

MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT 549c
 JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON
 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
 PUBLIC HEARING
 Tuesday ~ November 28, 2006 ~ 7:00 PM
 South Medford High School Cafeteria

Successful Students Today ~ Successful Citizens Tomorrow

Time, Place, and Members Present

The School Board of School District 549C of the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, convened in a special session, in the South Medford High School Cafeteria, 815 S. Oakdale Avenue, Medford, Oregon, in said district, at the hour of 7:00 PM, on the 28th day of November 2006. The following were present:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>District Personnel</u>
Eric Dziura _____	Phil Long, Superintendent _____
Mike Moran _____	Kent Stephens, Chief Financial Officer _____
Larry Nicholson _____	Todd Bloomquist, Director-Curriculum/Assessment _____
Peggy Penland _____	Doug Jantzi, Directory-Secondary Education _____
Tricia Prendergast _____	Rich Miles, Director-Elementary Education _____
Robin Stroh _____	Julie York, Director-Student Services _____
Cynthia Wright _____	Dan Zaklan, Director-Human Resources _____ Ab
	Cherie Gravon, Administrative Assistant _____

Also present: patrons, media, representatives of the Madrone Trail Public Charter School, MEA representatives, employees, and guests

Chair Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and flag salute was conducted.

Public Hearing

Madrone Trail Public Charter School Proposal: Mr. Nicholson went of the hearing guidelines of three minutes per person and the timer process was explained. He asked that speakers provide their name, address, and affiliation. He noted written testimony would be accepted as part of the public record for forty-eight hours.

Visitors and Delegations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parent & School or Group Affiliation</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jennifer Tudor	Madrone Trail Charter School	Here to introduce and thank participants of the Charter School Proposal – two years of hard work by professionals and parents. Introduced Board – Daniele Anderson, Gesine Abraham, Lorraine McDonald, Sue Carroll, and she is also on the Board. Plans to be available to answer questions and will be holding a summary of the proposal at a date to be arranged – sign up on the mailing notification sheet located on the visitor sign in table if interested.

Robert Rudolph	Long time RV resident-Jacksonville	Glad Board is reviewing this – gives public a chance to have a blend of teaching/learning styles. He and wife have 4 children who graduated from South – all four experienced Waldorf School and public school. Well prepared in their education. Madrone Trail Initiative allows individuals who may not be able to afford private school an opportunity to experience an alternative and believes parents should have a choice. Most important gift to children is an education. Respects work of Board members – he has served on Waldorf Board. Provided letter
Sydney Rudolph Dr. Del Jones	Jacksonville	In his practice, he sees daily the increasing value of imagination – valuable in relationships. Growing body of research – students losing their sense of imagination. Need special attention to develop that quality in their lives – Waldorf enhances imagination. Referred to experience of his son not enjoying public school – enrolled in Waldorf and he developed an appreciation of the value of education. Urged Board to support the charter school – provide an alternative. Provided a written statement
Melissa Schultz Jennifer Nidalmia	Medford Parent	Home schooling children – charter school will offer a choice in education. Looking at public school system – wants more choice in parental involvement. Charter school will provide the best of both worlds. Home schooling does not always work for children and they have seen changes in their child with the experience in the Waldorf program – more communicative, thriving, and they are excited at the chance for this opportunity. This school would invite families back to public school and she appreciates the diversity.
Elizabeth Bear	Medford	Has daughter who is very bright who is home schooled – they use

Debi Dieterick	Rogue River SD	<p>Willow Wind. Some of her daughter's best friends will participate in this charter school. District needs to pick up the pace and offer diversity to bring the money back to this community. Charter school of this kind – college educated results. She supports the charter school.</p> <p>Thank you for consideration of the Waldorf – currently her children enrolled in private school. Went through intense transfer process and ultimately enrolled in private school. Wants to keep her children in the public school system. Daughter excelling in the private school setting and Waldorf proposal can meet these needs. Whole child learning, no need for TAG as children work together (each one teach one), no need for parent to be concerned about after school care since she can pick up her children after school and be with them because she works in Medford.</p>
Carolyn Oates	Medford	<p>She is a librarian and RRC employee. Does not have children in the District, but Waldorf education builds community education and integrated learning – asset to community.</p>
Jennifer Cassidy	Williams Resident	<p>Supports charter school – she currently home schools. Exposed to Waldorf school and would love the opportunity to send her children to Waldorf.</p>
Sue Carroll	Phoenix	<p>Expressed thanks for opportunity to speak. Her older children attended Phoenix schools. Appreciates arts in education – sincere belief that art is good for self-esteem. Experience in art is slowly fading from public schools. Instructs children at Rogue Gallery on Wednesday afternoons. Children tell her they do not receive much art in school. Her child currently attends Waldorf – in awe of the way in which her child has flourished with this instruction. Embraces</p>

Sara Adams	Phoenix	<p>multi-cultural aspects of the program. Values the school of choice.</p> <p>Two children – most important responsibility is to raise these children. Made some personal and financial decisions to stay at home with children. Very excited about possibility that this school might expand their choice of education. Seriously considering home schooling youngest child but would choose Waldorf – likes integrated approach of learning with emphasis on arts and language – steering away from workbook approach. School is not just about the teacher and administrator, but parents must be involved as well. Waldorf parents would be making this choice for their children.</p>
Kim Zwemer-Magoulis	Parent – Sterling Ck Rd-Medford 549C	<p>Very grateful to speak in support of Madrone Trail Initiative. Is on waiting list for a private Waldorf school in Ashland. Excited about the charter in Medford and would prefer to enroll in this school. Have used many Waldorf approaches in her mothering – aligned with her beliefs. She is a youth and family therapist – has seen the overexposure to mass media. Waldorf encourages limit of television. Encourages vibrant community guided by nurturing but structured principles for our youth. Charter school will keep families like hers in the Medford School District.</p>
Michael Davis	Jacksonville – parent of 3	<p>Oldest daughter was enrolled in Siskiyou and is now home schooled – he is a pediatrician. Waldorf is a developmentally based, age appropriate curriculum. Encourages respect for others, art and movement throughout the day. These are not extra curricular activities and promote a sense of well being. Waldorf encourages early childhood learning, imagination, and creativity. Instills better problem solving skills in</p>

Nancy Rush-Yates	Talent	<p>adulthood. Advises a media free environment – media is decreasing attention span, obesity, increasing violence. Waldorf provides a great curriculum.</p> <p>Waldorf early childhood teacher, teaches privately and teaches part-time in Ashland school district. Son was home schooled and attended Waldorf and public school. Many have offered insights into the benefits of Waldorf. Wonderful to provide Waldorf opportunity to those who cannot afford private school. Her son is about to go out into the world – education is not a one size fits all. All his experiences have been beneficial. Forward thinking and applauds Board for consideration.</p>
Philip Yates	Talent	<p>Son, 17, is enrolled at St. Marys. Prior Waldorf teacher in the valley and has served on the Board. Helped with tuition assistance program for a portion of that time – passion to make sure this education is available to everybody. There were 50 families in tuition assistance in the last year of the RV Waldorf School. The Waldorf program has 90 years of history – wants the program available to families. Children learn so differently – Waldorf not always the choice for his child but very happy for the experience. Appeals to the senses, and adds to diversity.</p>
Shannon Schnibbe	Central Point	<p>Many families seeking alternatives that are a benefit to District as well. Has read about Waldorf, talked with parents, and with people who have experienced program. Went to traditional schools – rows of desks, was not good for her development of skills and talents. Wants her children to have another opportunity. Thankful to Board for their consideration. Would like her children to try Waldorf when they are of school age. It is not right that only wealthy can participate in this program.</p>

Sara Schnibbe	Medford -Children 5 and 7	Desperate for an alternative – loves Griffin Creek School and the teachers but it is not working for her. Children are bored because they are reading above grade level and are way ahead of what they are being taught. Music, Spanish, and movement would be a wonderful alternative.
Cecile Enright	Eagle Point	Supporter of choice – project director of different charter school. Attended charter school conferences – listened to innovative things happening in the state – wants a choice for parents. She is a product of public education as are her children but it is not a fit for all. Not all children are successful with public education. Works with many at risk students, and drop out rates are becoming increasingly high.
Don Dehart	Ashland	Last year he was a charter school teacher in California and has been aiding this initiative. Read statement of student observations – children happy and ready to participate in class – reaches physical, emotional levels. Children create lesson books and are polite and well-mannered. The teacher and children stay together for many years feeling nurtured and supported. Children assist each other and there are very few disciplinary problems. Curriculum nurtures the children and students are confident, creative, and imaginative. Students are musically talented due to daily experience. Children love to read and write – holistic method. Their writing is illustrated and children speak clearly with the daily exposure to public speaking. Students have exposure to good literature and poetry. Waldorf helps to develop the child's character.
Pamela Dehart	Public school teacher, Waldorf experience	Waldorf has an integrated curriculum with well-developed art, music, and writing. Told of the success of her children. Children

Lorraine
McDonald Jacksonville

were raised in the Rogue Valley. She sought Waldorf training in addition to public school training. She is currently a mentor teacher in Ashland, and it is time for unity and diversity. We should welcome alternative teaching methods and shared her experience when a superintendent visited her classroom and was impressed with the beauty in the classroom. As a Madrone Trail board member, she extended thanks to school board for their cooperation in reviewing proposal. There have been two years of preparation of this proposal. She is the daughter of distinguished public school teacher in Colorado, ardent supporter of public education, but she home schools her own children. She educated herself on best methods with which she could educate her children. She is impressed with the children exposed to the Waldorf program. Own child participated in Waldorf and wanted to make the curriculum available to the community. She supported the plan to be a part of the public school. Medford School District will be working with devoted, well-educated group of individuals.

*Board Comments
and
Announcements*

Chair Nicholson stated all comments made this evening would be considered, in addition to any written statements submitted. He announced the Board is in the process of reviewing additional information.

Announcements

- ✓ Board Meeting and Public Hearing regarding SMHS Small Schools Proposal: 7:00 PM, December 5, 2006 – SMHS Cafeteria
- ✓ Study Session: 5:30 PM, December 5, 2006 – Board Room

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Chair of the District School Board
Medford School District 549C
Jackson County, Oregon

ATTEST:

Superintendent-Clerk

Our Mission:
**We are a high quality teaching and learning organization
dedicated to preparing all students to graduate
with a sound educational foundation, ready to succeed
in post-secondary education, and to be contributing
community members.**