

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors - Work Session
Tuesday, March 7, 2006– 6:30 p.m.
Newport Middle School
Newport, 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; Margot Helphand, Facilitator; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Ron Beck convened the meeting and called the session to order at 6:35 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Discussion on Planning Framework

Margot Helphand began the discussion, saying the order of the discussion may fluctuate, as the subjects are interrelated. She distributed a “boilerplate” copy of a board agreement, as well as sample value statements from various organizations. She also brought a videotape by Jim Collins, author of *Good to Great* (which she left for Board members to view at a later time).

She asked why a board would want to plan. Responses included: looking to the future; provide structure and continuity to the Board and employees; provides a way to focus on vision; window of opportunity to build consensus and focus on student achievement. Concerns about planning included: it may not make a difference; regional and site planning is ongoing.

Chairman Beck reminded the group of the Superintendent’s comment recently that a unique “window of opportunity” exists for the Board to do its work, with labor negotiations settled, the budget picture somewhat stable, and no board vacancies until June of 2007.

Ms. Helphand asked the Board what kind of process they would like to use for planning, and said a wide range of processes exist. Board members expressed the idea that long range planning is very important, but they did not want to squander their opportunity to improve the district by engaging in a long, involved process for a strategic plan. Chairman Beck noted there is much planning ongoing now in all regions of the district. Board members reached consensus they would like to pursue planning as a board, rather than using a larger process.

Core Values

Chairman Beck commented the public's perception of the Board is due, at least in part, to the actions of Superintendent Rinearson.

Margot Helphand asked the Board to consider values "so important that, even if you were punished, you would not give them up." Board members offered:

Jean Turner: All students will achieve to their maximum capability.
All students will thrive within a nurturing environment.

Ron Beck: All students will be treated fairly and equally.
Accountability.

Brenda Brown: All patrons, employees and students have a sense of individual worth to the district. Mutual respect.

Billie Jo Smith: Safe and nurturing environment.
Opportunities for kids.
Successful students.
Kids have a vision for themselves.

Sue Ryan: Students need to feel they belong.
Ownership.

Tom Rinearson: (Summarized what he'd heard from Board members):
Honest, open communication
Community based decision-making
Highest levels of learning

Board members went on with the following exercise.

We value:

- Open, honest communication
- Fairness and equity
- Community engagement
- Quality education in each community
- Parental choice (charter schools, variances)
- Students in the best possible program for that student, school, parent

We believe that:

- Education is a shared responsibility
- Accountability
- ~~Celebrate the uniqueness of our communities common good help each other out~~
- ~~Maximizing choice for parents, students~~

Superintendent Rinearson noted the importance of commitment, and said in order for schools to be successful, the district must be examined as a whole. He commented he saw a change over the last three years in the district, from the value of “more course offerings” to “having a community school.”

Chairman Beck said the board policies need to reflect the values of the board.

The Superintendent asked the Board to provide guiding values rather than details, and said the Board must speak with one voice. He said values must not be dependent upon the individuals at any given moment, but must endure. “To take the district to a proactive rather than reactive mode will take the Board to do,” said Rinearson.

Director Smith noted her own moral dilemma concerning charter schools. Though she values choice, a vote in favor of a charter school is hurting students in other schools. “I am conflicted,” said Smith.

Ms. Helphand said the Board had discussed many topics, including goals, mission, core values, and philosophy as a board. She asked “Where do you want to go from here?” The Board reached consensus to hold their discussions during an earlier time of day, to be able to continue the discussion until it is completed. A future work session will be scheduled to continue the conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent