

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, August 21, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Newport Middle School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

Presiding: Brenda Brown, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approximately 25 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Call to Order-Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Brenda Brown convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:15 p.m.

School Safety

Newport Police Chief Mark Miranda and Superintendent Tom Rinearson provided highlights of their attendance last May at a conference sponsored by the Department of Justice. The training took place in Wisconsin and focused on school safety/systems at school districts and police departments. Safety Coordinator Sue Graves will be melding District safety procedures with protocols of the Newport Police Department during the course of this year; this effort will likely expand to include all law enforcement agencies in the district. Costs associated with the travel were borne by the Department of Justice via a grant.

Communications

Board Chair Brenda Brown noted receipt of a written communication from Stand for Children.

Board Reports

Director Jana Cowan reported she and Directors Turner and Coulter attended the annual summer board conference sponsored by OSBA. She reported the training was “enlightening and helpful.”

Chairman Brenda Brown wished Director Ron Beck “Happy Birthday” on behalf of the Board.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Rinearson reported administrative Services Secretary Jennie Scarborough, Newport High teachers Brian Hanna and Steve Cole (retired) are featured in the latest newsletter from the Coast Guard’s community college, Vincennes University.

The Superintendent thanked the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund for their generosity in donating nearly \$25,000 to various schools and programs throughout the district. Their latest round of giving included the following contributions:

- \$1,800 to Newport High for three computers;
- \$2,000 for the Summer Science Symposium;
- \$2,025 to Toledo High for art supplies;
- \$2,000 to Newport High’s Robotics Club;
- \$400 to Oceanlake for books;
- \$11,592 to Toledo High for safety equipment for students in professional technical classes;
- \$900 to Waldport High for books;
- \$2,572 to Waldport High for PE materials;
- \$1,600 to Yaquina View for PE equipment.

Mr. Rinearson recognized Crestview Heights teacher Ruth McDonald, one of ten teachers selected to attend the Sandia National Lab in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She participated in a Department of Energy project there (“Creating Teacher Scientists”) focused on water treatment technologies.

The Superintendent wished Board member Ron Beck a belated happy birthday, and reminded board members of the upcoming area “welcome” events: Tuesday, August 28, 10:30 a.m. at Toledo High; Wednesday, August 29, 11:00 a.m. at Taft Elementary; Thursday, August 30, 8:00 a.m. at Newport High, and Friday, August 31, 8:00 a.m. at Crestview Heights.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 07/08-9

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

- Minutes of the July 10, 2007 Regular Session;
- 07-08 Alternative Education Programs (Newport and Toledo);
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;
- Amendment to Contracts- Asst. Superintendent, Director of Business/Support Services;
- PSA, Murray Lein, Occupational Therapist.

Approval of Language Arts Independent Adoption

Motion 07/08-10

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved the LCSD English Language Arts K-12 Independent Adoption as presented at the July 10, 2007 board meeting. Board members noted the excellence of the work done to develop this adoption.

Approval of Proposal, Insight School of Oregon

Motion 07/08-11

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved a proposal submitted by the Oregon Council for Online Learning (OCOL) pursuant to a new online charter high school based in Lincoln County and known as “Insight School of Oregon.” A contract (charter) will be developed and presented to the Board in a subsequent meeting.

Prior to the vote, the Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the merits of the online charter school. Director Cowan asked why Insight chose Lincoln County; OCOL board member Deborah Trusty replied LCSD is aggressively seeking innovative ways to educate students. She also noted the three OCOL board members reside in Lincoln County.

Ms. Cowan asked if there is a minimum enrollment criteria, and how students are tracked with regard to attendance. Brian Rose of Insight replied there is not a minimum number, and said 600 students enrolled in the Washington school last year. 1200 are expected to enroll in the Washington school this year.

Over 40% of the students there are from outside the public school system (drop outs, home schooled, etc.). OCOL board member Deborah Trusty reported the student's mentor from Insight School checks in with the student weekly, and does home visits if warranted. Superintendent Rinearson added that ESD truancy services could be called upon, if the student lives in an ESD region providing those services, as in LCSD.

Director Cowan asked about the corporate structure of Insight, noting corporations must legally maximize the profit for their stakeholders. "What happens if a change in state funding occurs, as online schools cost less?" she asked. OCOL board member Fred Schwartz reminded her that LCSD's agreement would be with OCOL, not Insight. He added that he did not think it feasible (for the state to withdraw funding for online schools) without also reducing all charter schools in the state.

Brian Rose said Insight Schools is owned by the Apollo Group, who saw development of an online charter high school as strategic to their overall business plan. "They are in this for the long haul. We were not profitable in Washington last year. Insight is a mission driven company focusing on the student I have described in the past. The contract will spell out the details. We are very committed to Oregon, as we are headquartered in Portland."

Director Amy Coulter asked about students leaving public school to attend an online school. Mr. Rose responded that about 60% of students, throughout the state, were in public school at some point. He noted students are asked about their reasons for enrolling in the online school when they do so; most respond they were disenfranchised at the public school. Ms. Coulter said it sounded like a "great opportunity," and wondered if students enrolled in the online school should check in with the "regular" school. Superintendent Rinearson reminded the Board that all of LCSD's non-charter high schools offer distance learning every period. The Insight curriculum will also be available for LCSD students to use.

Deborah Trusty noted in the 2005/06 year, approximately 180,524 high school students statewide (of about 252,000 possible) were enrolled in public schools. "There still needs to be another choice available for them," she said.

Chairman Brenda Brown reiterated the earlier question regarding minimum enrollment. Brian Rose noted charter schools must have at least 25 students. He stated the goal of Insight School is "to have a footprint in the state and to operate for at least five years. We want to pursue the more than 20,000 students not currently enrolled in public school. It is part of the business plan."

Ms. Brown congratulated the Insight representatives on their outreach to students not currently being served, and said the contract would define the details and quasi-promises made. She noted her concerns with "drawing off kids currently enrolled," and declining enrollment in the district. She asked where the waiver from the State stood.

OCOL board member Fred Schwartz said their board was concerned with the waiver as well, and stated his belief the proposed school is good for both boards. "The ideal thing would be to serve a student via Insight for a couple of years, then feed them into your system."

Director Beck stated he is most interested in the money that will be saved by the district accessing online courses offered by Insight.

Director Turner asked if Insight would actively recruit students in Lincoln County. Mr. Rose said "we have operated that way. We would rely on you to help us develop a marketing plan; we don't know the best way to reach the students in Lincoln County currently not being served." Superintendent Rinearson

cautioned the Board that Connections Academy, the online school based in Scio, actively recruits students in Lincoln County. He added the District would work collaboratively with Insight on their marketing plan for this area.

OCOL Board member Trusty noted there are many things a “brick and mortar” school can offer that an online school cannot.

Director Jana Cowan asked the Board to contemplate whether they would consider the online school if Insight School did not have a monetary advantage to LCSD.

Director Ron Beck said if this district does not choose to go with Insight, another district will.

Approval of New Policy JGAB, Use of Restraint and Seclusion

Motion 07/08-12

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved new policy JGAB, Use of Restraint and Seclusion, necessitated by a new state law. Districts are required to have the policy in place by September 1, 2007. It will be available on the district website and distributed to schools in the coming days.

Special Education Administrator Susan Van Liew reported requirements of the policy are already being followed for special education students. The policy defines procedures, as their scope is broadening into use with all students. Chairman Brown noted the requirements of the policy are unfunded mandates from the state.

Information on Financial Report

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin presented the monthly financial report as of July 31, 2007. Ms. Baldwin noted no unexpected revenues or expenditures.

Staff in the business office are preparing for the upcoming annual audit.

Information on Summer Projects

Director of Business and Support Services Rich Belloni updated the Board on a myriad of projects in process or completed in all areas of the district. He thanked Darla Zagel and Gail Malcolm for their stellar volunteer efforts selecting tile and colors at Taft Elementary. He also noted the district employs many “talented people with a lot of pride in what they do.”

Though summer projects occurred in all areas, the most significant projects are the renovation of the new Taft Elementary School, the construction of the metal building at Toledo High, and the renovation of the old rectory building at Toledo High. Tours of Toledo High and Taft Elementary are scheduled for Tuesday, August 28 at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, August 29 at 11:00 a.m., respectively.

Other projects include: ●movement of a portable from Taft Elementary to Waldport High for special education, including installation of a bathroom; ●completion of the shed at Crestview Heights storing supplies in the event of a tsunami; ●combination of the 7-8 media center with the K-6 media center at Crestview; ●installation of wiring, computers, etc. in the vacated 7-8 media center at Crestview; ●building by the Waldport Boosters, with help from the District, of a weight room; ●installation of a new counter and roll up door at Newport High’s east campus; ●new carpet installed in Newport High’s west campus; ●new heat pumps were installed on the roof at Newport High; ●a broken water heater was

replaced at NHS; ●members of the Church of the Nazarene painted both the gym at Newport Middle and the south wall of Sam Case; ●a door was added at Sam Case to accommodate access between two special education rooms; ●a room was carpeted at Yaquina View; ●Early Intervention moved from the Early Childhood Center to Yaquina View; ●a bathroom was added at Toledo Elementary for special education; ●air conditioners in the portables at Toledo Elementary are being refurbished; ●staff helped Toledo Boosters wire a batting cage at the softball field; ●Toledo Boosters also placed sand on the football field to raise it (four ten hour days); ●new lights were installed in the gym at Toledo High; ●carpet in six rooms was removed and tile installed at Oceanlake ●office space for the new assistant principal at Taft High was created; ●office space for the School Resource Officer at Taft High was created by dividing a room and removing part of the trophy case; ●extensive roof repairs at Taft High are ongoing; ●Sodexo employees painted two school kitchens; ●cameras were installed on all regular buses; ●a new email system was installed; ●12 Active Boards are being installed; ●Tech staff performed maintenance on all student computers.

Though the list mentioned by Mr. Belloni is extensive, it is not all inclusive. He thanked District staff and volunteers for their excellent efforts in improving facilities to enhance learning opportunities for students.

Discussion on OSBA and National Quality Conferences

The annual Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the National Quality Conference are scheduled for nearly the same time period in November. After discussing the dates, the Board reached consensus that Brenda Brown and Ron Beck would attend the OSBA conference in Portland, and Jean Turner, Jana Cowan and Amy Coulter would attend the National Quality Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Other

Newport High Principal Jon Zagel introduced new Assistant Principal BG Shinall, and said part of her duties will include working on community partnerships.

Chairman Brenda Brown noted the District's absentee rate is declining, based on the Enrollment Report of 6-14-07.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Superintendent

Chairman