

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors - Work Session
Tuesday, November 14, 2006 – 6:00 p.m.
Waldport High School
Waldport, Oregon

PRESIDING: Sue Ryan, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Ryan convened the meeting and called the session to order at 6:05 p.m. with a quorum of all four board members present.

Discussion on Transfer Policy JECC (“Assignment of Students to Schools”)

Superintendent Rinearson again presented proposed Policy Code JECC, Assignment of Students to Schools (presented in prior work and regular sessions). He suggested moving the middle four paragraphs dealing with No Child Left Behind requirements and Oregon Revised Statutes to administrative rules.

Mr. Rinearson noted the Board needed to choose between two options in the first paragraph: “transfer...will stay in effect (through grade 12 in the attendance area of the transfer) or (through the highest grade level of the school the student is being transferred to). The Board reached consensus to select the second option (through the highest grade level of the school the student is being transferred to). Director Turner stated it can be somewhat confusing, as different areas have different configurations in their schools.

The Superintendent noted the caveat of “student population of the school exceeds the building’s capacity” must remain. Director Beck asked how students would be selected for having their variance revoked, after having been approved in prior years; Mr. Rinearson suggested defining the procedure in the administrative rules, with principals’ input.

Director Brown said she examined transfer policies from other districts, and said she liked Corvallis’ policy. It refers to maintaining “economic vitality of the school,” which she interprets as equity between schools. Director Turner asked her to clarify her opinion; Ms. Brown said she would prefer having stability of programs in all of our schools. It was noted students’ Personal Education Plans should address this. Superintendent Rinearson stated Oregon defines equity as the same number of dollars per student, and said Corvallis’ policy is controversial for a number of reasons. “We also need to think about e-learning,” said Mr. Rinearson. “If it has value, all schools will have all the choices they could ever want.” He also noted taking on-line courses is an important skill for students, and said this topic should continue into the discussion concerning graduation requirements.

Director Turner said though e-learning significantly expands students' choices, not all on-line courses are "wonderful yet. But it is getting better. I would have a hard time saying it is as good as an excellent teacher." She said she would like to offer students the choice of taking a course online that is not offered "face-to-face" in their residence school, before granting a transfer to another district school with that course.

Superintendent Rinearson suggested also moving the sixth paragraph, dealing with notice to parents of their right to request transfers, to administrative rules.

Director Brown said the Board needs to define "variance," i.e., how many courses taken in a school different from their school of residence would make it a variance. The Superintendent explained the school in which a student registers is the one receiving ADM; the number of credits is also a determining factor. (The school at which the student takes over half of their credits receives funding).

Director Turner said it may behoove areas to explain to their students they may take a class or two at a different school, but still be considered a member of their "home" school. Mr. Rinearson said zero period would be a good fit for this scenario.

Director Brown asked when harm is created by granting a transfer, on either end, "when FTE is lost? When rooms have to be re-done?." The Superintendent offered his opinion that harm never happens. "I think harm is a lack of commitment to quality programs. I would much rather have fewer programs of high quality, than many of lower quality."

Director Ryan stated that reasons why students leave a particular school need to be examined. Mr. Rinearson said the survey of families with variances indicated it is usually for economic reasons (work location, daycare, etc.).

Director Brown asked if the Board would see the administrative rules when they are written. The Superintendent replied they will; it is standard practice to share administrative rules with the Board (though they do not approve them).

The meeting was recessed to regular session at 6:52 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent