

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, December 11, 2007- 7:00 p.m.
Yaquina View Elementary 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 30 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 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

West Area Report

Yaquina View Principal Kurt Smith introduced six students who read stories they wrote. Dylan Parsons, Alexa Ryer, Sophia Goodwin-Rice, Britnie Gwynn, Alden Yale, and Jacob Spink read to Board members. Mr. Smith reported the stories were developed into books at the publishing center at the school, which is presently in great need of volunteers.

Student Representative, Newport High

Newport High ASB President Sam Canning-Kaplan updated the Board regarding activities at that school, including: ●all NHS fall sports teams advanced to state playoffs (cross country had two individuals compete at the state level); ●student council organized a blood drive through the Red Cross, with another planned for spring; ●40 students and parents took part in a recent cleanup of the school; ●student leaders designed and Pepsi sponsored the creation of “spirit” shirts to be worn at athletic and other school events; ●NHS teachers Ms. Murphy and Mr. Johnson will accompany students this summer on a field trip to China.

West Area Report, continued

Newport High Principal Jon Zagel reported the school is readying itself to become an International Baccalaureate (IB) school. IB representatives visited the school in October and will advise their decision in April or May, 2008. Mr. Zagel also reported the school’s robotics team won a grant from NASA, and will compete in March. The team also received funding from Georgia Pacific and Chinook Winds.

Mr. Zagel noted the school is upgrading technology, with daily homework now accessible online.

Newport Middle/Isaac Newton Principal Marsha Eckelman reported the student council arranged an assembly on Veterans' Day, which was very well received. Students are presently involved with a penny drive to benefit Samaritan House. Also, students at the school listened to a 45-minute classical violin and piano concert made possible by the Neskowin Chamber Association. The school's band concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Sam Case Principal Tom Zandoli reported the school is the first in the west area to receive electronic locks thanks to a grant procured by Newport Police Chief Mark Miranda. He thanked Safety Coordinator Sue Graves for her exceptional job in coordinating the effort, and Rich Belloni for his "behind the scenes" assistance.

Mr. Zandoni reported students from Toledo High's video production class (BoomerCast and LCSD TV) produced two videos of Sam Case students, one on peer mediation and one on the Community of Writers night held at Sam Case. He gave kudos to Sam Case students who voted to give up a promised ice cream party to help students in flood damaged Vernonia (money that would have purchased the ice cream will be sent to an elementary school in Vernonia).

Communications

Yaquina View parent and Stand for Children member Cait Goodwin encouraged the Board to enact the construction excise tax approved by the last legislative assembly. The new law allows school boards to tax new construction at the rate of \$1.00 per square foot for residential and \$0.50 for commercial property.

Newport High Counselor Reyna Mattson expressed several concerns with the proposed graduation policy, which were addressed later in the meeting. She noted requirements for students to achieve an honors diploma include both community service and a school activity (current policy requires one or the other). She asked that professional technical education be added to item "d" under requirements for an honors diploma in 2010 and beyond, and said honors diploma requirements affect the valedictorian award.

Ms. Mattson directed the Board's attention to the proposed part of the policy dealing with students' participation in graduation ceremonies for infractions including Minor in Possession of alcohol (MIP) citations. She said students "lose a lot of things" when they receive citations of this nature, and said "if you take this away, they can never do it again." She also pondered the proposed idea that students receiving an MIP complete a drug and alcohol assessment and the recommended treatment in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. "I am worried- what about the student that has money and can get an assessment the day of graduation, versus the student without money who has to go through Mental Health." The Board discussed the revised policy later in the meeting.

Consultant/Staff Reports

Kenny Allen, partner in the District's audit firm (Pauly, Rogers and Co., P.C.) presented the audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. He reported the District received a "clean, unqualified" audit, the highest attainable. He recognized Rich Belloni, Julie Baldwin and the business office staff for their professionalism and hard work.

District Nurse **Julie Turner** addressed the Board about current District policy regarding head lice. She has been actively educating parents, students, staff and community members on LCSD's "no live lice" policy. Children with nits may attend school. Ms. Turner emphasized that, although bothersome, lice are not a health hazard and pose no health threat.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized Toledo Elementary for their canned soup drive currently in process. Donated soup will be given to Toledo's Food Share, while bar codes from Campbell's labels will be removed to earn points for the school. The school hopes to purchase PE equipment with the funds.

The Superintendent recognized Oceanlake Elementary and Price-N-Pride Market for their fundraising efforts. Students at the school sold raffle tickets to a three-minute shopping spree at the market. The winners of the raffle (Karen and Jenna Richards) gathered \$624 in groceries, which were donated back to the Backpack Program at Oceanlake. The school also received \$3,300 from the raffle.

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Dr. Rick Letherer for his donation (begun in 1994) of six student eye exams and eyeglasses for those who need them.

The Superintendent gave kudos to Waldport High School for being ranked in the top one percent of high schools in the nation by US News and World Report magazine. Eight schools in Oregon received a "silver" rating; Waldport High is the only small, rural school to receive this honor. This is the first year the magazine has rated high schools. An assembly at the school to honor students is planned for Monday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m.

The Superintendent also recognized students and staff at Taft High for traveling to Vernonia to spend a day helping flood victims. Several staff members as well as ASB officers and members of Interact and Key Clubs traveled via bus (donated by Mid Columbia) to help at the food bank and the donation center there. Mo's Restaurant donated dinner for the LCSD helpers.

Mr. Rinearson showed the Board a thank you note from the Taft High Parenting for Teens program to Roby's Furniture, who donated a rocking chair to the program.

The Superintendent wished Board member Jana Cowan a belated "Happy Birthday" (December 7), and noted the first day of Winter Break is Wednesday, December 19. He noted all district facilities will be closed December 24th and 25th. School resumes Wednesday, January 2nd.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 07/08-24

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

- Minutes of the 10/30/07 Work Session;**
- Minutes of the 11/6/07 Regular Session;**
- Minutes of the 11/26/07 Special Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Supplemental Tutoring Contract, Advantage Point, Inc.**

Acceptance of 06/07 Audit

Motion 07/08-25

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously accepted the audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. Chairman Brown noted the audit reflects very well on our fiscal services department.

Discussion on Policy IKF, High School Graduation

Revisions to Policy IKF, high school graduation were necessitated due to changes in state law. Superintendent Rinearson said the proposed policy is not intended to harm students, and said any discrepancies increasing requirements for this and future years' graduates will be addressed.

The portion of the revised policy dealing with informing parents of graduation requirements each year (beginning with Kindergarten) is intended as a communications tool, with changes to the policy shared with parents annually.

Director Beck noted the Honors Diploma is difficult to attain and requires planning by students.

The Board discussed possible ramifications for students receiving Minor in Possession of alcohol citations (MIP). Director Beck noted he is in favor of Option 2 in the December 11 board folder, in which students receiving an MIP in the month prior to the graduation ceremony are required to complete a drug/alcohol assessment and the recommended treatment in order to participate in the ceremony. He commented that "we as a community need to do something."

Vice-Chairman Turner responded by saying her original position aligned with Mr. Beck's, but has changed. "I don't think this is under our purview," said Turner. She noted the District has policies to deal with students under the influence at school, and at school activities. She suggested students be exposed to a prevention program at least annually. "I would like to see an education program," said Turner. The Superintendent responded that this type of instruction is required by the state. He noted current policy allows a student to participate in the graduation ceremony if he/she meets the credit requirements. "It is a property right now, per policy," said Rinearson.

Chairman Brown and Director Coulter sided with Ms. Turner, while Director Cowan agreed with Mr. Beck. A consensus to focus on education related to alcohol or drug abuse is emerging.

Discussion on 'History of Rock and Roll' Course, Newport High

Newport High administrators and teachers developed a new elective course titled the "History of Rock and Roll." The class aligns with Language Arts, Social Science and Career Related Learning Standards, and will offer another elective choice for students.

Superintendent Rinearson polled the Board regarding their feeling about the course; all five held up lit lighters to indicate their approval (in jest). The course will return to the Board for consideration at the January board meeting.

Financial Report

Business Services Administrator Julie Baldwin presented two months' financial reports (October and November). She reported she will be analyzing purchased services more in depth. No significant changes from projections occurred, though interest rates declined slightly.

Ms. Baldwin noted the clean audit was made possible by the efforts of the entire team of individuals in the business office, and said she considered asking them to the board meeting to be recognized. Since staff is busy preparing for the new business information system, she did not do so.

Discussion on Construction Excise Tax

The state legislature approved a bill in the last session allowing school districts to implement a construction excise tax on new construction in districts. In order for the school board to enact the tax, they must first approve a long-term facilities plan, enter into interagency agreements with each taxing entity, and adopt a resolution imposing the tax. Superintendent Rinearson noted a revised Facilities Improvement plan has been developed, and said agreements with Lincoln City, Newport and Lincoln County are moving forward. It is hoped that all three requirements for implementing the tax will be ready for the board's consideration in January 2008.

Discussion on Superintendent Evaluation Instrument and Timeline

Each year, the Board of Directors provides the Superintendent with a performance evaluation. The evaluation instrument used the past few years was suggested as a vehicle to use again; it will return for the Board's consideration at the January meeting.

Discussion on 07/08 Board Goals

Board members met in a work session to develop current year goals for the Board. The proposed goal is for the Board to focus on student achievement by examining selected areas of operations. The goals will return for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

The Superintendent will create a work plan to achieve the goals for the Board's consideration.

Discussion on District Goals

Superintendent Rinearson presented draft priorities for the District over the next few years. He noted his thinking to shift away from annual goals and focus on the direction in which the district is headed. This approach will assist with future budgeting. The priorities will return to the Board for their consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion on Policy BDDC, Construction of Agenda

The Board expressed a desire to examine the order in which items are presented at board meetings. In examining Policy BDDC, Construction of the Agenda, staff discovered the order of the agenda was contained in the administrative rules. A revised policy was developed, incorporating some of the

administrative rules and allowing more flexibility for the Board. The policy will return for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion on Conferences (OSBA and Quality)

All Board members attended conferences in November, with Directors Brown and Beck attending the Oregon School Boards Association conference in Portland, and Directors Turner, Cowan and Coulter attending the Quality Education conference in St. Louis.

Director Beck reported the OSBA conference was a good one, and said he attended trainings on coming changes to medical insurance for employees. Chairman Brown noted the speakers at OSBA were good, and said she attended a session on a Finnish model of education and schools. She also attended a session on energy efficiency for school districts, and expressed interest in this topic.

Director Coulter reported she attended a session regarding a leadership academy in Texas, as well as a session on technology. Director Cowan said the conference solidified her understanding of "quality."

Vice-Chairman Turner said she would like to share her experiences at the conferences when she has more time, with which Chairman Brown agreed. The Board will schedule time in a work session setting to debrief further.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent