

**Lincoln County School
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, October 9, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Toledo Elementary School
Toledo, Oregon**

Minutes

Presiding: Brenda Brown, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approximately 40 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Excused: Ron Beck, Director

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Brown convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:03 p.m.

Student Representative, Toledo High

Toledo High Student Representative and ASB Vice-President Guy Leech updated the Board regarding activities at that school, including: ●student leadership is focused on boosting school spirit and involvement; ●morale is up at the school; ●the kickoff for Homecoming week is Saturday, October 13, with a parade starting at the library in Toledo at 5:00 p.m. (the first parade in five years); ●spirit week activities will include themed hallway decorating; ●an open house and dinner fundraiser will be held Monday, October 15 at the school; visitors may view the decorated hallways.

East Area Report

Toledo Elementary Principal Fanny Drews reported the school is in year three of the Reading First grant. She distributed a handout showing three years of oral reading fluency results, with marked improvement in “correct words per minute” for third grade readers. She noted intermediate grades will be involved in MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing.

The school was one of several to hold a “writers night” for students and parents, which was a big success.

Toledo High Vice-Principal Brian Flannery reported he is focusing on student behavior using the Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) system. Two PBS in-services are planned with staffs from both Toledo schools.

Principal Paula Priest reported Toledo High is celebrating their improved rating on the Oregon report card. The school moved from a ‘Low’ rating last year to a high ‘Satisfactory.’ “We have a quiet

revolution going on at Toledo High, based on the hard work of students and teachers,” commented the Principal. She reported the school is involved with several projects this year, including: •strengthening site councils, including training with facilitator Margot Helphand; •participation in the CRISS (Creating Independence through Student-owned Strategies) project, teaching reading in the content area; •MAP testing for grades 7 and 9; •work with Chemeketa Community College to imbed Language Arts lessons with vocational technical education.

Superintendent Rinearson gave kudos to Toledo High School for their significant improvement on the State Report Card, explaining that the report card is based upon averages. “Toledo and Waldport are our two best performing schools,” said the Superintendent.

Communications

Toledo residents Amy Purdom and Rhonda Thompson addressed the Board regarding high numbers of students in the 4/5 blended classrooms at Toledo Elementary. The District is exploring options to address the situation, based on recommendations of the Class Size Committee.

Board Reports

Director Jana Cowan commented the “Writers Night” at Toledo Elementary was fun and enlightening, and encouraged all parents to attend like events. She all noted her involvement with a community partnership focusing on teen health. She also stated a program on meth addiction (“Crystal Darkness”) was airing on television the evening of the board meeting, and encouraged all to see it.

Food Services Update

John Stone and Steve Kappler of Sodexo presented nutrition services plans for this year. They have emphasized nutrition by offering fresh fruit and vegetables daily, increasing the use of whole grains, reducing the use of fatty meats, eliminating trans-fats, using low sugar cereals and low fat salad dressings. Several activities are planned to engage students in making healthy food choices, including “Farm to Market,” “A to Z” salad bars, and discussions with Sodexo staff regarding what they would like to see in school cafeterias. Mr. Stone reported menus meet USDA requirements and the District Wellness Policy guidelines, but Sodexo wishes to do more. Sodexo representatives have also met with Stand for Children, a statewide children’s advocacy group.

Sodexo is painting several school kitchens to make them more appealing and fun. Staff training is emphasized; an administrative retreat is planned. Student participation in school meals has increased.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized Safety Coordinator Sue Graves, who was presented with the Western States Seismic Policy Council Award in Excellence. The award was given for earthquake/tsunami preparedness and outreach.

The Superintendent thanked St. Augustine’s Church in Lincoln City for their continued generosity and support of the District’s homeless program in Lincoln City. The congregation donated over \$6,000 to the program.

Mr. Rinearson recognized Taft High teacher David Dahlberg for his efforts in bringing a weather station to the school. Mr. Dahlberg spent much of his summer developing curriculum for the new “Coastal Climate” class at the school. The weather station is related to the class and may be accessed from the school’s webpage.

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Joey Novello for his support of the AED (automatic external defibrillator) program in the district. Each school now has an AED; an effort is underway to purchase additional devices for out of the area sporting events. Mr. Novello donated one additional AED, as well as \$100 from personal funds for each unit the community purchases for schools. (He is a graduate of Newport High School, and the son of Operations Administrator Joe Novello).

