

**LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Toledo Elementary School**  
**Toledo, Oregon**

**Minutes**

**PRESIDING:** Sue Ryan, Chairman

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

**Also Present:** Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approximately 40 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 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

**Student Representatives, Toledo High**

Toledo High students (Student Body Secretary) Breanna McBride and (President) Beth Mathews updated the Board on activities at Toledo High, including: ●Homecoming activities, including guys' volleyball and powder puff football, went well. Hallway decorating was fun and creative, with Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland hallways; ●A canned food drive did very well, with 4200 pounds of food gathered in a variety of ways; ●A fundraiser for Doernbecher Children's Hospital is upcoming.

**SOS Committee Report**

SOS Committee member Grant Forrest distributed handouts to board members comprised of a series of questions, east county enrollment, and course offerings at Toledo and Newport High Schools. He commented LCSD may not be benefiting from economies of scale, and said east-county could benefit by becoming a separate district. He said articles in the newspaper, including a 'Viewpoint' written by the Superintendent, are creating a "wedge" between different factions in the county. He also stated, with Siletz and Eddyville charter schools' opposition to their inclusion in the proposed district's boundaries, the success of a split is "a long shot at best."

Mr. Forrest said the SOS group compared LCSD with other districts of similar size, and briefly discussed some of the handout questions based (in part) on those comparisons. He said the group's analysis demonstrates the district spends significantly more money to educate students than other similarly sized districts, and asked why. He also said the district's pay scale is more similar to that of a large district, and health benefits are high in cost.

Mr. Forrest stated the variance policy "does not account for the stable enrollment in east-county." He asked "what is so good about the performance in east county that we should not consider making changes? Parents are telling you they are not satisfied." He completed his remarks by saying the district provides unequal opportunities for students.

## **Communications**

Toledo resident Tad Brown addressed the Board about the new transfer policy, saying most transfers cause a loss of program in the sending school. He noted the availability of more “classes of substance” at Newport High compared to Toledo High, and said less affluent families may not be able to take advantage of transfers (due to transportation issues).

Siletz Valley Board Chair Katie Lindstrom clarified that charter school’s position on the proposed secession effort by saying their Board had informed the SOS group of their opposition in October. She noted their board only learned of the inclusion of the Siletz charters in the proposed boundaries by reading it in the newspaper. She said the proposed new district is “not as viable or stable an option as what we currently have.” Ms. Lindstrom also said the Siletz charters have benefited tremendously from parental choice, and asked the Board if they would consider making their views public regarding the inclusion of the charter schools with the secession effort.

Superintendent Rinearson read a letter received from the Eddyville Charter School (ECS) Board and administration. The letter stated the ECS Board met in January, and voted unanimously to oppose the SOS legislative efforts. The ECS Board cited their “appreciation of the positive working relationship that exists between ECS and LCSD,” and said changes in governance, contract or sponsorship “that would place the charter school in jeopardy of losing this partnership are not acceptable to the ECS Board.” The letter concluded by asking the LCSD Board to publicly state their support of the charter schools’ opposition of the formation of a new east area district.

## **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Rinearson recognized Isaac Newton Magnet School for their award from ODE of a flag for being a “School of Excellence.” The award is given based on a school’s state Report Card rating of “Exceptional;” INMS has received such a flag three years in a row.

The Superintendent also recognized Taft High students Josh Evans and Ed Cox for correctly answering an “Algebra in Action- Problem of the Week.” Columbus State University in Georgia hosts the program; students from several countries participate.

Mr. Rinearson congratulated 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center coordinator in Newport Bambi Henderson for her selection as “Volunteer of the Year.” Lincoln County Health and Human Services Prevention Program selected Ms. Henderson for her many volunteer activities, including the Newport Police Department, Red Cross and several sports teams.

Superintendent Rinearson congratulated LCSD special education students, some of whom went to State in Special Olympics bowling. Several of the students are from Toledo.

The Superintendent also congratulated substitute teacher Walt Ricks for being honored as the 2006-07 “Substitute of the Year.” Mr. Ricks has worked in LCSD since 1995.

Mr. Rinearson reported Newport High, Sam Case and Yaquina View received funds from the Arts Cultural Coalition. Newport High will use their portion to support student theater.

Superintendent Rineason reported Monday, January 15 is Martin Luther King Day, with no school for students that day. Friday, January 26 is the end of the first semester, and Monday, January 29 is Records Day (no school for students).

The Superintendent thanked Board members for their many contributions to the betterment of the district, in honor of “School Board Recognition Month.”

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

**Motion 06/07-28**

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

- Minutes of the 12/5/06 Work Session;**
- Minutes of the 12/12/06 Special Session;**
- Minutes of the 12/12/06 Regular Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Waldport Property- OCCC Sale, \$240,000.**

### **Approval of Criteria and Timeline, Superintendent Evaluation**

**Motion 06/07-29**

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously approved the evaluation criteria (form) and timeline for the 06-07 evaluation of the superintendent, as listed in the January 9, 2007 board folder. District administrators will also complete the evaluation instrument.

Director Brown commented the Superintendent expressed an opportunity to do a self evaluation. He will also complete an evaluation form.

### **Approval of Revised 06-07 Board Meeting Calendar**

**Motion 06/07-30**

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved the revised 06-07 Board of Directors “Schedule of Meetings” as listed in the January 9, 2007 board folder. For the remainder of the year, the board will hold one business meeting per month on the second Tuesday evening. Four and fifth Tuesdays may be used as work sessions of the board. The calendar will be posted on the district’s website and available at all school facilities.

### **Approval of Policy JECC, Assignment of Students to Schools**

**Motion 06/07-31**

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved Policy JECC, Assignment of Students to Schools. The revised policy states “Students are assigned to school in the attendance area in which they reside. A parent may request a transfer to a school outside of their child’s assigned school by following the procedures outlined in the accompanying administrative rules.” The administrative rules will be completed in the coming weeks.

Director Brown asked the definition of a transfer, if a student is attending classes in more than one school. Draft administrative rules define this by stating “Students may take classes in a district school other than their school of enrollment, provided the number of credits taken in the other school does not exceed half of the total number of credits taken by the student.”

Director Ron Beck spoke in favor of student transfers, saying he believes parental choice is a “real positive.” He commented he “would love to answer Mr. Forrest from my perspective...I do not support

the idea that variances are the root of the problem in east county.” He noted the revised policy eliminates some of the paperwork formerly required with a transfer, and said he applauds staff and the Board for raising the issue.

### **East Area Report**

Toledo Elementary Principal Rosemary O’Neil highlighted school improvement activities at the school, and discussed the Reading First grant. She distributed a progress report on the grant demonstrating areas in which the school is performing at the “A+” level, as well as areas still in process. Staff meet regularly to review student test data, and adjust instruction to individual children if his/her progress is not moving satisfactorily. She noted an additional goal of being able to offer all day kindergarten, and before/after school child care. “I think that would keep many families here; we need a collaborative effort,” said O’Neil.

Toledo High Principal Paul Priest reported the school is pleased with the new vocational/technical program at the school, slated to begin next semester. The program was initiated by meetings held last year with staff, community, parents and students. “I assigned my FTE based on this input,” said Priest.

Ms. Priest reported the school will be receiving Perkins funds (federal dollars supporting vocational/technical education). She also reported the transition at the school to the inclusion of students in grades 7 and 8 has gone well. The school received donations from West Coast Bank (\$500) and Nike (70 computers), and have access to \$5,000 from the Lincoln County CORE (Connecting Oregon for Rural Entrepreneurship) group. These funds must be requested, based upon a description of how the money will be used.

### **Compliance with State Standards- Annual Report**

Staff members scheduled to present this information were unavailable due to scheduling conflicts and family illness. The Superintendent reported the report will be presented in the coming days.

### **Information on Saudi Arabia Trip- Doug Hoffman**

District Media Specialist Doug Hoffman reported he recently visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of ARAMCO (the major energy company of that country), who paid all expenses for the trip. Mr. Hoffman was one of 25 educators in the country to take part in this visit, initiated by ARAMCO to help teach Americans about Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Hoffman is touring classrooms to describe his visit and share artifacts of Saudi Arabia with LCSD students. He has also been invited to speak on radio talk shows, and has spoken with several newspapers about his adventure. “The trip was well worth the effort,” said Hoffman.

### **Financial Report**

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin presented the financial report as of December 31, 2006. The most significant change from last month’s report is the loss of “federal forest fees” from the federal government, approximately \$1 million to our district. Ms. Baldwin reported most districts in the state will be affected by this change. Though the state is required to make up this loss, the actual amount and timing will be unknown for some time.

Ms. Baldwin distributed a new report, "Monthly Comparison- Projected to Actual- July-December 2006." She explained principals are given allocations of funds, and must make choices. This is the first year using the new method of budgeting.

Superintendent Rinearson asked the Board members to let him know if anyone is interested in seeing the budgeting tool, and said principals created nine more teaching positions than were originally budgeted. "Resources are being used more efficiently; the focus was to create regional K-12 systems," said Rinearson.

Director Beck thanked Ms. Baldwin for her work on the audit. Ms. Baldwin said she "wants to make sure you know there are five others that work in our department that you do not see."

### **Long Range Plan- Education Summit,**

Superintendent Rinearson reported the Economic Development Alliance will host an "Education Summit" on Tuesday, March 13 (note: this date was later **changed to March 20**). The location will be finalized in the near future; presenter Margot Helphand will facilitate. The summit will highlight the many positive programs and activities ongoing in the district.

### **List of Board Vacancies- May, 2007 Election**

A "special districts" election will be held May 15, 2007 which will include filling vacancies on the LCSD Board of Directors. Vacancies will exist as of July 1 in Zone 1 (Lincoln City), Zone 2 (Agate Beach, Rose Lodge, portions of Siletz and Toledo) and Zone 4 (Toledo, Eddyville, Siletz areas). Currently those positions are held by Sue Ryan, Brenda Brown, and Jana Cowan, respectively. Candidates must file verified signatures or a \$10 filing fee by March 15; the earliest date candidates may file is February 5, 2007. A resolution declaring the vacancies will return to the Board for consideration at the next regular session meeting.

### **Communications Position**

Board members discussed the idea of having a Communications position, in some form (a full-time or part-time position, a consultant, an ESD employee, etc). Chairman Ryan stated she agreed with the concept, saw it as a part-time position, and would like to wait until the next fiscal year to enact. Director Turner agreed it may be worthwhile, and said she felt staff should decide if is part or full time, or a consultant. She also said she did not want to add it to the current year's budget.

Director Brown said she thinks it is important, and said "we need to be cheerleaders, promoting what we have going on in all schools." She also noted the District had not had this for several years.

Director Beck told Superintendent Rinearson "I love the job you do, and did on the radio today. I do not want a Communications person in that role." He said an emergency situation may warrant someone other than the superintendent sharing information, but reiterated his desire that the Superintendent stay in that role. "I get a lot of positive feedback he is accessible," said Beck.

The Superintendent will explore possibilities and budgetary impacts, and report to the Board on his findings.

## Other- Requests from Charter Schools

Director Turner stated the Board received requests from the east area charter schools asking the board to publicly support their stand, excluding the charter schools from the boundary of the proposed east county school district. She said she felt the Board needed to respond, though she was unsure of when that should occur.

Director Beck stated his preference for seeing the “final product” (proposed legislation and description of the boundaries) before taking a stand. He said Eddyville and Siletz charter schools are “exactly what we’d hoped for,” and that he admired their desire to keep local control and involvement. He noted the “wedge” may be misinformation.

Chairman Ryan said she supports the charter schools and their positions, and said “they have the right to say no.”

Director Turner stated her preference would be to remain neutral, but issues from the charter schools make this unworkable. “Both charters have stated they do not wish to be included in the SOS boundaries. If the proposed boundaries include them, I have a problem. If they do not, I can stay neutral.”

Director Brown noted the LCSD is not the deciding body for the proposed split, and said “we need to support all students.”

Director Cowan stated her opinion it is not the Board’s position to support or not “at this point. I feel our elected representatives will represent all parties.” She asked if the SOS group had the signatures needed; Sharon Branstiter (from the audience) stated the group has a “petition of community support that does not address boundaries.” The petition may be signed by all persons; one does not have to be a registered voter to sign.

Superintendent Rinearson reiterated the Board’s desire to see the proposed legislation when it is written so the Board may take a position. Director Brown agreed with this stance, and encouraged those involved to contact their local legislators.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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Chairman

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Superintendent