

**LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT/  
OREGON COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Work Session**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015- 6:30 p.m.**

**Oregon Coast Community College**

**Newport (South Beach), Oregon**

**Minutes**

- PRESIDING:** Liz Martin, LCSD Chairman
- Present:** Liz Martin, Chairman; Karen Bondley, Vice Chairman; Ron Beck, Amanda Remund, LCSD Directors; Chris Chandler, OCCC Chairman; Debbie Kilduff, Rex Krabbe, Jim Nelson, Alison Nelson-Robertson, Cliff Ryer, OCCC Directors
- Also Present:** Steve Boynton, LCSD Superintendent; Birgitte Ryslinge, OCCC President; Laurie Urquhart, LCSD Secretary; Irene Dumas, OCCC Secretary
- Excused:** Kelley Ellis, LCSD; Jeff Ouderkirk, OCCC
- Handouts-** Accelerated Learning: How High School Students Can Earn College Credits; Models for High School Students to Earn Dual Credit; For Oregon Coast Community College, Planning & Budgeting Supports Mission Fulfillment; High School Connections: OCCC & LCSD; Draft Memo of Understanding- LCSD, OCCC April 28, 2015; 2014-2015 Oregon Dual Credit Faculty Qualification & Policies

**Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum**

LCSD Board Chair Liz Martin convened the meeting and called the session to order at 6:34 p.m. with a quorum established. OCCC Secretary Irene Dumas called roll, with Directors Kelley Ellis (LCSD) and Jeff Ouderkirk (OCCC) excused.

Chairman Martin welcomed the audience. She reminded attendees of the sign-up sheet for those that wished to address the boards; she asked those speaking to keep their remarks to no longer than three minutes. She asked district staff to introduce themselves; NHS Principal Jon Zagel, Taft 7-12 Principal Majalise Tolan, Toledo Jr./Sr. Principal Clint Raever, WHS Principal Diana MacKenzie, Director of Secondary Education Eric Clendenin, Taft High Counselor Vicky Roller, NHS Counselor Reyna Mattson, and Toledo Jr/Sr. STEM teacher Peter Lohonyay introduced themselves.

From OCCC were Data/Research teacher Elizabeth Daly, Foundation Director Theresa Wisner, English teacher Sharon Beardsley, Basic Skills teacher Laura Hamilton, Nursing instructor Lynn

Barton, Finance Director Robin Ginter, Writing instructor Kitty Pavlish, CTE/STEM instructor Chris Spaulding, and Small Business Development Director Dave Price.

**Purpose of the Meeting.** LCSD Chairman Liz Martin thanked board members from both boards for attending, and welcomed the audience. She noted it is an exciting time to “see what we can accomplish together.” She thanked the OCCC Board for the opportunity to reaffirm the positive relationship, and expand the relationship between the two entities to develop robust, equitable and sustainable programs. She noted the college and district now have an opportunity to build more efficiency into the system. Existing barriers such as poverty and budgetary restrictions can be overcome by agencies coming together. “We have received inadequate funding from the state,” said Martin. “This will force us to make difficult decisions and find creative solutions.”

OCCC is likely going through a similar process, said Martin. “We welcome opportunity to work together as we reinvent ourselves to offer a world class education based in equity of opportunity and sustainability of programs to the residents of Lincoln County.”

OCCC Chairman Chandler thanked the LCSD board for their willingness to meet, saying it is helpful to share thoughts and ideas. “Budget issues are ongoing, but together we can be stronger.”

**Accelerated Learning: How High School Students Earn College Credits.** Dr. Ryslinge presented a power point on “Accelerated Learning: How High School Students Can Earn College Credits.” Several models exist, including expanded options and dual credit. She noted legislation and funding models have changed through the years. A dual credit program generally refers to a course wherein students receive high school and college credit; the class is typically taken at the high school. Expanded options offers college credit, and usually refers to classes taken at the college. “There are many ways to do this, with no one right answer. We address a variety of needs,” said Ryslinge.

She presented student data over time, saying 74 students participated in expanded options in 2010-11 vs. 174 in 2014-15 (LCSD records reflect 132 students participating during this current year). Students and families do not pay for tuition or books; an average of 13 credits is earned by each student in the program.

Expanded options students must have approval of their high school. 90% of courses taken are transferrable; 86% completed with a C or better. The Certified Nurse’s Assistant program was started in 2012.

In the dual credit program, high school teachers must have qualifications that meet those of college faculty. There are models where high school instructors can teach the course without meeting these requirements. The availability of dual credit courses depends upon state approval of the program; OCCC would charge \$35 per course for dual credit courses.

OCCC offers the "Oregon Coast Scholars" program for any LCSD student with a 3.5 GPA. These students receive two years of college at no cost to the families; the students must maintain a 3.25 GPA. Twenty-two students are now participating in 2014-15.

Dr. Ryslinge noted that a high percentage of high school students arrive at OCCC needing remediation. "We need to fix this together," she said.

OCCC board member Cliff Ryer asked which dual credit math classes are currently offered; there is no dual credit at this time. Dr. Ryslinge noted the college has the ability to offer dual credit.

**LCSD: Participant Estimates.** LCSD Superintendent turned his time over to Director of Secondary Education Eric Clendenin, who noted the district has about 15 students to whom expanded options will be offered next year. "We will also offer a dual credit program," said Clendenin.

He reported he and Superintendent Boynton have been discussing dual credit with college representatives for months. "It's all about our students; there is great access (to the college) for two of our high schools, but we have four high schools. Waldport and Toledo have inequity of access. We want to expand opportunities and make things equitable," said Clendenin.

The district has about 1400 high school students; approximately 700 are juniors and seniors. "Only 132 are taking advantage of expanded options; we started looking at other opportunities," said Clendenin. "Principals and counselors have mentioned that our best students (models, etc.) are not on our campuses much, if at all. Considering equity and finances- we feel these other options provide more access for our kids."

He noted that approximately 880 courses are forecast through the four district high schools for the coming year. They will use the 'instructor of record' model- LCSD teachers teaching in LCSD schools. "This is equitable, and the crux of what we are chasing," he added.

Mr. Clendenin said the district has been presented an opportunity at a quarter of the cost. "I'm all for keeping expanded options... but do not want to continue on the path we were on." He said Oregon law would require the district to spend about \$45,000 on expanded options; this year, the district will spend about \$270,000 on this program.

He commented that expanded options is a quality program, but not quality for everyone. "There is a place for OCCC and LCSD to work together; this is a two-way street that will require much planning."

OCCC Board Chair Chandler said the figure of \$150,000 was reported as being budgeted for expanded options for the coming year. Superintendent Boynton said it is still early in the process. "There is a placeholder in the budget for expanded options but I am unsure where it will end up."

**College Connections Initiatives.** OCCC Dean Cindy Carlson described the many activities LCSD students participate in for exposure to college life, including: high school visits to OCCC; LCSD college fair; college application week; college night; financial aid presentation nights; College Goal Oregon; Oregon Transfer Day; college placement testing; and field trips to OCCC. She noted her receipt of an email from a sixth grade teacher planning a field trip for her students to spend two hours at the OCCC campus.

**Budgets and Planning- LCSD.** Superintendent Boynton reported the state education budget for the next biennium of \$7.255 billion has had a dramatic impact on LCSD which will result in substantial cuts. “We are moving backward,” said Boynton. He said he is trying to impact classrooms as little as possible, with proposed reductions to classified staff, counselors, and central office staff for the coming year. He noted there are placeholders in the budget for expanded options but conversations about this still need to occur. “Difficult decisions are still ahead. There may be additional money on the way from the state to help us out and add things back, but we have no way of knowing if or how much that is. This budget does not move education forward,” said Boynton.

Even state initiatives and grant dollars are in flux; how they will be delivered is yet to be determined. OEIB distributed grant funds in the past on a competitive basis. “It appears that OEIB is moving; it may be joining with ODE or something else,” reported the Superintendent. He noted another pending bill pursuant to the school improvement fund, which would be distributed on an equitable basis. “It is all up in the air; there are many unknowns in the budget process. We want to expand college opportunities for our kids but are not sure how it will be funded,” said Boynton.

Director Ron Beck asked when the district might learn if it will receive additional revenue from the state for the coming year, noting the first budget committee meeting is May 19. Mr. Boynton replied that staff is looking forward to May revenue forecast, though it could represent both good and bad news. “Additional revenue may initiate the kicker; there is absolutely no certainty,” he added.

Rep. David Gomberg took the podium, saying the joint meeting is a very important one. He said Lincoln County has a history of working together for the betterment of all, noting that OCCC has satellite campuses located next to district high schools, and has offered to reduce costs. “I am frustrated when outside agencies offer lesser cost options; they don’t have to live with consequences. A high school student taking a class in a college classroom is better off than taking it in a high school classroom,” said Gomberg.