The Superintendent reported he and Rich Belloni have had meetings to discuss the construction excise tax with the cities of Lincoln City and Newport, as well as the County Commissioners. Meetings are scheduled with the cities of Depoe Bay, Siletz, Toledo, Waldport and Yachats to continue discussions on the excise tax. Oregon’s state legislative assembly approved a law allowing school boards to tax new construction to benefit schools.

Mr. Rinearson reported Taft High’s academic eligibility pilot project is underway. The school has 110 student athletes participating in Fall sports, 14 of whom are currently on a Program of Assistance. The project will be reevaluated at the semester.

Superintendent Rinearson presented the Board with copies of news articles over the last month from various local newspapers. He also noted the proposal from Taft Elementary for a performing arts program, and recommended the Board move forward on it, if they were comfortable with it.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 07/08-13

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

- Minutes of the 8-21-07 Work Session;**
- Minutes of the 9-11-07 Regular Session;**
- Minutes of the 9-25-07 Work Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Youth Transition Program Personal Services Agreement, Community Services Consortium.**

**Decision on Policies: GBNAA, Cyberbullying; IGBHE, Expanded Options; Motion 07/08-14
IIBGA, Electronics Communication System; JFCED, Personal
Communication Devices; JFCFA, Cyberbullying; KL, Public Complaints;
LBE, Public Charter Schools**

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously approved the following policies: GBNAA, Cyberbullying; IGBHE, Expanded Options Program; IIBGA, Electronics Communication System; JFCED, Personal Communication Devices; JFCFA, Cyberbullying; KL, Public Complaints; LBE, Public Charter Schools. Several policies are interrelated, so were presented simultaneously. There are two very similar policies related to cyberbullying: one for staff (GBNAA) and one for students (JFCFA).

The policies will be posted on the District website and distributed to schools in the coming days. The Board will be considering many new policies this year, based upon actions of the state legislature.

Approval of American Indian Heritage Month Resolution

Motion 07/08-15

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2007/08-2, proclaiming the month of November as “American Indian Heritage Month.” The resolution will be distributed to schools to help honor Native Americans in our community and schools.

Contract, Insight School of Oregon

The Oregon Council for Online Learning (OCOL) previously presented a contract to the LCSD Board for a proposed statewide charter high school. The Board continued their discussions on the contract and its revisions.

Operations Administrator Joe Novello reported he testified before the State Board of Education regarding a waiver requested by OCOL. Charter schools offering online courses are currently required to have 50% of their enrollment from the sponsoring district; OCOL is asking this requirement be waived.

Language pursuant to recruitment of students by the proposed school is included in the contract, though a more precise process for recruitment will be defined in a separate agreement. Other suggested changes to the contract include changes to the timeline, requested by Insight. A revised draft will be forwarded to the Board in the coming days.

Superintendent Rinearson reported there appears to be a misunderstanding about the 50% requirement. LCSD is not required to recruit students to match the charter school’s enrollment, but the opposite of that. In addition, staff has learned that LCSD students enrolled in one or more Insight online courses may be counted toward the enrollment requirement (the students would be dual enrolled).

Mr. Novello reported the OCOL board is moving forward with hiring administrators and teachers for the school, planned for a January 2008 opening.

Chairman Brown noted her concern the proposed school is targeting the same students the District has been working to re-enroll.

The Superintendent noted the upcoming hearings before the State Board of Education will focus on whether for-profit companies may operate in school districts, and whether on-line schools should receive full funding from the state. (The original intent of the hearings was to consider the waiver sought by OCOL).

Discussion on Policy IKF, High School Graduation

This agenda item was continued to the next board meeting due to the receipt of a new revised policy from Oregon School Boards Association.

Mr. Novello reported he learned that, per state statute, participation in graduation ceremonies is not a property right for students. At previous meetings, the Board began discussions regarding students receiving Minor In Possession of Alcohol citations and participation in graduation ceremonies. Also, Superintendent Rinearson noted some students were suspended on the last day of school, but were still able to participate in the graduation ceremony. He asked Board members to consider whether they would like this type of situation addressed in Policy IKF, or in a different policy.

Board members discussed the period of time during which students receiving an MIP would face graduation ceremony consequences. Some mentioned having only the second semester of the senior year, while others wanted to consider the entire high school career.

Joe Novello urged Board members to keep in mind the District's focus on education, and said LCSD recommends students for treatment more than any other local agency. Students taking part in drug/alcohol tests are evaluated to determine if their use was experimental, recreational or addictive.

Board members expressed their desire to protect students, and said the possibility that students could redeem themselves is a positive. Student Guy Leech suggested choosing the second semester of the senior year as the pertinent time period, and said perhaps a teacher could be trained to offer a class for students cited for MIP violations. "Then, hopefully they could take the class and still graduate," said Leech.

Currently students face consequences at school for alcohol and drug use if the behavior occurred at school, or if they have signed agreements such as those required of student athletes.

Discussions will continue at upcoming board meetings.

Approval of Out of Country Field Trip, NHS (China)

Motion 07/08-16

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board unanimously approved a student field trip to China proposed by Newport High social studies teachers Samantha Murphy and Mike Johnson. The travel is planned for the summer of 2008; fundraising plans are beginning. This agenda item was moved to a decision item to allow additional time for fundraising.

Curriculum Alignment

Special Programs Administrator Susan Van Liew and Newport High Assistant Principal BG Shinall reported work is ongoing to develop a K-12 curriculum guide clearly aligned to state standards. Further efforts will include a focus on vertical (K-12) and horizontal (across all academic areas) alignment, scope and sequence, identifying essential standards and creating local assessments. Kaplan K-12 Learning Services is one vendor the District is considering for assistance with this effort; doing the work in-house is also being considered. Staff will present a proposal on this effort at an upcoming board meeting.

Superintendent Rinearson noted this is "hard, grueling work," and said Kaplan estimated 6500 to 7000 man-hours to complete it. "This work will be the some of the most important we have done in the district in a long time." He noted the goal is to take the highest requirement from each subject area and make that the bar.

Approval of Taft Elementary Performing Arts Proposal

Motion 07/08-17

The Board approved a proposal presented by Principal Dave Malcolm for an integrated performing arts class provided by Let There Be Arts. Teachers Ellen Gerl and CJ Griffith accompanied Mr. Malcolm to address the Board. The plan proposes a half-time position to offer music, drama, and movement to students. Funds for the program are included in the school's budget.

Information on Financial Report

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin presented the monthly financial report as of September 30, 2007. District ADM is on target with projections. Ms. Baldwin presented a new report showing, among other funds, the three bond debt services funds (energy project, PERS bonds, and general obligation bonds). The cost of PERS is scheduled to increase significantly in the coming years, so staff has begun a reserve fund to address this obligation.

Discussion on Budget Calendar, 08/09

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin presented a proposed budget calendar for the coming year. The first Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2008. The calendar will return to the Board for its consideration at the next board meeting.

Budget Committee Vacancy, Zone 4

A vacancy exists in Zone 4 of the District's Budget Committee. Those interested in serving in this position must reside in Zone 4, may not be a district employee, and must be a registered voter. Applications will be available at Toledo schools, at the District Administration Office, and on the district website in the coming days, and are due to Laurie Urquhart by close of business on November 1. The Board hopes to appoint the position at the November 6th board meeting.

Discussion on Banking Services

The District's banking agreement with Oregon Coast Bank will expire on June 30, 2008. Director of Business and Support Services Rich Belloni recommends extending the agreement for one year. He explained staff is happy with the bank's services, and noted with the upcoming new Business Information System (BIS), extending the banking contract is prudent.

Overview of District Improvement Plan

Staff has begun work on a District improvement plan, and will forward an overview of it to the Board for their information.

School Based Health Centers (Added Item)

Assistant Superintendent Len Geiger noted the District partners with Lincoln County Health Department to provide school based health centers at Taft, Newport, Toledo and Waldport High Schools. They are funded in part by federal Medicaid dollars, which have been declining.

Fiscal Services Administrator Julie Baldwin reported the federal program is at risk. Budgets for the centers have traditionally been developed based in part on projected revenue from Medicaid surveys taken the prior fiscal year. Ms. Baldwin recommended ending this practice, and that general fund dollars be used to clear a receivable of over \$182,000. The Board will consider this recommendation at the next board meeting.

Discussion on 07/08 Board Goals

The Board met in a work session last month to develop goals for the Board for the current year. The Board seeks to focus on student achievement by examining several facets of district operations, including: the Taft High pilot student eligibility project, graduation requirements, the feasibility of offering a cultures/comparative religions course, the feasibility of high school seniors taking an exit exam, methods to increase rigor and raise expectations for each student, and physical education offerings in the district. The goals will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion on Five-Year District Goals

Superintendent Rinearson presented preliminary five-year district priorities for the Board’s consideration. A discussion on the priorities will continue at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent