarified, that for the students who have stuck with ORCA throughout their high school career, the grad rate is 93%.
 - 5.2 Blane Lazar, Jr./Sr. High School Principal - Blane shared that the Jr./Sr. High School registration days turned out to be a miracle. We did not have a master schedule at the beginning in August and thanks to Angela and Amy every kid had a schedule by registration. 35 Adults participated in the 6th Grade parent night with 20 families represented. Over 90% of 6th graders participated in 6th Grade Transition, a two day camp introducing incoming students to the SJSHS campus. New this year is a tutoring center; it and has been well received. Lots of new staff this year, and the kids are happy. Volleyball is ranked 8th in the state. Football and Cross Country have started. Homecoming this year will be the 9th - 14th and they will be adding some new activities this year; each class will have a float. Synergy is the new student information system and is implemented district wide.
 - 5.3 Corrine McGinnis, Santiam Elementary Principal - In addition to her written report Corrine shared that enrollment is similar to last year at 254. We have 27 in each room in the 5th grade. We just hired Sarah Shumate in the 5th grade, the kids really like her. Campus improvements include fresh paint in the back and new benches outside. We received new desks. In professional development we are training in "Big Ideas" Oregon Math. We recently attended a training in Scio with Scio staff. Our math specialist Angela Moreno is really focused on student engagement. She is implementing student stations and it keeps the kids constantly moving and learning. We had a specialist come in to teach the teachers how to do this. With our literacy program, we realized that there are a lot of kids in the yellow zone. We are reinforcing skills to prepare them for the state testing. In reading skills we're meeting standards but in writing we're behind. Rich asked about phonics. Corrine shared that there is blended way of teaching from the traditional method.
 - 5.4 Todd Miller, Superintendent - Todd shared that we have the state test results, but currently the info is embargoed. He said that the data shows that there is progress. Rich stated that with all that these kids have been thru, there is impressive growth and improvement. Todd said that in the first week of school he tries and leave his calendar open, so he can be available. We have been implementing Synergy, it's designed for big districts so it's been a learning curve. Our ESD is the entity that houses the software and the districts within the ESD are now using it. We feel confident that it will work well, once we get it all rolled out. What is nice about this system is that all the information is in one place. We just hired three additional instructional assistants. The Early Literacy grant will fund one of those positions. Angela stated that we have one more in the Jr./Sr. High School, and two at SES in Life Skills. Two students are on an abbreviated school day. We meet with them every 30 days to see if they are able to make a whole day. Mary asked if these new hires would impact the budget, and Todd responded maybe a little but since we developed the budget, the SSF came in higher so we should be fine. Todd shared that there has been an osprey that nested on the football stadium light. He has been working

with ODFW and hoping that it migrates before the first football game. If the nest is empty they can remove the nest before the football game. We have quotes from United Rental and have lights reserved just in case. Todd said that the strategic plan is coming together and he will get the document to the committee and ask for feedback. Currently we are fully staffed, we even have an activities driver for the Detroit community. Lynda asked about how many students are bussed to Detroit, Todd responded, maybe 12 including Idanha. Todd shared pictures of the shop building siding project BEFORE & AFTER. The other shop building will be next in line. We are working on developing plans and getting estimates for a new district office. We've done a lot of exploration and have been able to get the initial estimate of \$1.7M and have now whittled that down to about \$1.3M. We will be working within a similar footprint as we have now. We want to keep our parking lot as is. Currently we have 1,800 sq. ft. and we are looking at 2,400 sq. ft. Todd walked the group thru the concept floor plan. Todd shared that all the costs will be covered by saved dollars, no bond money. With this improvement, the entire district will have improved HVAC units and upgraded roofs, so we don't have a lot of other major improvements needed on our campus. There is a possibility that we may have the building in by January. The board spoke favorably about the plans and are supportive.

5.5 Yvonne Hanna, shared the August Financial Statements.

6.0 Consent Agenda:

- 6.1 Minutes of the August 2, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- 6.2 Minutes of the August Expenditures Report
- 6.3 Second Reading of Policy
 - 6.3.1 JGE – Expulsion**(Delete)
 - 6.3.2 JGE – Expulsion ** (Proposed)

Mary Richards made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Elizabeth Reeser seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

7.0 Action Items:

- 7.1. Accept ORCA Annual Evaluation Report; Rich Moore made a motion to accept the ORCA Annual Evaluation Report, Lynda Harrington seconded, the motion passed 4-0.
- 7.2. Accept Resignation of Employee #10159, Kitchen Aide at SJSHS, Lynda Harrington made a motion to accept the resignation of Employee #10159, Elizabeth Reeser seconded; the motion passed 4-0.
- 7.3. Accept Recommendation to Hire Jennifer Hastings, Language Arts Teacher at SJSHS, Rich Moore made a motion to accept the recommendation to hire Jennifer Hastings, Lynda Harrington seconded; the motion passed 4-0.
- 7.4. Accept Recommendation to Hire Jeanne Becker, Instructional Aide at SES
- 7.5. Accept Recommendation to Hire Randall Klagge, SpEd Aide at SES
- 7.6. Accept Recommendation to Hire Evan Merklin, SpEd Aide at SJSHS
Rich Moore made a motion to accept the recommendation to hire the instructional aides listed in 7.4 through 7.6, Lynda Harrington seconded; the motion passed 4-0.
- 7.7. Accept Recommendation to Hire Fall Coaches at SJSHS
 - 7.7.1. Jordan Young, HS Cross Country
 - 7.7.2. Elizabeth Cole, MS VolleyballRich Moore made a motion to accept the recommendation to hire Fall Coaches listed in 7.7.1 through 7.7.2, Lynda Harrington seconded; motion passed 4-0.

8.0 Information Item:

- 8.1. Evaluation for Superintendent
- 8.2. Strategic Planning Document
- 8.3. Policy, Mary Richards shared that the new policy is based on a recent new administrative rule which lays out a process of notifying parents and also states that the superintendent can either “act as the hearing officer, or appoint one”.

9.0 Motion to Adjourn:

Mary Richards moved to adjourn, Elizabeth Reeser seconded; the motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Board Chairman

Board Secretary