

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, October 14, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Taft 7-12
Lincoln City, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Jean Turner, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary, approximately 100 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Jean Turner convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:12 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present. Director Turner asked audience members wishing to address the proposed change in the school based health center agreement to do so later in the meeting when that agenda item is raised.

Student Representative

Taft High student representatives Andy Derringer (ASB President) and Logan Stecker (senior class president) showed a Power Point presentation on happenings at Taft 7-12, including: •the new all-weather field, being used now for soccer and football; •resurfacing of the gym floor; •a new concrete courtyard at the school (flower beds are coming); •plans to build a Frisbee golf course. The students plan to continue the momentum and school spirit begun last year.

Board Reports

Chairman Jean Turner recently presented to the Oregon Coast Learning Institute on “LCSD: Past, Present and Future.” She thanked Data Coordinator Mary Kelly for her help creating the presentation, and said it is available for Board members to use in other venues.

North Area Report

Taft 7-12 Principal Scott Reed reported members of the 7th grade class took a field trip to Powell’s books in Portland. He read a passage from “Where the Sidewalk Ends,” and said Taft 7-12 is becoming that place.

Culinary Arts teacher Pam Simpson and Math teacher Rachel Yoder summarized a recent workshop they attended regarding integrating culinary arts instruction with math. The teachers used new Carl Perkins guidelines to develop the related lesson plan. Mr. Reed noted this as a “small example of the collaboration happening across our staff.”

CIP Budget Narrative

Title I Administrator Clint Raever presented an overview of the Title programs budget for this year. The handout briefly describes budgets and activities for Title 1A, IIA, IID, III, IVA, V and VI.

State Report Card Update

Title I Administrator Clint Raever presented an overview of results of the state report card. He provided the Board with notes from a recent press conference asked board members to contact him with questions.

Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of September 30, 2008. Auditors are expected in the next two weeks. Interest income has declined.

ADM (Average Daily Membership) is higher than projected at this point. Mr. Rinearson noted this is the lowest drop in student numbers in the last several years.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized the LCSD Board of Directors and Chairman Jean Turner for earning an "Outstanding Board Achievement Award" from the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). Chairman Turner was also awarded a Bronze award. OSBA tracks training and leadership activities by its members and awards those achieving a certain level.

Mr. Rinearson thanked Newport Café owner David Sees for his contributions to Sam Case Elementary. Mr. Sees is donating 50% of the proceeds of each bowl of clam chowder sold at the café to Sam Case for technology needs, and plans to expand this effort to all district schools.

The Superintendent thanked KNPT/KBCH radio stations and Mid Columbia Bus Company for their collaboration on the annual "stuff a bus" school supply drives. Events were held in Newport, Lincoln City and Toledo (cash and supplies were shared with Waldport schools.)

Superintendent Rinearson thanked the Methodist Church of Toledo for their donation of three \$100 WalMart gift cards to the District's homeless program.

He said adjustments in staffing are occurring to address areas with more students than anticipated.

The Superintendent informed the Board of his appointment to the Funding Coalition Steering Committee, and said this may mean more time in Salem in the spring.

Friday, October 17 marks the end of the first six weeks of the school year. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for October 23 and 24, though some schools will have conferences Wednesday evening, October 22nd, with no conferences on Friday. Please check with your local school to confirm conference times.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 08/09-14

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

- Minutes, September 9, 2008 Regular Session;**
- Contract, Insight School of Oregon;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum.**

Approval of American Indian Heritage Month- November

Motion 08/09-15

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2008/09-2, proclaiming the month of November as American Indian Heritage month. Board Chair Jean Turner read a proclamation declaring 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.

Board Subcommittee- Real Estate Negotiations (Added Item)

Motion 08/09-16

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously appointed a subcommittee comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair to negotiate with representatives of the City of Lincoln City pursuant to the sale of the old Taft Elementary property.

Approval of gLAs Architects for Architectural Services (Added Item)

Motion 08/09-17

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board approved Personal Services Agreements with gLAs Architects for architectural services at Waldport High, Oceanlake, Taft Elementary, Toledo Jr./Sr. High and Toledo Elementary. James Lewis of gLAs will prepare preliminary plans and/or attend construction excise tax meetings around the district.

Community Resource Liaison Update

Community Curriculum Resource Liaison Ruth McDonald updated the Board regarding community partnership activities to date and those planned for the future. She described the myriad of activities with the Oregon Coast Aquarium, OSU Hatfield Marine Center, Bureau of Land Management, OSU/ODFW Oregon Hatchery Research Center, the National Science Foundation, the Freed Gallery, MidCoast Watershed Council, Colorado State University, the Smithsonian, Writers on the Edge and OMSI. She agreed to update the Board regularly.

Vacancies, Budget Committee

Budget Committee vacancies exist in Zones 1 (Lincoln City, Otis) and 5 (Waldport). The school board appoints the citizen members to this committee, comprised of the five board members and five community members.

Applications will be available in all schools in the affected zones, the District office and on the district's website. Applications are due to Laurie Urquhart by the close of business on Friday, November 7th.

School Based Health Centers Agreement

Thirty-three members of the audience addressed the Board regarding a proposed change in the agreement between Lincoln County Health and Human Services (LCHHS) and LCSD pursuant to school based health centers. LCHHS would like to be able to dispense contraception at the centers.

Nineteen audience members spoke in opposition to changing the agreement, while 14 spoke in favor. The Board also received over 30 letters and several emails from concerned citizens on this topic; the majority of the written communications were in favor of changing the agreement. The following citizens spoke (comments are summarized):

Senitila McKinley urged Board members to see the issue differently, and said she spoke for the children with no parents, and for those that were abused. She stated her support of abstinence, and her support for what the health department is trying to do.

Paul Stangeland noted his teenage experiences, saying some students may be embarrassed to discuss sexual health with their parents. He expressed his support of the school based health centers' request.

Dr. David Long stated he is the Lincoln County Health Officer and said he has practiced medicine in Lincoln County for 27 years. He expressed his support of LCHHS' request, and noted he does not support teen sexual activity, preferring abstinence for teens. "For us not to provide contraception at the point of contact would be irresponsible," said Long.

Mandy Renfrow, a student at Newport High, said she does not want to see standards lowered and does not want to see schools be hypocritical (by requiring parental permission to dispense other medications, but none for contraceptives). She said the request makes students look "like wild animals that cannot control ourselves, incapable of making good decisions."

Patricia Neal noted that she would like to "see a perfect world where teens heard the message of abstinence, but that is not the rule," adding that close to 50% have participated in sex. She also noted the high costs for teenage births. "We have to deal with the real world, which needs birth control," said Neal.

Pastor Jim Reed stated he is against dispensing contraceptives and is for sexual abstinence.

Cathy Sorensen noted her support of the request from LCHHS, and said if one disagrees with the services offered at the school based health centers, one should not use them. "For students with no other resources, these centers are key. We cannot turn our backs on these teens."

Travis Todd disputed comments made by Lincoln County HHS Director Jan Kaplan at the last board meeting, citing different portions of the "Kirby Report" to do so. He said the report does not claim that STDs or pregnancies are reduced when birth control is dispensed at school based health centers.

Linda Brazel spoke in opposition to the proposed agreement change.

Mike Hale said abstinence is the only sure prescription, and said children will get a double message if contraceptives are handed out.

Troy Delle asked the Board to deny the request, saying our schools are learning centers, not health centers. He asked them to leave dispensing contraceptives where it is currently: at primary health centers.

Felicia Todd reported she attended the CHIP meetings for about a year, and noted her status as a mother and as the STARS coordinator for the county. She noted the group identified some “wonderful strategies” to address teen pregnancy, and said she found it discouraging that the only item about which there was disagreement was the one brought forward for action. She asked the Board to say no to the request.

Charlotte Miller spoke as a retired educator, saying she strongly supports the LCHHS request. She noted that only 10% of her students received sex education information from their parents, and said they need to get the information at school. “The plan says the STARS program will continue, and parents can opt out of the school based health center’s services,” said Miller.

Jeanne St. John addressed the Board as a retired educator, and as President of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). She said “These kids are often on the fringes...being able to get services at clinics is a matter of life and death for some of these kids.” She also spoke on behalf of Dan Beck, Director of the Coastal AIDS Network, and told the story of a young man who was infected the first time he had relations (and died in 1999). “He never had the information,” said St. John. “We need caring, loving, affirming schools.”

Janet Etter, a Newport High senior, stated that “by giving out contraceptives, the school is giving in.” She said schools should be a place for higher standards, not contraception.

Dayl Wood, a current Health teacher at Taft 7-12, said he is concerned with this direction, calling it a “Band-aid solution to a complex problem.” He said he does not understand why contraception is being suggested first before other strategies are tried, and said he would like to see more collaboration between the District and LCHHS. “I don’t think this should be the first piece,” said Wood.

Vernon Kessi stated there are other avenues, including abstinence. He asked the Board to “set the standards high for our students.” He asked them to think about the decision, and to consider other options.

Tim Johnson said he is against dispensing contraception in schools, saying it sends a mixed message. “Premarital sex is dangerous,” said Johnson. He noted his agreement with a prior statement by Superintendent Tom Rinearson that this is a community issue, not a school issue.

Keith Harcourt, retired physician, agreed that abstinence and open communication are the highest standards but said he favors the public health idea. He noted the plan is for teens already taking the risk, and said they would be given risk counseling and contraception. He added that although some have suggested that condoms are ineffective, they are in fact effective at a rate of 85% to 95%.

Sara Paeth, a freshman at OSU said she came from Corvallis to speak at the meeting as the issue is an important one for her. She spoke in favor of the proposed change, saying though she knew many students that chose abstinence in high school, those that did not should have been able to access contraceptives. “Ten miles to Newport is too far” (to get a prescription filled), said Paeth. “I was a

STARS leader for two years and wholeheartedly support abstinence. But not all choose this path. Becoming a parent should be a joy, not a consequence.”

Adam Peterson commented it is “disservice to our morals if we hand out birth control.” He said allowing students access to contraceptives would be dishonest as students would “sneak” to obtain them.

Miranda Cortez said she is against providing birth control to students, and said she became a parent while in high school. “My mother was never informed of my decisions; it was the worst four years of my life,” said Cortez. She emphasized that parents need to be involved.

Jan Kaplan, County Director of Public Health, expressed his support of the full plan. “The part of the plan on which we need your help is the agreement,” said Kaplan. He stated that students have the right to receive contraceptives by state statute, and said it is a public health issue. “We have over 40 students now in our district who are either pregnant or parenting,” noted Kaplan. He said it is a timely, critical issue, and said there are options available for those that do not agree. “How many unintended teen pregnancies are OK? My answer is none. If I have the ability to make a difference, I should do so,” he said.

Director Beck said this is an important issue, but it is not a school issue. “Why the schools? There has to be an audience that the health department is not serving.”

Eric Fritz, youth pastor, urged the Board not to approve the plan. He said “we are very privileged to have the clinics, except this issue.” He asked Mr. Kaplan to take the lead and “not remove parental rights.” He said he asked his staff members to shop for contraceptives around the county, and said all communities have them, except Siletz and Eddyville.

Ron Usher spoke in favor of the plan, saying he has worked in other areas for Health and Human Services. “Controlling dispensing is an appropriate part of a plan to reduce teen pregnancy,” said Usher. He said if options are not provided when the opportunity to do so exists, an increase in the number of abortions could result.

Karen Bondley, author of the “Plan to Reduce Teen Pregnancy” explained that she works for AHEC (Area Health Education Center), which is affiliated with OHSU. She said the plan is evidence based and involves outreach, using the media, teaching parents how to talk to their students about sex and several other components. “We did not come to consensus on this issue,” said Bondley. “Many see it as a moral or parent issue, and there are those in the medical field who see it differently. I ask you to hear us as a community and do what you think is right, in your heart of hearts.”

Jerry Kosydar noted he has been helping in schools for about 20 years and is interested in keeping students safe. He stated his 16-year-old daughter obtained birth control from a clinic without his knowledge, and said he felt betrayed by this. He asked the Board to fight for what is right, and not to give in to rhetoric. “Abstinence is key,” said Kosydar.

John Chapman noted that he has been a scientist for 40 years, and said “this issue is about trust, honesty, standards and parental rights.” He stated his desire for his children to have access, and said parents who do not feel the same way can “tell them to stay away. It is not about standards, but about protecting kids who are already engaged.”

Jeff Johnston noted the number of home schooled students in LCSD, and said this number would go up if the Board supports the request from LCHHS. “This is a slap in the face to parents,” said Johnston.

Lee Pate said he has worked in social services for many years, and served on the CHIP committee. He commented the committee developed “wonderful plans and ideas” and were promised a “fair and balanced presentation; that did not happen.” He asked that the Board continue the present system.

Jeremy Moore stated a change like the one proposed may increase rates in the long run. He said it is important to “keep it special.”

Mike Ulappa asked the Board to focus on the education process. “I don’t think the education system needs to go down that path,” said Ulappa.

Paula Sampson stated the request from LCHHS is about protecting our youth. She reminded the Board and audience that over 400 people gave input to the plan, and said “It is not the health department’s plan; this is the community speaking.” She noted the plan addresses comprehensive teen health, including contraception abstinence and delay, and asked to join the school based health centers that dispense. “Comprehensive care is quality care,” said Sampson.

The Board extended the meeting past the usual ten o’clock deadline in order to hear all of the audience members wishing to speak to them. The Board did not discuss the issue following the speakers, due to the lateness of the hour. The conversation will continue at the next meeting, November 18, 7:00 p.m. at Waldport High School.

Chairman Jean Turner commended all of the speakers for the respect shown to all, and said it had been a thoughtful forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent