

**LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2006- 7:00 p.m.**  
**Newport Middle School**  
**Newport, Oregon**

**Minutes**

**PRESIDING:** Sue Ryan, Chairman

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

**Also Present:** Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 100 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

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

Chairman Ryan convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

**Communications**

Several audience members addressed the Board regarding the possible formation of an east county school district. Speakers included:

?Melody Barker, Siletz, who commented the district does not invest in Toledo. She said the variance system does not work for all families.

?Mary Flatt, Toledo, who commented that all funds would go for the benefit of students, with no cuts. She said parents and students would be more involved, and they would have “more control of the money.”

?Tessa Mabe, Toledo, who said “Toledo schools have gone down and down.” She said students living in Toledo must go to summer school in order to be prepared for college.

?Eric Chambers, Toledo, a Toledo High graduate. Mr. Chambers expressed the idea that if Toledo had local control, stewardship of its schools would be at the forefront. He also mentioned variances, and noted that enrollment is tied to programs.

?Sandy Blackman, Toledo, who noted her 32 years of employment as a teacher and counselor with LCSD. She said adaptation and change is needed, and said local control is important.

?Tad Brown, Toledo, who said two schools have closed in the east area over the past two years. He expressed the desire to keep a K-12 program in Toledo, and noted the importance of economic development. “We have a responsibility to provide our kids with the best education possible,” said Brown, adding that local control will mean a better quality education for students.

?Art Anderson, Toledo, who has no children or grandchildren in the school system. He said “all citizens should care,” and urged the community to secede.

?Mary Toy Young, Toledo, said variances go unchallenged and electives have dwindled. “Many are waiting for the announcement of the closure of Toledo High. I will not wait,” said Young.

?Sharon Branstiter, Toledo Mayor, who read a letter from AWPPW Union President Bruce Read in support of the secession effort.

Martha Eisele of Mid-Coast Christian School said she attended the meeting to answer questions from the Board, should they have any, regarding the facilities rental agreement of a portion of Arcadia School.

Director Beck asked “What am I missing?” and said comments from the audience did not fall on deaf ears. He noted comments regarding the responsibility of educating our youth were “dead on,” and asked if the speakers are active in their local site councils. “This Board has no place in your discussions; your discussion is with the legislature,” said Beck. “It does not require, nor should it, our endorsement.”

Toledo Mayor Sharon Branstiter responded by saying the speakers did not expect to interact with the Board, and understood the process does not involve the LCSD Board. She said the group is involved in the legislative process, but added they have an obligation to share their activities with the Board. They have also shared what is driving them with union presidents, administrators and others. She asked the Board to remain neutral on the secession effort.

Director Beck noted several speakers asked for Board support. “My oath is to support all students. If it would only benefit 880 students, I would be against it. If it is beneficial to all, I would be for it.” He also noted the existing precedence for the use of charter schools; Ms. Branstiter said “We’ve all read Robert Frost, and we want to take the road less traveled.”

### **Staff Recognition**

Chairman Ryan reported that Taft High Principal Steve Kilduff hosted a tour and lunch for District Office staff at his school. Ms. Ryan said “It is exciting to see what is going on up there, and I want staff to know how great Steve and JD are doing.” Superintendent Rinearson added that Lincoln City Chamber and Rotary meetings are also scheduled to take place at the school in the near future.

Director Smith reported she went to Toledo High to help with unpacking and readying for school. “It is looking beautiful.” She said teachers have been volunteering their time, and have been praising Rich Belloni’s staff for all they have done.

Director Brown said she and Director Smith also visited Toledo Elementary and saw “quite a transformation. It looks wonderful.” She thanked administrators, teachers and parents for all they have done.

### **Board Reports**

Chairman Ryan reported the Oceanlake Elks Club are distributing drug awareness Marvel comic books free of charge to north area schools, grades 5-8. If other areas are interested, they should contact their local Elks club.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Rinearson thanked the Toledo Boosters for their help beautifying the grounds of Toledo High.

The Superintendent also thanked media specialist Doug Hoffman, who was the only Oregonian selected to travel to Saudi Arabia, hosted by Aramco. Aramco Educators is providing professional development to U.S. Media Specialists and social studies teachers with the goal of increasing their knowledge and understanding of Saudi Arabia, its culture and values.

Superintendent Rinearson described a new two-year position, funded by the ESD: “Community Curriculum and Resource Liaison.” The position will provide LCSD with a community liaison and program development coordinating science, art and entrepreneurship activities with the Hatfield Marine Science Center, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Marine Discovery tours and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife research facility. The goal is to develop collaborative, sustainable relationships that will continue after the two-year timeframe.

The Superintendent reported registration week is in process, and reminded the Board of the area “welcome back” events: East Area- Tuesday, August 29, 8:30 a.m. at Toledo Elementary; South Area, Wednesday, August 30, 8:45 at the Hatchery Research Center near Alsea; North area, Thursday, August 31, 8:30 a.m. at Taft High, and West Area, Friday, September 1, 8:00 a.m. at Newport High School. He invited Board members to attend any or all of the events.

### **Approval of the Consent Calendar**

**Motion 06/07-8**

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar items as listed in the August 22, 2006 board folder, including:

- ?Minutes of the July 11, 2006 Regular Session meeting;
- ?Regular Personnel Action.

### **Approval of Policy IGD, Lincoln County Activities Association**

**Motion 06/07-9**

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved Policy IGD, Lincoln County Activities Association, as amended at the August 22, 2006 board meeting. Superintendent Rinearson distributed a policy revised since the 8-22-06 board folder was published. The only change in the newly distributed policy is the elimination of “practice or” in item #2. Board members also suggested a grammatical correction in item #3 from “does” to “do”.

The revised policy includes student eligibility requirements, formerly only contained in the administrative rules (the LCAA Handbook).

### **Facilities Multi-Use Agreements**

The Board asked to delay a decision on the two agreements (LBL ESD, for Early Intervention services and Mid-Coast Christian School) pending receipt of a legal opinion regarding long-term rental agreements.

### **Information on GED Options Program**

LCSD entered a contract with Oregon Coast Community College to develop a joint GED (General Education Diploma) Options program. In the past, OCCC administered the GED program. Students opting out of LCSD schools had to be released from compulsory education in order to take part in the

GED program. During the last school year, 70 students were released from compulsory education; five of those students completed their GED program.

With the change to a joint program this year, students will no longer have to be released from compulsory education to work toward a GED. Students' Personal Education Plans may now be tied to the GED Options program, allowing LCSD staff to monitor, counsel and guide these students. The District will also receive the ADM for these children (which did not occur with the former method). Students who achieve their GED will be encouraged to continue their education using the Expanded Options program. This new agreement has strengthened the District's relationship with OCCC.

Superintendent Rinearson recognized Joe Novello for his excellent work on this agreement and program.

### **Information on Student Code of Conduct, JFC-AR**

School Operations Administrator Joe Novello stated the Student Code of Conduct (Policy Code JFC-AR) included ways to deal with discipline of students with disabilities. As federal and state laws have changed several times, OSBA suggests a separate policy for the discipline of special education students. That new policy will be presented at an upcoming board meeting.

### **Information on AYP and Assessment Results**

Federal Programs Administrator Cathy Russell presented preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data. Preliminary results indicate the District "does not meet" in the overall rating. However, because the elementary level met for language arts, math and all subgroups, the District is no longer in the "sanctions" category. Nine schools met, nine did not, and one had no data (with the combination last year of Mary Harrison and Arcadia). Director Smith noted the hard work of staff at that school, and asked if there was a way to measure their progress. Ms. Russell noted they will have an AYP report, with no rating.

Taft Elementary School did not meet, and is in year two of improvement status. The District must offer school choice and supplemental services as a result of this rating. Schools of choice are Sam Case, Toledo Elementary, and Newport Middle. Taft Elementary scored a "strong" on the state report card which demonstrates good student learning at the school, said Russell.

Data regarding one intact group of students was distributed showing results in math and reading. Superintendent Rinearson noted the data raises a question regarding the effectiveness of current programs. He also said the state is considering increasing math requirements.

### **Variance Discussion Preparation**

Superintendent Rinearson asked Board members what kind of information they would like for the work session scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> on the district's variance policy. Director Turner asked for a summary of the survey done last year regarding reasons for variances. Chairman Ryan asked for numbers of students on variances, and sending/receiving schools.

Director Smith asked for criteria to determine if a school is negatively impacted by a variance, i.e., class sizes, program offerings, etc. in the sending or receiving schools. She suggested procuring guidelines

from other districts. She also asked for timeline input regarding variances, as well as a prioritization of the reasons variances are granted.

Director Beck asked for information regarding the cost to police a new policy.

Director Brown requested information on variances for the current year.

The Superintendent cautioned the Board staff may not be able to gather all of the information before the coming week. Four district elementary schools are not following the current administrative rules, as they are waiting until after registration to make decisions. He suggested examining the current policy to provide a basis from which to proceed.

Director Beck suggested concentrating the variance discussion on upper levels, as the discussion there usually centers on programs, while discussion at the elementary level centers around class size.

Sharon Branstiter asked that other county units' variance policies be examined (the Superintendent noted the legislature eliminated county units; all are "common" school districts now). She also suggested looking at policies from Philomath and Corvallis, and Elmira and Junction City. Other districts include Morrow County, Klamath Falls, Josephine County, and Hood River.

Assistant Principal JD McMahan asked staff to consider whether "free choice" variances could exist any longer, given the requirements of NCLB and school choice.

Board members also asked for a copy of Principal Jack Nickerson's letter to parents regarding variances in that area.

## **Financial Report**

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin distributed an unaudited revenue and expenditure summary for fiscal year 05-06, with non-final figures. Currently, the ending fund balance stands at \$3.7 million; these figures will change when finalized. Director Beck commented that, though pleased, the figure shows how little control the district has over state funding. Superintendent Rinearson emphasized cash flow and the importance of having cash on hand to handle "bumps" as they occur.

Ms. Baldwin also distributed a revenue and expenditure summary for the current fiscal year, showing declining enrollment for 2004-05 and 2005-06. July expenditures were presented on the next summary. This year, ODE will determine local revenues. The district received approximately \$860,000 in May '06, which was the result of districts around the state under-reporting local revenue, thus leaving more dollars in the State School Fund (SSF) to distribute. ODE increased the local revenue figure given them by the district by over \$900,000, and may make an adjustment some time in the future. Mr. Rinearson reiterated the importance of a cash balance to handle situations like this.

Interest income continues to increase.

**(continued)**

## **Discussion on 06-07 Goals**

Superintendent Rinearson called the Board's attention to draft goals for 2006-07 as listed in the August 22, 2006 board folder. He noted the goals were compiled from several lists of goals already in place, with some new ones added. The first section of the goals deals with District goals; the second, with Board goals. He suggested the Board develop a work plan for the Board goals.

Director Billie Jo Smith asked if revision of the variance policy should be a Board goal. The Superintendent stated the work session scheduled for August 29 would include a discussion on this policy; this was also added to the Board goals ("review and revise as needed").

## **Long Range Plan- Decision Making Process; New Board Member Orientation; County-Wide Education Summit; Toledo Activity**

The Board continued their discussion on the "decision making process" diagram. Director Smith asked when the Board would decide when to use this process. Mr. Rinearson replied the ground rules would need to be developed before using the process. Director Beck noted his preference for Board consensus in order to use it. Director Turner agreed, but said if even one board member asked to use this process, it should be considered. The Superintendent noted the need to define "consensus," and said the process would continue to return to the Board for their input.

Director Smith said she felt the Chair should not have the sole responsibility of tabling an issue the Superintendent has recommended for action. The Superintendent said he would check "Roberts Rules of Order" for process. He said the diagram would be an excellent tool for new board members.

The Board was also scheduled to discuss orientation for new board members. Mr. Rinearson said this issue would wait until a work plan is developed.

The Superintendent stated he discussed the idea of a county-wide education summit with facilitator Margot Helphand. He said small summits were occurring in each of the district's communities, which would then be followed by a county-wide summit. It is still in the discussion stage, said Rinearson.

The "Toledo activity" portion of the agenda referred to the east county group exploring the idea of seceding from the District. The Superintendent asked if the Board would like to have George Murdock, or someone like him, visit with the Board to share possible impacts; consensus was reached to do so. Mr. Rinearson noted if the secession effort is successful, the Board zones will have to be redrawn (which may need to occur regardless). He said the east area activity is encouraging the District to examine "how we do business," which is a good thing.

The Superintendent also said the Board may want to meet with the ESD board, as they are the "boundary board." If this does occur, it would be a single agenda item meeting. He asked Board members to email questions about possible impacts of secession to Laurie or him. He also stated it is the Board's choice to either take a position on the secession issue, or not. He encouraged them to base any decision on fact, rather than emotion.

Mr. Rinearson reported he met with the group's steering committee and gave them the information they have so far requested. Len Geiger will be the contact if questions regarding employee contracts arise. Financial questions will be routed through the Superintendent's office.

Director Turner noted the District and Superintendent are becoming educated regarding the possible separation of a part of the district. She asked information be shared with the Board as it becomes known, as they may not think of all scenarios.

Superintendent Rinearson said the Toledo group is comprised of "passionate and dedicated" people, is not adversarial, and said they would likely be happy to share information. He said the biggest issue is the boundary of what may be the Toledo district.

Chairman Ryan commented the Board represents all students of Lincoln County School District, in each respective zone. She said if the Board reaches a decision regarding the effort, it will be done publicly. She added a similar effort occurred in her area years before; "we found it was better to work with the District. Now we are reaping the benefits."

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

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Chairman

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Superintendent