

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors - Regular Session
Tuesday, January 10, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Toledo Middle School
Toledo, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Ron Beck, Chairman

Present: Ron Beck Chairman; Sue Ryan, Vice-Chairman; Jean Turner, Billie Jo Smith, Brenda Brown, Directors

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary, approx. 30 members of the staff, students, media and patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Ron Beck convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:03 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Board Reports

Director Billie Jo Smith distributed a handout from OSBA relative to the local option levy and election “do’s and don’ts.”

Chairman Beck reported the practice burn of the Burgess building went very well, and provided excellent training with no mishaps or accidents. He recognized the stellar efforts of Toledo Fire Chief Will Ewing. Director of Business and Support Operations Rich Belloni echoed this sentiment, saying the exercise “went perfectly and saved the District money.”

Consultant Reports- Mid Columbia Bus Company

Mid Columbia CEO Tony Barnhart, Location Manager Mark Culver described transportation services provided by Mid Co. during their 2 ½ years in LCSD. Mr. Barnhart noted the firm is a family owned enterprise focusing on safety for children. The company now operates in three states. He presented a check to the Superintendent to be distributed to elementary schools in four areas of the district (Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Waldport).

Mr. Culver heralded the efforts of support staff, including Kim Bolden, Carolyn Smyth and Chris Carley. He reported the company provides a great deal of training, including “MidCo University.” The company has added 17 new buses to the fleet in the last 2+ years.

Mr. Culver also noted contributions to the district and community by MidCo, including the aforementioned elementary level donation and the scholarship program for graduating seniors. Drivers raised funds this year and last for the District’s Homeless programs.

North area Head Bus Driver Kim Bolden noted the positive impact of training MidCo has provided, and said there is a “great grew of folks” in her area. South area Head Bus Driver Carolyn Smyth noted the difficulty of the decision to outsource transportation services two years ago, and commended the Board on their choice of Mid Columbia who are “not profit motivated, but student safety oriented. It is a great company to work for,” said Smyth.

Director Brown asked the average age of the fleet; Mr. Culver said he would check to make sure, and that they are working toward having a fleet of buses four to five years old. She then asked how many of the current drivers are “holdovers” from LCSD. He said originally there were 46; 34 of those employees remain.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Tom Rinearson thanked the LCSD Board of Directors for their service to the District, in honor of School Board Recognition month. He presented them with proclamations from Gov. Kulongoski as well as the Lincoln County Commissioners. He also presented them with “easy” buttons (tongue-in-cheek).

The Superintendent thanked the Wednesday Music Club of Lincoln City for donations to Taft Middle and High Schools’ music programs.

Mr. Rinearson also thanked Mid Columbia Bus Company for their continuation of four scholarships of \$500 each for graduating seniors. The scholarships will be awarded to one student each from Toledo, Taft, Newport and Waldport High schools.

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Newport High’s Student Council for providing gifts to 45 students attending Sam Case, Yaquina View and the Early Childhood Center. The gifts were distributed just before Winter Break.

The Superintendent thanked Curves gym and Trinity Methodist Church in Toledo for their donations to the District’s Homeless Program. Curves donated \$1,000 in materials (clothes, beds, canned food, blankets) and cash. Trinity Methodist Church donated paper products, as well as blankets and canned food.

Mr. Rinearson reminded the Board Monday, January 16 is a “no school” (non-contract) day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 05/06-34

On motion of Director Ryan, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar items, including:

- **Minutes of the 12/13/05 Regular Session;**
- **Technology Plan, 2006/09;**
- **Regular Personnel Items and Addendum dated 1/10/06;**
- **PSA- OSU Extension Office for after school program, Taft Elem., in the amount of \$11,110.**

Board Membership, Grievance Tribunal

Motion 05/06-35

On motion of Director Ryan, seconded by Chairman Beck, the Board unanimously appointed Sue Ryan and Ron Beck to serve on a current LCEA Level II grievance tribunal, per the LCEA contract. It is expected membership on the tribunal will change, depending upon board members' schedules.

Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation Criteria and Timeline

Motion 05/06-36

On motion of Director Ryan, seconded by Director Smith, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's 2005/06 Evaluation Form and Timeline, as distributed in the January 10, 2006 board folder. In addition to Board input, Superintendent Rinearson has asked District Office administrators and building principals to complete the evaluation forms. Input is due to the Board Secretary by Friday, January 27th.

Chairman Beck noted the January 24 date on the timeline as the date the Superintendent would be presenting information as requested from the Board. He urged Board members to advise the Superintendent as soon as possible regarding their requests for information, if any. Director Smith noted the Superintendent could share items of his choosing; Mr. Rinearson noted the wide expanse of items covered by the several sets of goals. He asked that the Board let him know of anything in particular they would like to see.

East Area Report- Planning for 06/07

Toledo High Assistant Principal Clint Raever and Arcadia Principal Rosemary O'Neil described planning currently underway by East area administrators to address declining enrollment in the district and their area in particular. Toledo High applied for an E3 grant to help redesign that school.

A meeting of east area administrators and business community members is planned for January 12, 7:00 p.m. at Toledo High School. Business leaders will be asked to describe what they hope students graduating from LCSD schools will be able to know and do. A meeting to gather parents' input is planned for January 19th, 6:30 p.m. at Toledo High. Also, east area schools will have an additional early release day for students on January 25th to allow staff planning time for the coming year.

Chairman Beck asked who is hosting the January 12th meeting; it is being co-hosted by east area administrators and Toledo Mayor Sharon Branstiter. Ms. O'Neil said she sent a suggested agenda to Ms. Branstiter for her review. Mr. Beck said he encouraged this meeting and others like it, and said they should be based on facts. He noted dollars saved from the closure of Mary Harrison stayed in the east area.

Update from North Area Administrators, 06/07

North area administrators updated the Board on the additional student release day in December, used to examine the feasibility of consolidating the middle and high schools in Lincoln City. Principal Steve Kilduff reported all members of both Taft Middle and Taft High met December 7th to determine if Taft High's building could physically accommodate students in grades 7 through 12. They found the building can house students in those grades. Kilduff thanked Learning Support Team members for their attendance at and help with the meeting.

A steering committee comprised of administrators, teachers, classified staff, parents, community and business leaders has been meeting with facilitator (John Baker) to begin planning for the coming year. Consolidating the two schools appears to be moving closer to a reality.

Director Turner commended administrators for their “total staff involvement,” and said the south area was successful in combining the elementary and middle schools there by doing the same thing. She wished them well and said she sits “in awe of what groups of people can do when they are working together.”

Principal Phelps thanked Director Brown for sitting in on one of their steering committee meetings.

Compliance with Division 22 Standards

Curriculum and Instruction Administrator Sandi Williams and Operations/Technology Administrator Joe Novello reported LCSD is in compliance with all requirements of OAR 581-Division 22 Standards for Public Elementary & Secondary schools. Superintendent Rinearson noted the tremendous amount of effort required to make this happen, and said it has been several years since the District was in complete compliance.

Siletz Valley School Charter Renewal

Siletz Valley School Director Van Peters requested extension of the current charter for five years, with that school retaining the same grade levels as currently offered (K-8). In addition, Mr. Peters presented a proposal for a new charter for a high school in Siletz for students in grades 9-12.

Extension of the current charter will return to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed new charter within 60 days of receipt of the proposal (by March 10), and must approve or deny the proposal within 30 days of the hearing.

Eddyville Charter School Renewal

Eddyville Charter School Principal Don McDonald requested a renewal of three years commencing on July 1, 2006, with all other terms and conditions remaining the same. The request will return to the Board for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Review of Variance Policy

Superintendent Rinearson lead a discussion pursuant to the District’s policy dealing with requests for variances in attendance. Currently, students may seek and principals from both the sending and receiving school must approve, a variance to attend a school other than the school in the attendance area where the student resides.

School Operations/Technology Administrator Joe Novello said the District had been struggling with variances for several years, and said contradictions exist in the administrative rules to the variance policy (JECC-AR). Director Smith noted number four of the administrative rules, “The variance will not adversely affect either facility involved in terms of space, programs and support facilities.”

Chairman Beck noted the third paragraph of the policy, describing a transfer student's ability to remain in the school until he/she completes the highest grade in that school. Director Turner noted that paragraph speaks to requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Superintendent Rinearson cautioned the Board about reacting in a way that could cause more harm than good to students. He said he will be sending a letter to parents with students on variances, asking them why their student is on a variance. He also stated the District basically has an open enrollment practice, with much paperwork.

Director Smith noted that, if variances were to be halted, the District must change the policy gradually.

The Board will be examining the policy and current practice in a work session at the end of January.

Overview of Licensed Renewal Process

Assistant Superintendent Len Geiger provided an overview of the process established for contract extensions and non-extensions for licensed staff. Teachers have a three-year probationary period, and are then eligible for two-year contracts. Administrators also have a three-year probationary period, with three-year contracts. A list of licensed renewals and non-renewals will be coming to the Board in February. Employees must be notified by March 15th.

The Superintendent noted if a teacher is put on a plan of assistance, the Association may not grieve that placement until after the plan is completed. He also noted the Board has the authority to overrule the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding contract renewals.

Mr. Geiger also reported the standard by which administrators can be judged is "we can do better."

Discussion on Supplemental Budget

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin reported two situations have occurred necessitating a supplemental budget: the District's decision to self-fund dental and vision insurance, and the landslide at Newport Middle School.

A decision on the supplemental budget is scheduled for the January 24th board meeting, following a public hearing.

Other- Draft Resolution Calling for Local Option Levy

Ms. Baldwin presented a draft resolution calling for a local option levy the Board will consider at a future meeting. Though the Board approved putting a local option levy on the ballot, they must define more specifically the parameters of the levy.

Information on Financial Reports

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin presented financial information as of December 31, 2005. She reported no significant changes from projections. Investment funds' interest continues to increase.

Update on Newport Middle School Slide

Director of Business and Support Services Rich Belloni updated the Board on the repair of the slide at Newport Middle School. He reported the district was able to purchase rock at a reduced rate from the state of Oregon, thanks to the efforts of Rep. Alan Brown. Local contractor Road and Driveway was instrumental in getting the repair completed.

Discussion on Long Range Planning

This discussion will continue at the January 31st work session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent