

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Special Session
Monday, November 26, 2007 – 11:00 a.m.
District Administration Office
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 15 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 11:00 a.m. with a quorum of all five board members present (one, Amy Coulter, via telephone).

Approval of OCOL Contract

Motion 07/08-23

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Turner, the Board approved by a vote of three aye (Directors Beck, Turner and Coulter), two opposed (Directors Brown and Cowan) the charter contract between Lincoln County School District and the Oregon Council for Online Learning (OCOL) distributed November 26, 2007. The contract formalizes the proposal from OCOL for a statewide online charter high school known as Insight School of Oregon.

After the motion was moved and seconded, the Board discussed the contract (prior to voting).

Chairman Brown noted the Board's receipt of requested information from staff. She stated her feeling that the waiver is "vitally important to this contract," and noted OCOL Board member Fred Schwartz stated a similar opinion. She also noted a prior version of the contract that deleted the line regarding the waiver from the body of the contract, but not from the recitals. She said the statement that should have been deleted dealt with obtaining the waiver prior to the school's starting operations, not with eliminating the waiver entirely. "I understood OCOL would still be required to get the waiver from the state," said Brown.

Director Coulter said she is "much more comfortable and excited." She extended kudos to Operations Administrator Joe Novello for gathering information regarding the charter school.

Director Turner echoed Ms. Coulter's kudos to Mr. Novello, and said the Board had an excellent response to their request for more data. She stated she did not completely agree with Chairman Brown, saying the entire sentence about the waiver should have been (and was) deleted. "I am okay with it as it is. I think it makes sense to pursue the waiver, but do not feel it should be required in the contract," said Turner.

Director Coulter asked for clarification on the issue; Director Turner noted the waiver requirement was eliminated from the contract. Ms. Coulter asked how LCSD would need to proceed to meet the 50% requirement (note: state law currently requires that 50% or more of students who attend a public charter school offering online courses must reside in the sponsoring district). Superintendent Rinearson

explained “we are not required as a school district to provide any students to a charter school. If however, we have a student enrolled in an online class, that student could count toward the 50% requirement.” Director Cowan further clarified that LCSD is not required to provide any students to a charter school, but that a charter school offering online classes is limited by the number of students our district has enrolled in online classes. “They can do a match,” said Cowan.

Ms. Cowan asked for clarification of students enrolled in online classes and relationship to Insight. Superintendent Rinearson noted the District’s contract is with OCOL, not Insight. Director Cowan said it appears that 95% funding goes to the charter school despite the amount of time the student attends that school.

Insight School representative Brian Rose noted a statement in the contract that says the District may contract for part-time students based on an agreed upon amount. Mr. Novello noted past practice is that LCSD pays for online courses that LCSD students take.

Superintendent Rinearson explained it is no different from how we currently do dual enrollment for students at Career Tech and Taft High, as an example.

Director Beck reported he is satisfied with the contract as written. He concurred with kudos to Mr. Novello for the “incredible job of putting this together,” saying it was a great deal of work.

Director Cowan asked how dates the charter school is to receive funds from LCSD compare to state reimbursement dates. Mr. Rinearson replied they do not necessarily coincide, thus the need for cash flow.

She also asked about the section of the contract dealing with the charter school’s ability to operate as a private school, if the charter school ceases to operate. Mr. Novello replied the school could exist as a private school, per state law.

Mr. Cowan asked about special education as it relates to the proposed contract. Special Education Administrator Susan Van Liew reported the resident district is responsible for special education services, per state law.

Director Cowan referred to Section 12, N of the contract pursuant to delegation. She noted in the same section under letter F, a district liaison to the charter school is designated. She asked if the verbiage is standard, and if the LCSD board is no longer involved with the school once the contract is approved. Director Beck noted the LCSD board must still deal with the recruiting plan and renewals of the charter school.

Ms. Cowan asked if it is a conflict of interest for OCOL board members to work for Insight. Mr. Rinearson replied that would be an interesting question for the OCOL board and their attorney. Mr. Schwartz responded that an LCSD employee can be on the OCOL board, but an employee of Insight may not be on the OCOL board. Ms. Cowan further clarified her question, asking if employees of the Apollo group could be on the OCOL board. Mr. Novello replied that this would be acceptable, as Apollo is a different entity from Insight.

Chairman Brown asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, she noted she would prefer the motion be amended to include language about the waiver. After no such amendment was offered, she called for the vote.

Ms. Brown noted with no waiver language included, she would vote no. Director Cowan also voted “no.”

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Chairman

Superintendent