

HARNEY ESD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Present: Connie Barber, Chair
Pete Merritt, Vice Chair
Richard Jenkins, Director
Daniel Brown, Director
Charles Schmidt, Director
Charles Dunten, Director
Robin Cramer, Director

1. Connie Barber called the February meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Harney ESD Administrative Office at 779 West Fillmore. CALL TO ORDER
2. Minutes for the January Board meeting were presented for review. Dick Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Charles Schmidt seconded and the motion carried. MINUTES
3. Kaeko Blackburn presented the fund balance report for February 9th which showed an All Funds total of \$1,231,273. She stated that this is where it should be for this time of year. In answer to a question, Kaeko stated that the Head Start's negative balance is due to the fact that all of ECC's grant programs are reimbursed; therefore it has a negative balance until the reimbursement is received. FINANCIAL REPORT
4. February disbursements in the amount of \$87,988.52 were presented for review. It was stated that the \$17,279.04 payment to SD#3 is an E-rate refund for which Kaeko applies for on behalf of the school districts. The \$6,558.85 payment to Eastern Oregon Technology is for ECC's new computers. The new computers were necessary because their old computers could not support Windows 7. Kaeko stated that the \$4717 to Bureau of Education & Research and the \$2450 to Jim Gill, Inc are for upcoming professional development sessions for the ECC staff. Charles Dunten made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented. Pete Merritt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. DISBURSEMENTS
5. Visitors: VISITORS/STAFF
Scott Smyth, Burns High School
Kara Davis, Burns High School student
Savannah Hannaford, Burns High School student
Bob Sari, Burns/Hines School District #3, Superintendent

Staff:
Rod Bennett, EOT Director
Gail Faulhaber, Instructional Support Director
Donna Schnitker, Early Childhood Director
6. Scott Smyth, Burns High School Counselor, was present with BHS students to request monetary support for the Positive Youth Behavior Program. The program rewards students from both Burns/Hines and Crane Schools who are doing well and behaving properly (no unexcused absences, tardies, discipline referrals or Fs). There are 3 to LATE ITEM/HC POSITIVE YOUTH DONATION

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4 reward programs a year and is supported by donations and volunteers. Each year the number of eligible students increases. Superintendent Mills asked Savannah if she thought the program influenced the students' behavior. Savannah responded that she thought it did make a difference and that it gave students something to look forward.

Dick Jenkins asked what HESD donated last year. Superintendent Mills stated that it was \$500. Scott was then asked approximately how much an activity costs and he replied that each activity is about \$700. Charles Schmidt made a motion to support one activity with a donation of \$700. Dan Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Kaeko presented the 2011-2012 Budget Calendar and committee for approval. The calendar meets ODR criteria for publications and submissions. Dan Brown made a motion to approve the budget calendar and committee as presented. Pete Merritt seconded and the motion passed. BUDGET
CALENDAR/COMMITTEE
8. Gail Faulhaber presented the Instructional Support report. She stated that she has been utilizing WebEx and video conferencing to attend trainings that are held on the west side of the state. It saves time and money. PROGRAM REPORTS

Gail stated that currently they are working on the requirements to activate the teacher's dashboard in the Data Warehouse. She stated that she is working with Rod to reset the servers, so the data will be current instead of two days behind. As yet, the rural schools have not entered data into School Master.

Diamond and Double O contracted for Teacher Evaluations. Gail stated that she has begun teacher observations at both schools. Upcoming trainings sponsored by HESD are Data Managers meeting on 2/10/11, My Access Writing Training on 2/11/11 and Rural Teachers Inservice on 2/11/11.

Rod Bennett presented the Technology report. He stated that he has been working with Century Link on reducing the cost of the data lines for the rural schools. Frame relay at \$400 a month was the cheapest for years. The tariff laws have changed, so point to point may now be available for \$143 per month. The charge should be eligible for e-rate discounts.

Rod stated that a camera test using Skype between the Regional Service Center and the Fields School was completed. The test was successful and the resolution quality was good. The Speech and Language Department is planning on using Skype to possibly deliver speech services to the rural schools in order to increase services.

Donna Schnitker presented the Early Childhood report. Donna stated that the monthly monitoring report doesn't show anything out of the ordinary. As yet no word has been received on a date for the federal audit.

Governor Kitzhaber's budget places an emphasis on early childhood education including a 7.9% funding increase. The governor is also recommending a reorganization of the early childhood system. Donna stated that a one year time limit has been given to complete the reorganization. Funding for the first year of the biennium is stable, but the second year may be drastically reduced depending on the restructuring.

9. Superintendent Mills stated that Governor Kitzhaber released his budget on February 1st. He stated that ESDs are not funded in this new budget. The education portion of the budget is for 5.56 billion which includes the monies normally reserved for ESDs. The schools are to use the ESD money to purchase services from the ESD or private entities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

House Bill 2310 would lower ESD funding from the current 4.75%. It includes an opting out clause for school districts, but all component school districts in each ESD would have to agree. ESD boards would be appointed from district superintendents or sitting board members of the school districts instead of elected.

SB250 would keep ESD funding at the current level, but also includes a clause to allow opting out. ESDs would pass through dollars to the districts that opt out based on ADM. Under this bill School District #3 would get most of the money and the smaller districts would receive very little money. Under our current 90/10 rule all schools receive the services based on need not ADM. HESD aggregates the dollar in order to help all of our component school districts. The Senate will be hearing more education bills, so the final bill may be a combining of several bills. There are many questions that will need to be answered before HESD will know what next year will look like.

Superintendent Sari stated that he didn't understand why there was so much animosity toward ESDs by the larger districts in Oregon. He went on to say that he appreciates the services offered by HESD and doesn't know why the legislature wants to change the foundation that the school system was built on. He encouraged everyone to write to the legislature and show them what the HESD means to Harney County education. It may help to change how the legislature thinks about the services ESDs provide.

Kaeko read an excerpt from the letter she submitted to the Senators. *"Every educational entity in Harney County gets a correction because we are so small, remote and lack an adequate local tax rate. All of our schools either get the small school corrections or the remote elementary school correction."*

HARNEY ESD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2011

As I mentioned earlier HESD gets the million dollar correction. These corrections were established to enable small schools and small ESDs to provide equitable services to their students. I do not see this in SB 250. SB 250 doesn't address or establish guidelines addressing a minimum base in the event opting out would literally jeopardize an ESD and other school districts.

ESDs were created to provide equitable service to its component school districts, Services that schools could not otherwise afford. Services such as administration, speech and language, instructional support, and technology are high dollar items that our rural schools couldn't afford if HESD was closed. I would not be so presumptuous to state ESDs should not be reformed or school districts should not be allowed to opt out but I implore you to remember that Oregon is not a cookie cutter state. There are vast differences both economically, geographically and culturally amongst our school districts and ESDs. The schools that testified as rurals (ie Pine Eagle) from Umatilla Morrow ESD would be a metropolis to our school districts Pine Creek, Double O, Frenchglen and Drewsey."

Superintendent Mills stated that he would be attending the OAESD meeting in Salem, tomorrow (2/10/11) and then the SB250 hearing in the afternoon. Superintendent Sari will attend the hearing to testify in support of ESDs. Superintendent Mills stated that Superintendent Sari announced that he will be leaving Burns/Hines#3 at the end of June.

10. With no further business Chair Connie Barber adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

Connie Barber, Chair