“As far as the inadequate budget- I take that personally. Oregon is getting better; we are trying to make up the cuts. The state added one billion dollars to the education budget two years ago. The previous governor recommended a biennium education budget of \$6.6 billion, which we increased by cutting other programs. This is a 25% increase. What we passed is a base budget; I understand we need more. This is down payment. If we receive additional revenue,

40% of it will go to K-12.” He said other state programs could be further reduced, and asked all of the staff members present to help identify where additional revenue might be found. “OSBA has not offered a plan,” said Gomberg. “Just after we passed the budget, we received a resolution from LCSD asking to get to 9 billion. It would have been more encouraging to see a ‘thank you for how far we’ve come.’”

**Budget and Planning- OCCC. Accreditation plan-** Dr. Ryslinge noted it is a challenging time; “we all care about all of our students.” She asked to follow up on inequity comments, saying it is “near and dear to me.” She said both boards committed to the expanded options program in 2006, and she has only recently heard comments about it being inequitable. “Let’s solve the issue together; our offer to cut tuition in half was significant. We need both dual credit and expanded options. I believe we can all work together, including with A/P and IB courses.”

She directed attention to the “Planning & Budgeting Supports Mission Fulfillment” handout. OCCC is working toward accreditation (Oregon Coast Diploma). Independent accreditation will help all of OCCC’s partners by bringing in more grants, etc.

Part of the requirements for accreditation include financial resources. “The partnership with LCSD is important,” said Ryslinge. She reported that dollars spent by LCSD on the expanded options program represent one half of one percent of the LCSD general fund, but 7.29% of OCCC’s general fund revenue. “We have heard you are looking at partners outside the county; I hope you revisit that. We want to find ways to work together.”

She said she would like to work on communication between the two organizations. “We hope to find out where we stand earlier in the cycle. We are new this year in working together.”

OCCC board member Cliff Ryer asked if there is a difference in later outcomes between dual credit and expanded options. Dr. Ryslinge replied research says students who have accumulated college credit while still in high school are more likely to go on to college. She said there is not good data to show the difference in outcomes between expanded options and dual credit, and said dual credit is experiencing many changes. “Research shows that once someone gets to college and earns at least 15 credits, they are more likely to go on.”

Superintendent Boynton agreed that it is difficult to tell which program benefits students more. “Home environment is still the most important factor,” said Boynton. Having a safe environment at high school- and offering dual credit courses is a first step; colleges treat both kinds of credits the same way.

Mr. Ryer noted he has heard that transferring dual credits out of state could be a problem. Mr. Boynton replied that he has never experienced credits not being accepted out of state.

Director Ron Beck asked about the availability of courses and transportation to the college. Dr. Ryslinge replied that there may be a need to customize the solutions. “Maybe we can do more in Waldport; there are things we can do things with scheduling and bus transportation.”

Director Beck raised the issue of the adult learning environment and said having 15 or 16-year-olds in this environment is something else to consider. "They are under our care," said Beck. Dr. Ryslinge responded that usually high school juniors and seniors participate; "one size does not fit all."

**Potential commitments-** OCCC Chairman Chris Chandler asked if the group thought an annual joint meeting between the two boards would be worthwhile. LCSD Board Chair responded that she thinks it is a "great idea." She noted that both entities have new leaders, and said working together and having conversations will be helpful. "We are here for our students- and they are all of our students. Putting our heads together is important, and communication is the key to working this out," said Martin.

Director Beck said he agreed. OCCC Director Ryer noted he would like to understand more about the difference kinds of models.

Chairman Chandler asked if annual goals might be something to be addressed in the fall.

Dr. Ryslinge stated goals for this year would be good to articulate, and said it would be good to meet and set the calendar for the year. She noted that she and Superintendent Boynton can work on expanded options, dual credit, MOUs, and Mr. Boynton's proposal outside of the joint meeting. "Connecting activities are really important; let's document and carry them forward," said Ryslinge.

**Draft Memo of Understanding-** Superintendent Boynton presented a draft memo of understanding (presented to Dr. Rylslinge in earlier discussions in a slightly different format). Mr. Boynton explained that LCSD would like to maintain Expanded Options (EO), and would like to maintain the entrance requirement. Students would follow college rules, and the college would provide materials. Fees other than tuition would be paid by student. "I have talked with Dr. Ryslinge about this," said Boynton. He suggests raising fees back up to \$75 per credit.

Article 2 of the draft agreement concerns dual credit. The thought is to develop the program together; courses would be taught at students' high school, by certified high schoolteachers, but under OCCC professors. LCSD would provide the content, unless the OCCC professor requested it differently. Mr. Boynton suggested the dual credit program start with Writing 121 and 122 this fall, which will expand as staff is certified. "The intent would be to provide the Oregon Transfer Model by 2017-18. We want to do this thoughtfully, by offering dual credit courses in the first year, and expanded options (200 level courses) in the second."

Suggested cost of the dual credit program would be \$25 per credit hour, with a waiver of fees for free and reduced kids. The funding of the program would be at the sole discretion of both OCCC and LCSD.

Mr. Boynton reported LCSD has many other partnerships in place, and has had for many years. A large number of CTE (Career/Technical Education) is offered to LCSD students by other institutions. "We want to bring everything back to OCCC," noted Boynton.

Dr. Ryslinge said she was just seeing Mr. Boynton's proposal the evening of the board meeting, and said she appreciated seeing some specifics. "I hope we can meet in the middle, and that this is not a 'take it or leave it' proposal."

Dr. Ryslinge asked about the number of LCSD students to take part in the EO program next year.

Mr. Boynton replied the intent of expanded options was for those students who have exceeded the capacity of the local high school. For the coming year, approximately 17 students have been identified for EO. Dr. Rylslinge noted that "this is a different message than we have received since 2006."

Director Cliff Ryer asked how students who previously would have taken part in the EO program would be served next year. Mr. Boynton replied that AP programs will be available at all high schools, as well as Writing 121.

Dr. Ryslinge called attention to the "Oregon Dual Credit" programs handout. She noted both the college and the school district have to agree to offer a dual credit program. "If we are not the college you choose, we cannot offer this. We have the ability to offer dual credit and are working on options. We would charge \$35 per course, not \$25 per credit."

LCSD Board Chair Liz Martin noted the items being discussed were complex, and said "That is one of the challenges of being on a board; we are learning every day."

**Communication from the Audience-** 17 people signed up to speak:

**Pat O'Connor.** Past president of OCCC, Mr. O'Connor noted that expanded options has been in place for over a decade. "This partnership has been successful for both the college and the district," he noted. He said the idea that budget constraints may make this program seriously reduced are troubling as the program is the cornerstone to the college's long range plan. The north and south campuses were located next to the high schools purposely, he said. "It is so important; I wanted to voice my support in person."

**Hal Pritchett.** Mr. Pritchett taught at OSU for 45 years, mostly as a counselor. He said that students with a few college credits always stood out. "I love expanded options; it is a head start, and a heads up."

**Lynn Barton.** Ms. Barton said she is a parent of a son doing very well in expanded options. "He was a mediocre student at high school, but has been incredibly successful in expanded options. He could not have been accepted to college before; we are so pleased with EO and what they

have provided him. He has confidence, is excited to be in the classroom and online,” she stated.

**John Crawford-** Mr. Crawford attended both UCLA and NYU; he complimented the two boards for coming together. “The issue is funding; we have to join hands fighting those who will not fully fund us. This helps the talented students and provides them with two years of college for free: a gift beyond measure.”

**John Lavrakas.** Mr. Lavrakas said he is president of small high tech company, with eight interns from various schools, including NHS, OCCC, and OSU. He is an Aspire volunteer, and is on various boards pursuant to economic development. He said he is glad to see the two boards working together. He proposed forming an advisory board with businesses.

He said students need to have the right job skills, and noted his attendance at the recent ROV competition. “In the car on the way there, I asked the fellow I was with what he would look for in an employee. He said he would look for a piano player (dedication, practice, stick-to-it).” He urged board members to meet with representatives from the health, business, tech, and arts fields. “Then you will know what is needed,” he added.

**Caroline Bauman.** Ms. Bauman represents the Economic Development Alliance. She thanked board members for their service. “Education and health care are so essential and the competition is so fierce. We need to achieve excellence.” She urged the boards to work together for creative solutions.

**Kitty Pavlish-** Ms. Pavlish is a Writing teacher at OCCC, with 30 years of experience and a PhD. She stated her support for keeping EO at the same level. She has been teaching in the program since its inception. “Students truly benefit from face to face interaction.” She stressed the importance of relationships and said many students who struggled at the high school did well at OCCC.

Ms. Pavlish read a statement from student **Marita Nash**, who said she was thankful for the opportunity of expanded options.

**Mahaylee McKinney.** This student reported she had 12 college credits when she graduated high school, which she considered a gift. This allowed her to save for her upcoming training for the dental program she is interested in. “I am very grateful,” said Ms. McKinney.

**Susan Pilling.** Ms. Pilling thanked the two boards for the meeting, and said OCCC is a vibrant place, partly due to the expanded options students. She noted her daughter is a high school/home school junior. “It isn’t just the college rigor, but is the learning environment too.” She said “We all pay tax dollars- it is huge to be able to get two years of college. I urge you to recognize how important this is.”



**Brianna Renee Salas.** Ms. Salas is an expanded options student who has been on her own since she was 16 years old. “All I have known is this college. Without EO, I wouldn’t have had a chance. I hope it can continue.”

**Dave Price, read comment from Sandy Roumagoux,** mayor of Newport. “The ground has just been scratched as to how these two entities can work together. “

**Dave Price** thanked the boards for having the meeting, and said (as a north area parent) that the status quo is not equitable now. “My kids couldn’t go to INMS or take IB,” said Price.

**Chelsea Smith-** spoke as a senior at Toledo High. “The college environment is different. Kids are at high school because they have to be, but at college because they want to be. College prepared me for college,” said Smith. She said she is very active at the high school and works part time.

**Celeste Wechter** reported she will graduate from NHS and OCCC, and will be a junior at PSU. “EO did just what the title promised. You cannot prepare for this in high school; you have to manage your own schedule and it provides a clear idea of what higher education is really like.”

**Peter Lohonyay,** Toledo Jr./Sr. STEM teacher reported one of his two children attends OCCC. He said “You don’t offer the classes our kids need: ROV, STEM, Microprocessors, Engineering...” He urged OCCC to “bring \$500,000 to the table for equipment. Have our teachers teach some evening classes. You could offer welding, culinary; we raise the funds to get our kids these different experiences. You need to build your capacity; we need a work force.”

**Vicky Roller,** Taft High counselor said she appreciates all the college does, and said she speaks for her students. She noted she has heard a lot on both sides of the issue, and said some of what was said is “scare tactics.” She added that “Expanded Options is amazing, but I serve 700 kids.” She said she is excited for the dual credit option, adding it will help students that are first generation college students. She added that EO will look different, but will still exist. “It’s about money; we have to make cuts. EO is equal to three counselors. Please be open to other ideas to serve more students; come visit us.”

**Reyna Mattson,** Newport High counselor, said “Expanded Options has been fantastic. Several students have earned AA degrees. For me, we are bleeding and have to look at other things. Classes are over 35 at my school. She said many NHS students take college courses online so they do not lose three periods.” (Due to travel time, etc.) She noted that next year, IB classes will make it difficult to exhaust all options at NHS. She said staff would still examine extenuating circumstances, such as anxiety, etc. “We offer dual credit, child development, drafting, and commercial art. We also have a partnership with Portland State- Matt Love.” She added she knows of several families who pay for community college. She also noted her concern that the high school counselor has become an academic advisor. “I am excited to offer more classes.”

**Brenda Searles Brown- read by Theresa Wisner.** Ms. Brown said Expanded Options allowed her to graduate high school with an AA degree, and helped her to be successful. She was a low income student.

**Carrie Lewis- read by Chris Spaulding.** Ms. Lewis is the Oregon Coast Aquarium president and a mother. She said partnerships can create big ideas, and the school district and Aquarium have had a beneficial relationship for many years. She urged the boards to continue to work together to overcome obstacles.

**Bob Cowen-** representing the Hatfield Marine Science Center, noted the Center has been a great resource for our area. “It is very important for our educational entities to work together,” said Cowan. He urged the boards to keep educational dollars in Lincoln County.

**Rep. Gomberg** spoke a second time regarding free and subsidized school meals. He reported there is a pending bill that would allow students to receive a fully paid meals rather than a subsidized one; “This is because of what occurred in Lincoln County a couple of years ago,” said Gomberg.

OCCC board secretary Irene Dumas said there were more attendees who wanted to make comments but time for the meeting had run out. She urged those wishing to speak to submit letters.

Board Chair Liz Martin thanked all for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned 9:28 p.m.

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Chairman

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Superintendent