

**LEBANON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
March 19, 2018, 7:00 PM**

Santiam Travel Station

750 S. Third Street, Lebanon, OR 97355

MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME

A. Chair Tom Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS.

Ms. Dana Riggle, parent of a Pioneer student and an instructional assistant at Cascades, informed the Board about the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training program for active shooter situations. Ms. Riggle hopes the Board will consider implementing this program and making it mandatory for all school building staff. Staff is currently not receiving training about how to respond after a situation, such as if a room is breached. She also asked the Board to consider assigning a school resource officer to every school.

3. SCHOOL CONFIGURATIONS

Chair Oliver asked Superintendent Hess to present his memorandum regarding school configurations. Prior to discussing the options contained in the memorandum, Hess advised the Board that the Open Enrollment policy should be reconsidered, since it is counterproductive to consistent school configuration. Currently, 15 to 20 percent of the district's students are open enrolled. Nick Brooks noted that we would need to grandfather existing open enrolled students if the policy is eliminated.

Hess presented the following three options to address the overcrowding at Seven Oak Middle School:

- Option 1: All in-town elementaries become k-6 schools beginning in the fall of 2018
- Option 2: Grow the K-6 model at the elementary schools through parent choice
- Option 3: Keep the same school configurations

Hess discussed his reasoning for recommending the Board approve Option 2. This option would allow the district to manage the next two years of large 6th grade classes and at the same time continue to pilot the K-6 model. It will also give us time to incorporate our long-range facilities plan into future decisions regarding school facilities.

Tom Oliver noted that at the March 8 meeting, the Board discussed elementary school consistency. Option 1 offers a start toward consistency; but as school staff pointed out, there are many challenges, as well as significant cost.

Option 2, which is recommended by Hess, moves the district toward the K-6 model, but at a lower cost. It is driven by parent choice, although there is still some concern about how it would work.

Another challenge to consider is varying enrollment at the elementary schools. The district would lose some control over student placement, and there is some risk associated with that. The process would need to be very deliberate.

Option 3 would keep all elementary schools configured as they are currently, with additional resources provided at Seven Oak Middle School. However, this is an expensive option for a temporary solution, particularly when the district will be conducting a facilities assessment planning process.

Mike Martin noted that the facilities assessment activity and corresponding grant is something of a shadow over all three options. The facilities assessment is the tool that will give us our direction. Oliver pointed out that before we conduct the facilities planning exercise, we need to determine the configuration model that is best for the students and the district.

In response to a question from Brooks, Hess confirmed that implementing Option 2 would move about 80 students out of Seven Oak. Ideally, there would be no more than 150 6th grade students at Seven Oak, so even removing only 40 to 60 students would achieve that goal.

If the Board chose Option 2, Brook asked where the four teachers would be added. Hess advised that the teachers follow the students in order to stay in front of class size. The new Special Education teacher position would be split between two buildings; the other three teachers would be placed where needed.

Martin asked if the Board could delay its decision until the district surveys each 5th grade parent for their preferred 6th grade location. Borden agreed this would be a good idea. Oliver noted this is his challenge with Option 2, not just for the coming school year, but onward. Martin indicated his preference for the Board to reach a consensus on the final configuration the district wants to achieve so that any short-term decision complements that model.

Russ McUne asked whether we could add the four fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions to Seven Oak without adding any modular buildings. Hess advised that Seven Oak was built for 300 students. The remodeling project expanded libraries, for example; but the project did not increase the size of cafeterias or locker rooms. Thus, adding teachers without adding space would not solve the overcrowding problem.

Oliver asked the Board to consider where the district wants to be in five years.

Brooks indicated he hears from the community the desire is to move to K-6 elementary schools. He said this is not an easy move right now and believes it is more of a four- or five-year transition. He also pointed out the estimated cost is not an every year cost.

McUne noted that we will eventually need another middle school.

Hess advised that a new, fourth option came from two teachers at Cascades, who indicated they would like to have two 6th grade classrooms there. With this scenario, the district would not need to purchase modular facilities for either Cascades or Seven Oak. We would still add the new proposed staff. Brooks indicates we could add one modular at Seven Oak, which was acceptable to McUne. Then, over the next two years, the district could complete its long-term planning.

Oliver asked what the district would do if there is no interest from 5th grade parents at Cascades. Brooks noted we need to reach out to parents with this option; and if there is no interest, their student may still attend Seven Oak. Hess pointed out that if there is no parental interest, the message is that the community is not committed to the K-6 elementary school model.

Bo Yates stated that the Option 2 scenario would result in two K-6, two K-5, two K-8 and one self-contained 6th grade wing at Seven Oak. The Seven Oak 6th graders need to be in their own wing. Brooks asked if we move 50 students from Seven Oak to Cascades, would we eliminate the need for modular buildings. Yates said, yes, since it would be easier to manage fewer 6th grade students. There will, however, be more students overall at Seven Oak in 2019/20. After 2019/20, the school population is expected to decrease somewhat.

Yates pointed out that if the Board is leaning toward using modular buildings in 2018/19, the decision must be made soon. Oliver agreed, noting that construction of the units takes time. Yates noted that time must also be allotted for completion of the infrastructure necessary for the modular to be functional.

Martin asked whether there will be sufficient classrooms, teachers and sections at Seven Oak to provide for the 7th graders coming in from Pioneer and the 6th graders from the other schools. Yates indicated an appropriate amount of time would be necessary to develop a workable schedule and to reduce the negative impact of a higher number of students.

The Board generally agreed Options 1 and 3 are not feasible due to cost versus value received. Option 2 and the newly proposed fourth option are similar in cost.

Oliver suggested the new Option 4 (6th grade at Cascades) include the following staff components:

- Four additional teachers: two at Cascades, one additional Special Education teacher, and a fourth to float up to 7th and 8th grades.
- One additional counselor
- One and one-half food assistants at Cascades

Option 4 would cost \$480,000. Most of this cost is for staffing and teachers, which is best for the students.

Oliver asked, with 6th graders at many schools, how will we ensure they have the appropriate access to electives, music, physical education, and advanced classes? We are currently doing some advanced classes at Pioneer; can we use that model at other locations? Hess noted that consistency is better achieved if teachers are not traveling from building to building. We would need to provide band for 6th graders across the system, as well as advanced math. Oliver asked if advanced math is a fifth position we should be adding anyway, regardless of the school configuration decision. Hess advised we could include an additional teacher or do the advanced math classes electronically. Brooks requested the Board keep this a separate question from the configuration decision.

McUne noted that we have a good chance of keeping 6th graders at Cascades, but he is still concerned about having to turn away some students if the response is too great. What do we do if everyone wants to stay at Cascades, which would be 68 students? Conversely, if interest from Cascades parents is low, how would incoming 6th graders at other schools be selected to attend Cascades? Hess indicated there will be only two 6th grade classrooms at Cascades, and any open space would be

offered to students at other schools. Student selection would be done by lottery if interest exceeds the space available.

McUne asked if district staff could quickly survey parents to get a clearer picture of actual interest. Brooks agreed staff should poll the parents and compile the results for Board review. Hess confirmed the surveys will be conducted and that he would present the data to the Board at their April 12 meeting.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the Board voted to generally accept Option 4 to add two 6th grade classrooms at Cascades Elementary School pending receipt on April 12, 2018 of data confirming parental interest.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Tom Oliver, Board Chair

Rob Hess, Superintendent