

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Regular Session
Tuesday, March 13, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Crestview Heights School
Waldport, Oregon

Minutes

- PRESIDING:** Sue Ryan, Chairman
- Present:** Sue Ryan, Chairman; Ron Beck, Jana Cowan, Directors
- Also Present:** Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary;
approximately 30 members of the staff, media and interested patrons
- Excused:** Directors Brown and Turner

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 three board members present. Directors Brown and Turner were excused.

A Day in the Life of a MAC

Crestview Heights teacher Bob Briggs presented a student-developed video showing students using MAC computers and their many capabilities. Prior to the board meeting, students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 demonstrated work composed on MACs. Chairman Ryan thanked Mr. Briggs, Ruth McDonald and Betsy Wilcox for their help with this project.

Communications

Toledo resident and Save Our Schools (SOS) committee representative Sharon Branstiter addressed the Board regarding HB 3283, legislation written by the committee. She urged the Board to delay action on their support or opposition to the bill until all five Board members were present, saying a delay would not harm their discussion or potential recommendation.

Ms. Branstiter also stated the proposed legislation will continue to evolve, and said the committee was listening to all concerned. She noted a hearing will take place in April, and said the bill provides a mechanism for a county wide election on the question. She said boundaries of the new district would exclude the communities of Siletz and Eddyville, and noted current variances would remain in place if both districts agree. “We do not want to hold anyone hostage,” she stated. The plan would set in motion the discontinuation of all new variances. She also noted the SOS group has retained a retired school finance director to examine the efficacy of the proposed district’s financial base. The committee approached COSA (Confederation of Oregon School Administrators) about that group taking a position on the proposed legislation; COSA has declined to take a position, she said. The committee also contacted the governor’s office, with the same result.

“The committee has not been deaf; we’ve been listening,” said Branstiter. “The newspaper does not write about or seek information from us.”

Ms. Branstiter said the legislation will be amended to protect teachers currently employed by LCSD who may choose to work for the new district by honoring the existing contract. In addition, she noted the current form of the bill specifies a petition must be filed prior to April 15, 2007; this date will be changed to June 15, said Branstiter. She stated the SOS committee is keeping a watchful eye on similar legislation written by a group from Canyonville, hoping to separate from the South Umpqua district. “We are in contact with them and their attorney,” said Branstiter.

Director Beck stated he was amenable to delaying a discussion and decision on the issue, but has concerns. “Both charters have communicated to us that we should take a position; there is concern for both of them they will cease to exist. I have said we should wait until we see the bill, but this is a concern of mine,” said Beck. He also noted language in the current form of the bill states the division of assets will be based on resident weighted ADM. “If you honor variances, will that language change?” asked Beck. Ms. Branstiter replied the “in and out variances are close in number.”

Mr. Beck also asked about the idea of protection of teachers. “So, they could transfer to the new district, but would have to quit our district. Then we would have a reduction in force (RIF).” Branstiter said one of the drivers of the SOS effort has been the effects of RIFs. Beck mused that the Board may not be able to “support a law that trumps collective bargaining.”

He next raised the issue of bonded debt, including construction bonds, PERS bonds, and early retirement obligations. “Have you considered how that would be figured into your budget?” asked Beck. Branstiter replied that issue would have to be negotiated and said, regarding the construction bonds, “we have heard it should be based on what was spent in various communities. Very little was spent in Toledo.” Superintendent Rinearson noted the district is not able to provide information on PERS bonds, as the PERS board will have to help determine those numbers.

The Board will discuss the legislation at the April board meeting.

Board Reports

Chairman Sue Ryan reported she and Ron Beck were privileged to join a group of district teachers and administrators visiting Pinellas County School District in Florida. That district uses the same quality model being used in LCSD. Ms. Ryan said the trip was “fascinating” and worthwhile. The travel was made possible by grant funds.

Board member Ron Beck reported he also traveled to Ft. Benning, Georgia as a guest of the Army, and said the excursion showed him a different perspective regarding options for some graduates.

Board member Jana Cowan reported she attended a conference held locally on adolescent sexual health.

Chairman Ryan also noted the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program held a “mock legislature” event in Lincoln City recently.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Toby Murry Motors for their donation of a Toyota Tundra truck to LCSD. Raffle tickets costing \$20 each will be sold by four Boosters clubs in the district; the drawing will be held in January, 2008.

The Superintendent recognized Northwest Medical Teams for their donation of a dental van and dentists; 125 LCSD students were served. Mr. Rinearson also thanked School-Based Health Centers staff, and Altrusa, Newport and Lincoln City Rotaries and the DHS MAC survey for funding.

Mr. Rinearson recognized Sodexo employees JoAnn Davey (Newport Middle) and Tammy Harris (Sam Case) whose school kitchens received ratings of 100% during a surprise audit.

Superintendent Rinearson congratulated Taft High's Culinary Arts team for their recent excellent showing in competition. The team placed third overall, with first place showings in "best entrée" and "presentation." The team's advisor is teacher Pam Simpson.

The Superintendent recognized Newport High teacher Dave Campbell, who was inducted into the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers Organization. Teachers inducted into this group are those who have made a difference in their communities, and who have been nominated by a student.

Mr. Rinearson thanked Nic Dahl of Dahl Disposal, who donated the delivery of 12 pallets of "turface," a drying agent for fields. The materials were delivered to Facilities and Maintenance from Portland.

The Superintendent noted the end of the first six-week grading period of the second semester occurred March 9, and said Spring Break is March 26 through 30, 2007.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 06/07-36

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

- Minutes of the 2/13/07 Regular Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum dated 3/13/07;**
- Renewal of Probationary/Permanent Licensed Personnel, as amended 3/13/07.**

Approval of Policy DB, District Budget

Motion 06/07-37

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved a revised policy DB, District Budget. The policy has been changed to align with Policy DBEA, Budget Committee, which names the Board as the entity to approve new programs. The Budget Committee approves budget estimates for an educational plan "previously determined by the Board."

Appointment of Larry Anthony to Budget Committee, Zone 5

Motion 06/07-38

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously appointed Larry Anthony to Zone 5 of the LCSD Budget Committee, with a term through June 30, 2008. Chairman

Ryan read a statement from Director Jean Turner supporting Mr. Anthony's nomination. Directors Beck and Cowan noted the excellent qualifications of both Zone 5 candidates.

A vacancy still exists in Zone 3 (Newport). Applications are available in all schools, on the district website (www.lincoln.k12.or.us) and at the District Administration Office in Newport. The Board hopes to appoint a representative at the April 10th meeting.

HB 3283, East County Proposed Legislation

Chairman Ryan tabled this discussion until the April 10 board meeting.

SB 426 Mandatory Insurance Pool

Proposed legislation SB426 mandates the creation of a state government-run insurance pool for most school districts, ESD's and community colleges. OSBA is opposed to the legislation and urged school districts to take action opposing it. The Board took no action, electing to glean additional information on both sides of the issue.

Discussion on IB Letter of Support

Newport High School is in the process of completing an application to become part of the International Baccalaureate program. Part of the application process includes a letter of support from the District's Board of Directors. The Board noted their support of the program; the letter will return to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Discussion on English Language Development (ELD) Curriculum Adoption

Teacher Brandi Ward and ESOL Coordinator Susan Roebber presented new English Language Development curriculum for the Board's consideration. Ms. Ward described the process of identifying a curriculum, which began at the state level with a group of 15 people. She noted a shift in focus from past activities, away from sheltering with more direct, focused and systematic instruction.

Ms. Roebber noted this is a first for the state in requiring an adoption of curriculum for English language learners. Samples were distributed in the north and west areas for staff to review, and feedback from parents was gathered. For grades K-5/6, Harcourt- Moving into English c. 2005 is recommended. For Grades 6-8 and 9-12, staff recommends Pearson Longman-Shining Star- Focus on Grammar Series c. 2006.

Curriculum and Instruction Administrator Sandi Williams recognized Ms. Roebber and Ms. Ward for their excellent work. The Board will consider the curriculum adoption at the next meeting.

Discussion on Health Curriculum Guides Adoption

Crestview Heights teacher Ruth McDonald presented Health curriculum guides for the Board's consideration. She explained the process of developing the guides was begun several years ago, and said it is a work in progress all of the time. A group of teachers representing all levels worked on the guides, aligning them with state content standards and adopted curriculum. Supplemental books and

software are also noted in the guides. The health curriculum guides are available on the district's secure website, and contain links to resources.

Superintendent Rinearson noted future plans include having the guides available for the general public. The health curriculum guides will return for the Board's consideration at the next board meeting.

Discussion on Expanded Kindergarten Opportunities

Federal Programs Administrator Cathy Russell reported Title and kindergarten teachers began talking about essential skills needed for kindergarten readers in October, 2006. Staff worked in two groups, then met with administrators in January. The topic of expanded kindergarten opportunities for the coming year was raised as a result of those discussions. State funding will determine the levels of opportunities available.

Director Cowan said she has heard the issue of large kindergarten class sizes and lack of space in certain areas of the district, and asked what would happen with the LEAP (Literacy Enrichment Accelerated Program) classes. She said she has researched data to see if it supports the notion of all day kindergarten, and found evidence that though students are given a head start, the gains may disappear by second or third grade.

Cathy Russell noted strategies used in LEAP will be maintained. She also stated the idea of fluid groups has been discussed. More discussions on this topic are planned.

Information on Student Transfer Rules (JECC-AR)

Superintendent Rinearson presented administrative rules for the student transfer policy (JECC-AR). The new rules allow a transfer student (after receiving approval from both principals) to stay in a school to the highest level of that school (no annual applications). A statement was added to the rules allowing elementary principals in the Newport area to balance classes between the schools, with approval of both principals and the parent. The revised administrative rules will be distributed in the coming days.

Financial Report

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin and Accounting Coordinator Susan Musgrove presented financial reports as of February 28, 2007. The district will receive funds in May from ODE due to adjustments in the 05/06 and current years.

Superintendent Rinearson noted ADM for February 2007 is higher than September, 2006, the first time in several years that has occurred.

Policy Code DBKA, Operating Contingency Account

Current Policy DBKA stipulates the contingency account will be maintained at five percent of the total budget. While the district has monies set aside in the "unappropriated ending fund" balance, the amount maintained in the contingency fund does not reach the five percent level. Julie Baldwin explained the uses of the contingency fund are defined by state law, and are narrow.

The Superintendent noted the Board may wish to adjust the policy to reflect practice. He also urged the Board to provide an avenue to apply any funds received above the contingency level to district debt (PERS bonds and early retirement costs), thus stabilizing the District. The Board discussed the policy at the February board meeting, and continued the discussion March 13th. Superintendent Rinearson will present a revised policy at the next meeting.

Discussion on Budgeting Planning

Superintendent Rinearson reported the funds LCSD will receive as adjustments from the prior year are due to underpayment by ODE. He suggested using these funds for the reduction of debt service; the Board reached consensus to do so.

Also, he noted the hoped for level of state funding for the coming year of \$6.3 billion is uncertain at this point. He suggested building the budget at the \$6.0 billion level, with a plan for add-ons if more funding is available. The Board reached consensus to do so. The Superintendent noted his preference to hold budgeted programs for two years.

Policy Codes EEA, Student Transportation Services and EEAC, Student Bus Safety Program

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin and Mid Columbia Manager Mark Culver presented two revised policies dealing with student transportation. Though the policies were presented at the February board meeting, it became clear further revisions were needed.

Mr. Culver noted buses over 10,000 pounds are exempt from car seats and restraints, and said data supports the notion that buses are the safest kind of transportation available.

The policies will return to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Culver reported Mid Columbia will continue its tradition of offering \$500 scholarships in four areas of the district for high school graduates. In addition, he presented a \$500 check to be used at the elementary level, and a \$200 check for support of libraries.

Long-Range Plan: Education

Superintendent Rinearson demonstrated the Strategic Plan, available on the district's website. He also reported the K-12 Public Education Summit will take place March 20, sponsored by the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County. An overview of the district will be presented, as well as graduation requirements, and two breakout sessions with five topics each. Guests will also be asked to formulate headlines they would like to see in the District over the next five years.

Mr. Rinearson will facilitate a discussion on "what you know, what you think you know, and what you want to know" about Lincoln County School District. Responses will be used to formulate a communication plan for the district.

Superintendent's Contract

Chairman Ryan reported the Board would like to offer the Superintendent a three-year contract, with a 2.5% increase for the coming year. In addition, the Board would like to establish a tax sheltered annuity for the Superintendent, and would like to remove the language in his contract related to the ability to “buy back” ten days of vacation, and pay him the ten days instead. An annual membership in the Newport Recreation Center was also proposed. The contract will return to the Board for its consideration April 10th.

The Superintendent thanked the Board for the “kind words,” and said if one looked at his audited salary from his first year in LCSD, the proposed salary is the same as the one that year.

Director Beck said he has been hearing “I don’t care how much it takes; don’t let him out of here.” Chairman Ryan said she has heard many positives about Mr. Rinearson during her involvement with Leadership Oregon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent