

SANTIAM CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT 129J

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Santiam Canyon School District Office

January 10, 2024, 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, Angie Fencl, Jamey Fawcett, Mary Richards and Elizabeth Reeser.

- 1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Angie Fencl called the board meeting to order at 5:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2.0 Approval and/or Changes to the Agenda: Add 6.3 to action items: Approve Budget Calendar.
- 3.0 Public Comment/Audience Inquires: None
- 4.0 Oral Reports:
 - 4.1 Allison Galvin, Oregon Charter Academy - Allison Galvin shared that ORCA staff are preparing for the effort of “intent to turn” which families of students communicate to staff if their child will be attending ORCA next year. Our staff donated almost \$2K in gifts for needy families. We are gearing up for the next legislative session, we are not anticipating a lot of issues with regard to online schools, but we are aware of discussions of changes in state school funding formula.
 - 4.2 Blane Lazar, Jr./Sr. High School Principal - Blane introduced the three high school students attending the meeting, Peyton Forste (12th) Kean Megginson (12th) and Jillian Shadrick (12th). He shared that all of the students participate in the music program directed by Mr. Rob Harris. Peyton Forste plays the alto sax and bass guitar, Jillian Shadrick plays the keyboard and clarinet and Kean Megginson plays the tuba and the electric guitar. They shared that their interest in music began with the love of listening to music, but being around Mr. Harris has made learning music really fun. They shared that they probably would not have explored playing instruments had it not been for the music program. They said, “Mr. Harris is always genuinely available for the students, whether in the classroom or in the hallway; he cares about our emotional wellbeing”. When Angie asked what the music program needs, they said, “since more people are joining the music program, we could use more instruments”. The kids also shared that they participate in Dungeons and Dragons Club. It’s an after school club that involves a dice game with a story line. The club is mostly comprised of seniors but there is a select group of middle school students. They enjoy the club because it gives them the opportunity to connect with friends that might not be in their classes. Kean Megginson talked about applying for and receiving the Quinn Scholarship this year; he said “I’m eternally grateful for this school and the opportunity to attend U of O”. Blane shared that if anyone wants to experience the music program, please plan on attending the spring concert where students will be playing songs from the decade of the 2000’s.

Blane shared that Alisha Hansen was selected for the Employee Focus this month. He had Alisha Hansen, Angela Rasmussen and Todd Reeser stand up and let the board know that this group really functions as a family. “It is an honor to work with this group of people, we trust and support one another”. Blane went on to share that enrollment is down 12 students from last year at 299. Clubs have started; Mat Club and Homework Help Club seeing encouraging results. The Leadership class will be hosting a Leadership Conference February 16th. The kids proposed the idea and will be inviting Scio and Regis to participate. They will present what our school does with assemblies and fundraising and share ideas with other students. The Wrestling Team hosted the Linn County Wrestling Tournament on January 4th and had a ton of people in attendance, it was an awesome event. Kudos to Clint Forste, Kerry Crowston, Aniese Mitchell and Alicia Boyd. The event was well received and coaches and refs enjoyed the hospitality room full of delicious food made by Ms. Boyd. The Winter Formal is coming up January 27th. Basketball Teams are holding their own, our conference is tough. I wouldn’t be surprised if the top 6 in the state are from our conference. Both of our teams are young. Wrestling is going well, we may have a couple qualify for state. The Middle School boys’ basketball team just started their season, they are really good and having fun.
 - 4.3 Corrine McGinnis, Santiam Elementary Principal - In addition to her written report, Corrine shared “we are down a little in enrollment and are currently at 246. All the holiday parties went great. The assembly in December was fun and we had the opportunity to honor the kiddos for their achievements. Tomorrow we will have another assembly and announce the students of the month. We are heading into winter bench marking and will be sharing that academic data in January. She recently sat down with Jill Saari and Ken Allison to pull data on referrals, both minors and majors. Corrine shared the data with the board and said they were able to review trends and saw that behavior incidents tend to

go up significantly in October. She's asked teachers to write up everything so we can be proactive in addressing issues. These actions have helped, as you can see the data shows that behavior incidents are coming down since October. On another note, our 4th grade teacher, Angie Moreno, spearheaded the Kindness Project. Her class is very excited about making an impact, it is a worthwhile project and very validating. Corrine also shared attendance data shows that there has been a positive change in daily average attendance, staff is focusing on those students that are regularly absent and efforts are showing steady improvement compared to last year's attendance data.

4.4 Todd Miller, Superintendent - Todd reiterated that it is so neat to see so many kids playing instruments. Now, with elementary music in full swing, we are seeing participation grow in the upper grades. We continue to buy instruments every year. I want to share Kudos to Melody Rossiter and the First Student Team. When we need to make a weather call there is a lot of information and communication that goes into that decision, and I appreciate the efforts of this team. We just received information on more grant funds coming our way in the form of CSI and TSI (part of the ESSA initiative). We were not initially on the list, but criteria was changed mid cycle, and now we've been added in. Todd went into the details of the data and the "how and why" our school and ORCA became targeted. We've had this designation before, we worked our way out of it and now we're back in it. It does bring in funding that we can use to help improve. The new district office is moving forward, we just got state approval and the next step is to get the planning commissions' approval at their February meeting. The timeline will solidify soon, now that we have the state approval. Our career tech kids have been working on a landscape design project for the school and presented their landscape architecture plans, along with pictures and a budget to Mr. Lazar and Mr. Miller. This is a great opportunity for kids to learn real world skills. The ORCA Charter Renewal is on this evening's action items. We will approve moving forward with drafting a new charter agreement, terms/goals/financial arrangements/etc. We are in year nine of this partnership and I feel comfortable with the process going forward; we've learned a lot in past years and have built really good systems. Todd shared that we are still down in enrollment from the Wildfire impact; other wildfire school districts are down too. Jamey shared that he believes a lot of school districts throughout Oregon have seen a decline. Todd shared that we'll be keeping an eye on the conversations in the legislature about state school funding and its potential impacts.

4.5 Yvonne Hanna, shared the December Financial Statements.

5.0 Consent Agenda:

5.1 Minutes of the December 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

5.2 December Expenditures Report

5.3 Second Reading of Policies

5.3.1 EFA – Local Wellness

5.3.2 LBE – Public Charter Schools

5.3.3 LBEA – Resident Student Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Attendance

Jamey Fawcett made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Mary Richards seconded; the motion passed 4-0.

6.0 Action Items:

6.1. Approval of ORCA Charter Renewal; Angie Fencl made a motion to approve the ORCA Charter Renewal, Jamey Fawcett seconded; the motion passed 4-0.

6.2. Approve Early Literacy Grant Application. Todd shared that the grant will be about \$44K and will be focused on Elementary reading programs, they will be able to fund 1.1 FTE in IA's and also provide professional development, coaching, writing professional development and curriculum. Angie Fencl made a motion to approve the Early Literacy Gant application, Mary Richards seconded; the motion passed 4-0.

6.3 Approve the 2024-2025 Budget Calendar, Angie Fencl made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Calendar as presented, Jamey Fawcett seconded; the motion passed 4-0.

7.0 Information Items:

7.1. School Board Recognition Month. Todd thanked the board for all the ways that the board has had a positive impact on the school district as well as the community to include:

- Support a financially responsible and secure school district
- Rebuilt a reputation as a caring and trusting board
- Created an environment where staff want to work
- Developed policies and culture of safety and inclusivity that support all students
- Passed the first general option bond
- Established campuses that are functional and beneficial to students now and in the future
- Added a lot of programs and support systems

7.2. Opal Creek Promise Grant. Todd shared information from Marion County regarding the Opal Creek Promise Grant. The Feds have appropriated \$15M to the canyon. Todd has an interview with the committee that will be distributing funds tomorrow. He shared documentation on how the funds may be distributed.

8.0 Items for the Next Meeting/s:

8.1 Next Regular Meeting Date: February 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Santiam Elementary

9.0 Motion to Adjourn:

Angie Fencil moved to adjourn, Mary Richards seconded; the motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Board Chairman

Board Secretary