

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Work Session
Tuesday, January 30, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Newport High School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Suzanne Dalton, Principal; Teresa Atwill, Brian Hanna, Teachers; David Bigelow, Site Council Chair; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary

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.

Newport High International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

Principal Suzanne Dalton reported the IB Task Force has a five-year plan and is following the “plan, do, study, act” model. She said the group has a goal of submitting an application to IB in June, 2007. “We’ve built upon the strengths of our site council Chair and our teachers, and are practicing distributed leadership,” said Dalton.

Teacher Brian Hanna provided a history of the IB program, saying it was originally developed in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland as an educational program for diplomats’ children. It is a two-year pre-college curriculum offered in high schools across the globe. The application for the proposed LCSD program is the “Diploma Programme,” for students aged 16 to 19.

Site Council Chair and Partners in Education (PIE) member David Bigelow reported the impetus for IB began with parents in the PIE group during 2003-04. Many of the children of these parents were students in Isaac Newton Magnet School (INMS). The PIE group explored the IB program and presented it to Newport High, with significant community input.

Training for Newport High staff members began in 2005. The NHS site council formed an IB Task force. Last year, the task force recommended not submitting the application at that time.

Mr. Hanna reported the IB-trained teachers have shared with staff at Newport High, and training is ongoing for all involved. A list of FAQs (frequently asked questions) was developed and shared with staff. This year, Mr. Hanna and Ms. Atwill share a half-time IB coordinator position, and are organizing the effort to complete and submit the IB application. A first draft of the curriculum is completed, and a teacher has been trained in each content area. They have also ensured that all west area schools are aware of the IB program and its ramifications.

The IB task force meets monthly, and Newport Middle Principal Marsha Eckelman is a member. Members of the task force plan to attend the 8th grade orientation to share information about the program with those parents.

Ms. Atwill reported students participating in IB will have the option of either earning a certificate or a diploma in the program. Certificates are earned by taking a two year IB class and passing an end of year exam during their senior year (similar to the current Advanced Placement model). Students wishing to earn an IB diploma have more rigorous requirements, including: •take three 2-year IB courses and three 1-year IB courses; •pass the six IB exams; •do an independent research project and write a 4,000 word essay on their research findings; •take the Theory of Knowledge course; and •earn 150 CAS (creativity, action, service) hours. Students with an IB diploma are admitted to Oregon State University as a sophomore and receive an annual scholarship of \$2,000.

There are no prerequisites for the IB program. Director Beck asked if diplomas are issued by IB of North America; they are. These diplomas are recognized all over the world.

Most of the required IB courses will replace AP classes currently offered at the school. The only course to be added is “Theory of Knowledge.” Curriculum/Instruction Administrator Sandi Williams and School Operations Administrator Joe Novello have worked with members of the IB task force regarding the proposed changes. Many of the texts currently in use will be used, though texts will be required for Theory of Knowledge and IB History. English may require additional novel sets, and other supplemental materials may be needed.

Director Beck asked if non-IB students could take the Theory of Knowledge course. Ms. Atwill replied they would like to offer it to everyone, but that may require reducing in another area.

Principal Dalton presented the proposed IB budget. This year, the school has a .50 FTE (the shared coordinator position). In the future the annual cost will include a 0.25 FTE IB Coordinator, one period FTE for Theory of Knowledge (one semester), \$8500 IB fee, and \$4,000 annual training cost of IB staff. She reported the budget will fit within their regional allocation. Mr. Hanna reported the training already completed was funded by outside sources (grants and donations).

Director Turner asked what is included with the annual \$8500 fee. Ms. Dalton replied it likely includes the cost of administration (testing and management). Mr. Hanna reported there are two kinds of assessments for students, internal and external. The external assessments are sent to trained staff all over the world. The curriculum is updated every five years; the northwest region may be in line to offer training in the near future.

Mr. Hanna reported the Board will need to provide a letter of support to be submitted with the application. Also, the Board must guarantee that IB will be supported financially. Next year, a team from IB will make a site visit, for which the Board must be available.

Ms. Atwill said the Board will be approached for final approval; the question will likely be submitted to the Board in April.

Director Beck asked if the Budget Committee would need to consider the program; Superintendent Rinearson replied the Board is the entity to approve programs. He said the report indicated Newport High will be able to do the program within their current budget.

Director Brown expressed her support of IB, asked how many staff are trained, and asked if staff is supportive. Seven are trained so far, with two more planned for next year. Staff support has grown with exposure to the program. Ms. Brown asked about student involvement; Ms. Dalton replied the last meeting occurred during finals week, so only one student took part. However, previous meetings had more student involvement. She also reported other ways in which students are reaching out to the community, including a presentation to the Newport City Council, a planned February 20 community forum and a book study.

Director Brown asked if students not pursuing certificates or diplomas in IB could take the courses; they can. She then asked if anything like the CAS hours requirement currently exists. Students wishing to qualify for an Honors diploma must provide community service, though not as much. Also, Honor Society members must provide community service. Director Turner noted this requirement could be dovetailed with the senior project, with some creativity.

Director Brown asked the projected cost of curriculum purchases for 2007/08; Ms. Atwill said she is beginning to explore it, but it is early. She said the purchases could conceivably fit into the regular curriculum adoption cycle.

Director Beck asked how trained IB teachers at Newport High would fit with “bumping” and the collective bargaining agreement. Superintendent Rinearson said a Memorandum of Agreement would need to be developed.

Director Brown asked if other district schools could “piggyback” on the NHS effort or if they would need to go through their own process. They would have to do their own. Superintendent Rinearson reminded the group that students may attend classes at more than one campus. “If we had only one high school campus for the whole district, it would have to be at Taft; it is the only one big enough,” said Rinearson.

Principal Dalton acknowledged the hard work by the many staff members, including those not in attendance, on the IB effort. Chairman Ryan thanked all the presenters, saying they made significant progress. “I would like to see it come to its shining glory, all over the county,” said Ryan.

Discussion on Possible Future Work Session Topics

The Board reached consensus to hold a future work session on a proposed long-term facilities use policy. Chairman Ryan stated her preference to not have a work session in February; Director Turner said she will not be available March 12-26. Laurie Urquhart will poll the Board to find available dates.

Surplus inventory was also considered as a future work session topic. Board members reached consensus that they are satisfied with the manner in which surplus is currently being handled (it is addressed in the annual organizational resolution). After major moves are completed around the district, surplus will be declared and sold.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent