

**Lincoln County School District
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, November 6, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Waldport High School
Waldport, 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 40 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Brown convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:10 p.m.

Student Representative, Waldport High

Waldport High Student Representative Steven Jackson updated the Board regarding activities at that school, including: ●Homecoming festivities just concluded, with the Freshman class showing great spirit; ●a penny drive yielded \$400 to go toward a planned electronic reader board for the school; ●the girls' cross country team placed 9th in state competition; ●the school has added clubs for students this year, including recycling club, drama club, and dance club.

South Area Report

Crestview Heights Principal Betsy Wilcox reported the school's site council conducted a survey regarding mascots for the school. It was decided that the school will maintain two mascots: the Dolphins for the elementary level, and the Pirates for the middle level.

A winter concert is scheduled for November 29 at 6:00 p.m. featuring third and fourth grade students at the school. The school will be hosting a health fair with several activities planned.

A school climate survey was administered to parents at conferences; results were positive and will be shared with the Board. Staff completed the same survey; the site council received copies. Attendance at the school has improved since last year.

Waldport High Principal Von Taylor welcomed the Board to the school, and introduced new Assistant Principal and teacher Brian Gardner. Mr. Gardner teaches Marketing and Development, and is also involved with the Leadership class and student council.

Mr. Taylor reported former students painted the back of the grandstands. A new weight room is being completed at the school for which all labor was donated (making it one of the largest volunteer projects

to take place in the district). The welding and shop class has been expanded; students will be able to work on autos there as well.

Staff is working to improve student attendance and is seeing good results. The school was two tenths from being rated “strong” on the school report card.

Communications

Deborah Trusty and Fred Schwartz, Board members for the Oregon Council for Online Learning (Insight School) read a letter in support of the proposed online charter school. The letter noted the high number of un-served students in the state and the potential to reach those students via the proposed school.

LCEA President Joe Jordan noted that online learning is a useful tool, but urged the Board to be vigilant, cautious and careful, and to “keep a close eye on students and their work.”

Board Reports

Director Cowan thanked the Lions Club for doing free vision screening for students in the district. She reported Toledo Elementary will be holding their “turkey bingo” fundraiser November 16 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Director Beck reported he and Chairman Brenda Brown spent the day in Salem at a hearing before the State Board of Education. The state Board was considering the proposed waiver of a requirement that 50% of students taking online classes at a charter school reside in the sponsoring district. Mr. Beck reported the hearing evolved into an open discussion on cyber education; he gave kudos to Operations Administrator Joe Novello for the work he did preparing for and speaking at the hearing.

Chairman Brown noted the recent publication of “District Dialog,” and thanked all those involved in putting it together.

Director Cowan noted her attendance at the district sponsored e-learning conference on November 5th.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized the Lincoln City Chamber Resource program for their donation to Taft High’s Teen Parent program. The group donated baby supplies, furniture and a washer/dryer.

The Superintendent thanked Emma’s Project for their donation of backpacks and other school supplies to Crestview Heights. He also thanked the Save Our Schools Committee for the donation of 20 boxes of school supplies to Toledo schools.

Mr. Rinearson recognized Altrusa for their donation of school supplies to Sam Case. The organization also donated a \$150 Wal-Mart gift certificate for other student needs.

Superintendent Rinearson thanked the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund for a donation of \$2358 to Oceanlake Elementary to purchase Promethean Activeboard supplements. The same fund also contributed \$1,000 to the Taft High Teen Parent program.

The Superintendent wished Board Chair Brenda Brown “Happy Birthday” on November 17. He reminded the Board of the end of the second six-week grading period November 21.

Mr. Rinearson reported he and Director of Business Services Rich Belloni met with several entities about the construction excise tax, and hope to have memorandums of understanding in December.

He wished all “Happy Thanksgiving” and noted all district facilities will be closed November 22nd and 23rd.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 07/08-18

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

- Minutes of the 10-9-07 Regular Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- 08/09 Budget Calendar;**
- Oregon Coast Bank for 08/09 banking services.**

Special Meeting to Consider Contract with OCOL for Insight School

Motion 07/08-19

The Board was scheduled to consider a contract with the Oregon Council for Online Learning for a statewide online charter high school. Prior to considering the question, the Board took part in a lengthy (nearly two hour) discussion about the proposed school and contract. Operations Administrator Joe Novello noted three suggested minor changes to the contract on pages 22 of the board folder dealing with Recruitment, Advertisement and Promotion; page 24, no less than 3.5% ADMw from the District will be contracted with OCOL; page 25, C (iii): due date for the IRS form 990 will be November 15 with no repercussions to the District if an extension is granted to OCOL.

Chairman Brown opened the discussion prior to a motion being made, asking for questions from Board members. Director Cowan said she thinks the proposed school is a good idea, but that she has not seen actual data showing her the District is not at risk of having students leave the district to attend the proposed school. Though the numbers of students not being served appears to be “staggering,” Ms. Cowan stated she is not sure how the school will be able to serve those students without affecting others. She noted her representation of the Toledo area, and said there is a concern in that area around losing their school. She also said “having the waiver would help so much.”

Superintendent Rinearson reported the District learned the day of the board meeting that the state Board of Education cannot grant a waiver until a contract is in place. He asked Mr. Novello to explore the meaning of financial instability as it is referenced in the contract.

Ms. Cowan asked if the Board could approve the contract conditionally, contingent upon the waiver being granted. The Superintendent replied that language had been removed from the contract, as the

Board did not wish to have the state board dictate whether or not the District could have the proposed school.

Director Beck noted the similarity of concerns expressed about the proposed online school as were generated in the past regarding other charter schools in the district.

Director Cowan asked Director Beck his opinion regarding drawing students from other districts. He replied the school is targeting students not currently being served, and noted if current students select online learning over “brick and mortar” schools, we need to understand how and why those students are not being served.

Director Turner agreed with Director Beck, saying LCSD charter schools are doing very well. The proposed contract is with OCOL, and is for a charter school. She noted her support of the effort and said that, rather than drawing away from another institution, the focus should be on serving students. Mr. Beck reminded the group that all charter schools are statewide.

Director Cowan expressed her discomfort with the contract, and said this is different from other current charter schools. Chairman Brown said enrollment caps were set at charter schools in Siletz and Eddyville. “The waiver is essentially a cap. We need to be careful and hold back a bit due to the waiver.” She expressed her support for the effort to serve kids not currently being served.

Director Beck noted the Board’s agreement would be with OCOL, and said “They are the charter board. They may contract with Insight if they want.” Mr. Fred Schwartz, Chair of the OCOL Board, noted his long experience with online teaching and learning, and said no other company besides Insight has all the ingredients necessary for a successful program. “If it is not successful, we can ship it out or close it. We think Insight is the right choice,” said Schwarz.

Chairman Brown asked the LCSD Board members to consider if they were ready to vote on the contract, or to continue the question to the next meeting. Director Beck noted the Board approved the proposal from OCOL in August, and the contract is for that proposal. He stated his readiness to vote, as did Director Turner. Superintendent Rinearson reminded the Board the Insight idea has been discussed for several months, and asked them to consider whether they wish to reconsider their vote on the proposal. “There could be some liability for changing your decision. Is it the contract, or the virtual school itself?” asked Rinearson. Director Cowan said her concern is with the contract.

Director Coulter directed the Board’s attention to the portion of the contract dealing with recruitment on page 22 of the board folder, and said usual practice is to have a marketing plan in place prior to having a contract. She asked to see something more definite in this regard. Superintendent Rinearson asked if she would be satisfied with “This marketing plan must be approved by the Board before the contract takes effect.” She replied this would satisfy her concerns.

Chairman Brown again said it sounded as if the Board has questions and asked if they would like to vote on the contract or delay the vote. Director Cowan said she would like to wait and study more. Superintendent Rinearson asked board members to identify the exact, specific issues with the contract. Chairman Brown said that, given the new information, she felt an enrollment cap of some sort should be established (a cap from within LCSD).

Chairman Brown suggested having Board members get their questions to staff by Monday, November 12.

Director Cowan asked board members how they could be so confident this contract will not “bleed students out of our district.” Director Beck said the history with district charter schools is positive and the proposed contract was based upon contracts with those charter schools. “If we lose students, we are not meeting their needs. Today we are a much better school district, with many choices. We are a good school district, doing good things. This is the way to extend that thinking,” said Beck.

Superintendent Rinearson noted that “we will not bleed kids away from our district, because they are still our students.”

Director Turner stated she is not afraid of competition, and said the district is doing well. She said she did not feel the district would lose many students to an online charter school. “We want to be sure that the content of classes is equal or better than what we currently do,” said Turner.

Superintendent Rinearson again stated Board members need to be very clear as a Board on what their concerns with the contract are, and said staff and attorneys worked hard at resolving the issues raised in the past.

Director Cowan said she would like to know from other states the actual numbers and recruitment practices. She said she would like to see the numbers of students not being reached in other states and the successes there; she asked to see information on states that have implemented the Insight program and their results. Chairman Brown directed attention to a spiral bound report distributed at the state board hearing that contained some of the information Director Cowan was seeking, and Director Turner noted a packet in white from Insight that contained other information.

Chairman Brown asked for a motion, either an up/down vote on the contract, or a motion to gather more information. Director Beck said it is important that all board members be comfortable with the actions of the Board.

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Beck the Board unanimously approved scheduling a special meeting before the next scheduled school board meeting to consider the contract with the Oregon Council for Online Learning with the understanding there will be power research done.

Superintendent Rinearson said he was still unsure of the specific concerns the Board had with the contract, and again asked the Board to consider whether they are uncomfortable with the contract, or with the school itself. Director Cowan said the statement about financial stability on page 29 is an issue (“That is an out for them, but not for us”), and said the idea of placing a cap or not is an issue. She also said recruitment practices is a concern.

Director Beck said the Board already approved enrollment numbers as presented in the proposal (Exhibit A of the contract). Superintendent Rinearson noted “we need consensus from the Board, not from individuals. An example is the cap; I saw four of you nodding, but no one said anything.” He noted LCSD is not required to provide 50% of the students to any school. Director Coulter said the district already has 700 students enrolled in at least one online class.

Director Turner said she is comfortable with Exhibit A, its numbers and description. Director Coulter asked if there is documentation regarding students taking online courses and enrollment numbers. Mr. Novello said there is a legal opinion, which he would provide to the Board.

Charlie Bird, Budget Committee Member, Zone 4

Motion 07/08-20

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously appointed Charlie Bird to Zone 4 of the District's Budget Committee for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Bird is the incumbent in that position.

Resolution, School Based Health Centers- Appropriations Transfer

Motion 07/08-21

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2007/09-4, Appropriations Transfer, School Based Health Centers. The transferred funds clear an outstanding receivable pursuant to district school based health centers. Budgeting for the centers was historically done based on future revenue; that practice has now changed.

Resolution, American Education Week

Motion 07/08-22

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2007/08- 3, declaring the week of November 11-17, 2007 as American Education Week. The resolution will be sent to all schools.

Discussion on Policy IKF, High School Graduation

The Board continued this topic until the next Board meeting.

Information on Curriculum Alignment Plan

LCSD has been developing a clearly aligned K-12 curriculum guide to state standards. Vertical and horizontal alignment, scope and sequence, identification of essential standards and creating local assessments are being developed. Through the process of aligning our learning system, the following key questions will be addressed:

- What do we want students to know?
- How will we know they have learned it?
- What is good enough?
- What will we do when they do not learn it?

Kristin Takano reported the process has begun using local teacher leaders and their talents. The first pilot programs in science and language arts will be ready by June, 2008. Social science may also be done at the same time.

For questions regarding the alignment process, please contact Curriculum and Instruction Administrator Sandi Williams.

Financial Report

Financial Reports for October and November will be presented at the December 11th board meeting.

Supplemental Tutoring Contract

Taft Elementary School continues to be in “school improvement” status due to not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Because of this status, students at the school must be offered supplementary tutoring services. Advantage Point Inc. offers these services and is on the list of ODE approved providers.

The contract will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion on 07/08 Board Goals and District Goals

These agenda items were moved forward to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Chairman

Superintendent