

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Work Session
Tuesday, September 25, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Newport Recreation Center
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

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

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

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Brown convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:10 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Discussion on Board Self Evaluation

In May 2007, the Board completed a self evaluation using an online survey tool, “Zoomerang.” They discussed the evaluation during the September 25th work session.

As the composition of the Board has changed since the survey was completed, board members indicated they felt some of the areas’ ratings are different now. Superintendent Rinearson noted the Board is now interested in governance, and said the challenge now is to develop descriptors for each of the five indicators on the survey (unacceptable, needs improvement, satisfactory, very good and outstanding). All ratings were at the satisfactory or higher level. Vice Chair Jean Turner noted board members need to treat each other civilly and professionally.

They briefly discussed survey questions on which one or more board members rating a particular item at the ‘satisfactory’ level. In discussing “Governance Principals,” number 2.3, Chairman Brown said although the individual board members may not always agree on an issue, they must support the position of the Board once a vote is taken. She noted the value of “above and below the line” training.

Vice Chairman Turner noted overall, the Board indicated they felt they are going a good job. They reached consensus to use the same tool (Zoomerang) to do a self evaluation in the spring of this school year. Board members also discussed the possibility of having administrators rate the board, as well as possibly the community. Director Turner suggested having site councils take part. This topic will return for further discussion at a future meeting.

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Discussion on 07/08 Board Goals

Chairman Brown began the discussion by saying she sought suggestions from Board members on goals, and presented the suggestions she received. Superintendent Rinearson explained that goals for the Board are those that the Board itself will work on.

Board members discussed focusing on student achievement by examining different facets of district operations, including: Taft's pilot academic eligibility project; graduation requirements (including possible consequences of students receiving MIP citations); the feasibility of offering a cultures/comparative religions course for district high school students; the feasibility of a high school exit exam; increasing rigor and expectations of each individual student; and physical education offerings.

The Superintendent noted the importance of "letting things grow," as opposed to continuing to add items on which to focus. He gave the Board kudos for their desire to focus on academic achievement.

Director Cowan said she would like to see every single student make some progress each year, and to provide opportunities for all learners to reach that potential. Mr. Rinearson said it is exciting to see the shift in the district from teaching to learning.

Chairman Brown said she would like to see continuity in the link to the business community (as is currently being done by Kristin Takano, community liaison). The Superintendent replied this item might best fit with district goals for the coming year.

Discussion on Future District Goals

Superintendent Rinearson stated the October 9th board agenda has "08-09 district goals" as a topic. Director Cowan said she would like to engage the community to collect many voices, on a variety of topics to continue to improve communication.

Mr. Rinearson presented a list of priorities for the Board's consideration, including: complete the alignment, both vertically and horizontally, of District curriculum and instruction; move Waldport High out of the tsunami zone; phase out the use of portables; continue to implement innovative uses of technology; recruit and retain highly talented employees; formulate a plan of succession for building and central administrators as well as teachers; ensure facilities will encompass the reduction of class size in grades K-3 to a ratio of 18-22:1. It was noted that the west area has the largest drop in students this year; the north area seems to have the largest potential for growth. Staff is working on a projection tool that projects student growth four to five years out.

Chairman Brown stated she would like to see a comprehensive plan pursuant to facilities. The Board reached consensus not to include this item with either board or district goals. (A plan is in process and will be presented to the Board in the coming weeks).

Director Cowan raised the idea of a goal of focusing on health and wellness. Mr. Rinearson noted the policy on wellness is being addressed by Director Sandi Williams, and that the District is "ahead of the curve" with respect to nutrition. He said perhaps P.E. would be a good conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent