

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Waldport High School
Waldport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Jean Turner, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 150 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Excused: Amy Coulter, Director

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Jean Turner convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:01 p.m., with a quorum of four board members present. Director Coulter was excused from the meeting.

Local Public Contract Review Board Hearing/Decision

The Board recessed into a public hearing as the Local Public Contract Review board to consider clean-up of toxic materials at the old Taft Elementary School. Assistant to Director of Support Services Tim Kaufman explained the site once had four underground storage tanks, two diesel and two gasoline. Petroleum products contaminated the soil, and tidal waters influenced the area. Work to clean up the site was begun by Statewide Environmental in 1998. When the property was being considered for sale this year, the issue resurfaced. Four monitoring wells have been installed per requirements of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The Board voted to award the contract to Statewide Environmental Services due to its familiarity with the project, its proximity to the job, and because it is a high quality firm with reasonable rates. The price for the work is \$38,576. Director of Support Services Rich Belloni contacted a firm in Portland; that firm provided a higher quotation, even before considering the entire project.

Approval of Statewide Environmental Services

Motion 08/09-18

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2008/09-4, exempting the district from the competitive bidding process and awarding the clean up of toxic materials at the old Taft Elementary School in Lincoln City to Statewide Environmental Services.

The regular session board meeting was then reconvened.

Student Representative

Waldport High student representative Dylan McDowell updated the Board regarding activities at that school, including: •students have undertaken a campus beautification project, which may include placing benches in the courtyard as well as a mural; •the library received new bookcases and books; •thanks were shared for community volunteers Bill Turner and Clint Murphy for their many hours of help; •three runners moved to state cross country competition; •the new weight room is a welcome and much used addition; •a penny drive was held to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital; •a canned food drive is planned; •the school now offers online classes as well as classes at Oregon Coast Community College; •several new classes have sparked students' interest, including Health 2/Psychology, Zoology, and Street Law; •most classrooms have Smart Boards. Mr. McDowell stated he is pleased with how the year has begun, and looks forward to sharing an even longer list of accomplishments in the future.

Communications

Chairman Turner said the Board received many pieces of written communication in a variety of ways (email, US Mail, and hand delivered). She noted receipt of a packet that evening from Mid Coast Christian School students, and said the first two speakers would speak to an issue other than the school based health centers agreement.

John and Rosalie Raudsep expressed their hope for stepped up security at Crestview Heights to deter vandalism. Both Waldport residents are members of the Citizens Patrol there, and said they are concerned about the school. They would like to see an alarm system installed, with motion detectors and fire alarms; they also suggested having a loud alarm that would draw attention from nearby drivers.

Superintendent Rinearson set the stage for the other speakers at the Board meeting by explaining that Oregon Revised Statutes speak to parental rights. "In Oregon, with relation to contraceptives, parents do not have any rights," said Rinearson. "Any child under 18 can access them without parents' knowledge." He added neither the Board nor the county health department can affect this, and urged attendees to contact state representatives Jean Cowan and Joanne Verger if they would like to see the law changed. Chairman Turner asked speakers to limit their comments to three minutes time.

Dave Heater commented that though teaching abstinence is best, children make mistakes and must be protected. He expressed his support of dispensing contraceptives at school based health centers, and said though many families are strong, many are not.

Chairman Turner reminded the audience that (if the agreement is changed) the health department would be dispensing contraceptives, not the school district. Director Beck noted the care is comprehensive reproductive health, not just limited to condoms.

Ellen Franklin spoke as a church attendee and as an employee of a school based health clinic. "When a youth come to us with reproductive issues, we education them, non-stop. We encourage parental involvement and counsel them for abstinence. Once they become pregnant, we no longer care for them (they must go elsewhere)." She said she would choose abstinence for every teen, but not all choose abstinence. "Putting up barriers will not help, but will increase teen pregnancy and STDs. What we are currently doing is not working."

Mike Dean noted his disagreement with dispensation of birth control to youth. “If you teach zero tolerance, you should keep the same bar for contraceptives....abstinence is the only way. I do not want to see this choice promoted.”

Karen Bondley spoke as an employee for AHEC, the outreach program for OHSU. “We have been looking for solutions to reduce teen pregnancy; I am the author of the plan.” She stated some see the issue as a moral one, and said she does not see the community coming to consensus on it. She said she feels the plan will increase the use of contraceptives, will reduce the number of partners, and will not increase sexuality.

A **Waldport High student panel** expressed their support of the change to the Board. **Vinnie Willette, Joe Bissell, Hannah Ireland, Kristen Bales and Katheryn Rekow** spoke in favor of dispensing contraceptives from school based health centers.

Liz Young, a registered nurse, noted her role as a head of family planning. “Most students that come to see me are already sexually active. It is important to give them access to tools to protect themselves.” She noted a citizens review panel with which she is involved reviews the cases of all in their care. “We see the results of children entering parenthood early. There is no one to teach them how to parent, or how to prevent pregnancy.” Superintendent Rinearson asked Ms. Young about mandatory reporting, given the age of consent (18) and the age of some clients (12, for instance). Ms. Young said they are indeed mandatory reporters, and said they are asked by the state to have the client sign a request. “If there is a suggestion of child sexual abuse, we must report.” Mr. Rinearson asked if this is in line with an age difference between under-age sexual partners of three years; she replied it is.

Ron Beck spoke to affirmative defense, and asked if “we have a mandate to report any breaking of the law, i.e., sexual activity of those under 18. They do not have the ability, by law, to consent.”

Student **Joel Waterman** said he is happy the school teaches abstinence along with sexual education. “Abstinence is the only 100% sure way....the overall message is abstinence and complete emotional commitment. It is hypocritical to teach abstinence then hand out birth control.” He said the negatives from doing so outweigh the positives.

John Baker noted the number of pregnant and parenting students as well as homeless students in our district, and read a letter to the Board. “I know the Board’s commitment is to the good of all students. Can we stand by, when we can help?” He said parents may still make a decision to their own liking, but should not stand in the way of those wanting it.

Daniel Mummey said he is opposed to the proposed change in the school based health center agreement. “Mental, spiritual and physical health is affected. The message is clear: we don’t care enough about you to teach you about healthy relationships.” He said the Board will not solve the moral dilemma by distributing contraceptives at school health clinics.

Neena Goldberg, community health nurse, said she meets many teens when they are pregnant, before they tell their parents. She said many get abortions to avoid telling their parents. “This is not a moral judgment, but a health one. This is America and is about diversity. Our children deserve access to birth control.”

Joan Wesley noted her alarm at “the opposition that has taken this issue hostage. Reproduction has spiritual components.” She said the ministers that have spoken to the Board do not represent all in the faith community. “I want our kids to be knowledgeable and responsible for their actions. I want them to think critically.” She asked the Board to adopt the plan, and “not let religious groups decide.”

Adam Peterson thanked the Board for “asking the questions and letting us hear both sides.” He stated his opposition to “handing out birth control.”

Gretchen Gants spoke from her point of view as an adult who had to assume the role of parent for her siblings as a teen after her mother died. “Every day was a struggle to go to school and to help my siblings. We all tend to see things from where we are. This is a wonderful opportunity for our kids- why put up another barrier?” She said there are children dropping through the cracks, and said she is proud of the health department for developing the plan.

John Zeier addressed the Board in his role as a nurse practitioner, and reminded them that contraceptive pills are used for things other than contraception. He said one size does not fit all, and that many teens have no parents to counsel them. “This plan provides many health options for our children.”

Nancy Reid retired in June as a nurse practitioner in Toledo. “I have talked to teens in all situations. My plea is not to support one group at the expense of others. Please do not exclude the kids with the fewest resources and the least ability to protect themselves.

Marisa Dean stated her belief that there should not be contraceptives in schools. “There is nothing wrong with waiting until you get married.”

Betsy Brooks spoke as a nurse in the school based health clinic, as well as a mother. She said her parents had been supportive, and said she waited until she was married. “I encourage abstinence, and we discuss the emotional aspects of being sexually active. I am in favor of the plan.”

Philip Schuster said he was “blown away” by the Superintendent’s statement about parental rights. “You will encourage those who might have the strength to abstain. This is a societal problem, not just this school or county.” He said he felt a change in the agreement would result in increased sexual experimentation and promiscuity. “You have to allow parental notification. You cannot exclude the parents who are fit and have good relationships with their children.”

Kimberlee Cochran went through the registration packet each parent completes every year. She said all the forms are required because the children are under 18, and thus need parental consent. “My relationship with LCS D has been great. It gives you and me the responsibility of caring for these children. Birth control would tear that relationship down- the packet would no longer mean anything.” She also expressed her belief that all citizens have more access to health care (not just contraceptives).

The Superintendent thanked Ms. Cochran for her comments and said she described “the paradox we are in.”

Debra Fant said she appreciates the passion that motivates people to be there for the dialog. She stated teens do not act or think like adults, because they are not adults. “Kids do not always understand cause

and effect; they need to be mentored. She urged making the process easy so more people will participate. "Please ensure equal access, and make acting responsibly an easy thing to do."

Julie Dotson said she is the Division Director of Lincoln County Health and Human Services, a counselor, mother and grandmother. She thanked the board for their "courage in addressing this issue and for listening to all of the voices." She said all share the passion of caring for our children and keeping them safe, and said this requires teens' participation. "The problem is the teenage brain is like that of adult with fewer miles on it. Recent research has shown us that children do not have full access to their frontal lobe until later. The last part of the brain to mature is the one we adults rely on to make good decisions." She said teens must be given the tools they need to protect themselves.

Alaine Toomey said many teens engage in unsafe behavior, and added her voice to those in favor of comprehensive sexual health.

Chairman Turner recessed the meeting for a ten minute break at 8:50 p.m.

Nancy Hale spoke to the issue of brain development, saying if a child's brain is not developed enough (thus necessitating the use of birth control), what makes one think "they have the tools to use them?" She said her daughter is a single parent in her 20's, who would say that contraceptives should not be available to teens.

Kathy Ranier said she had not heard mentioned the issue of effects of birth control pills on teens' health. She said many doctors recommend taking the pill for no longer than two years. She also stated if birth control is dispensed, a mixed message is provided; "we are telling them it is OK to disregard the law."

The Board discussed this topic later in the meeting and may vote on it at the December 9th board meeting.

Change in Agenda

Superintendent Rinearson suggested moving numbers 2, 3 and 4 under "Board Discussion" to the December board meeting.

Board Reports

Director Ron Beck reported the annual Oregon School Boards Association conference was worthwhile.

Chairman Jean Turner reported she handed out the first "Math Facts" certificates to nine students at Crestview Heights. Board members will be presenting certificates to students who have learned the multiplication table, and will also call the student's parents to share the good news.

South Area Report

Waldport High Principal Von Taylor thanked student Dylan McDowell for his involvement and his presentation at the Board meeting.

Mr. Taylor reported the school is now posting video clips on the school's website to help students that miss class due to sports, illness, etc.

Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of October 31, 2008. She noted a higher ending fund balance than was projected for 2007/08, which is especially pertinent due to worsening information on the economy.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson will email the Superintendent's Report to the Board due to time constraints.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 08/09-19

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

- **Minutes, October 14, 2008 Regular Session;**
- **Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- **Revised Organizational Resolution- Nancy Hungerford added as attorney for District.**

Approval of American Education Week

Motion 08/09-20

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board approved Resolution 2008/09-3, proclaiming the week of November 16-22, 2008 as American Education Week. Board Chair Jean Turner read the proclamation to the audience, noting the importance of public education and the many people who contribute to it.

Appointment of Budget Committee Member, Zone 1

Motion 08/09-21

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved Sue Ryan as the representative for Zone 1 of the LCSD Budget Committee, to serve until June 30, 2011.

The first Budget Committee meeting is slated for May 19 at Newport High School.

Appointment of Budget Committee Member, Zone 5

Motion 08/09-22

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously approved Larry Anthony as the representative for Zone 5 of the LCSD Budget Committee, to serve until June 30, 2011.

Discussion on Proposed Change in South Area School Calendar (Waldport)

Assistant Waldport High Principal Brian Gardner presented a revised calendar for January through June of this school year for the Board's consideration. The calendar mirrors the West Area calendar, and eliminates half-day Wednesday school improvement days. The calendar must still be approved by LCEA; it will return for the Board's consideration at the December board meeting.

Discussion on Proposed Amendments to Charter School Contracts

Charter School Liaison Tom Zandoli presented proposed amendments to the charters for Siletz Valley, Siletz Early College Academy, and Eddyville Charter schools. The amendments would allow the District to negotiate a timeline for the renewal process as permitted by Oregon Administrative Rules. The amendments will return for the Board's consideration at the December board meeting.

New Language Arts Class, Toledo Jr./Sr. High

Toledo Jr./Sr. High Principal Brian Flannery, and teachers Meg Groat and Peter Vince described "Power Language Arts," a new class proposed for the school. The class targets students who are deficient in either reading or writing by having smaller classes and individualized instruction. There is an online component to the class as well.

The course complements rather than replaces English, and is an elective class. It will return for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

Potential Effects of the Economy on LCSD

Business Manager Julie Baldwin shared potential impacts of the economic downturn on LCSD, saying a shortfall at the state level is imminent. She provided a historical perspective as well as possible future impacts on the district, and said though the budget numbers from the state are not finalized, the district should consider the current situation a warning for what is to come. The next forecast from the state is due November 19. Governor Kulongoski has indicated he may hold back on spending reserves until next year to use them in the new biennium, and may reduce or eliminate school improvement funds. The Governor's budget for the coming year is due December 1st. Ms. Baldwin will present a draft plan for possible reductions to this school year's budget at the December board meeting.

Resolution- 403(b) Plan Document

Federal Department of the Treasury regulations require employers sponsoring 403(b) plans to adopt written plans by December 31, 2008. The Board will consider the plan for adoption at the next meeting.

School Based Health Centers Agreement

The Board continued their discussion on Lincoln County Health & Human Services' request to change the school based health center agreement to allow the dispensation of contraceptives at the centers. The four members present expressed their struggles with the issue, and said they would like to be able to make a decision on the request at the December 9th meeting.

Director Brenda Brown noted the Board heard a great deal of testimony, and said it is a difficult, emotional issue. She said though most would hope their children are abstinent, share all that is happening in their lives and have a supportive family, this is not the case. "Not all of our kids have access to the same services as others do," said Brown.

Director Ron Beck stated his duty has to be to the overall welfare and legal responsibility of the district. He expressed his opinion that Oregon laws allowing children 14 and 15 years of age access to birth

control is flawed public policy, which he is being asked to validate. He said students' comments are staying with him, particularly those that spoke to holding them to a higher standard. "We are giving them one message...are we enabling them, or protecting them?" asked Beck.

Director Jana Cowan expressed appreciation for all the people that have testified, both for and against the change, and said everyone has the kids' best interest at heart. "One thing that has become clear to me is that we are talking about the school based health center, not the school district itself. I don't condone sexual activity for teens, but I know it is out there and I want kids to be safe." She said she sees very little change from what is currently in place at the school based health centers; "the only change is where they get it," said Cowan.

Chairman Jean Turner said she hears new ideas each time the Board hears testimony on the issue. "I feel we need to keep our kids safe; that is the over-arching requirement." She said though many children come from good, communicative homes, many do not- "we have to keep those kids safe too." She said she is confused that Oregon law states children may not engage in sex until after age 18, when another state law states kids of 14 and 15 years of age may procure contraceptives without parental consent. "It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to keep our kids safe," said Turner.

The Board reached consensus to move the issue to a decision item at the December board meeting.

08-09 Board Goals, Timeline

Continued to December 9th, due to lateness of the hour.

Discussion on Criteria, Superintendent Evaluation Form

Continued to December 9th, due to lateness of the hour.

Discussion on District Goals

Continued to December 9th, due to lateness of the hour.

Plan to Recognize Students- Math Facts

Board members reached consensus on a plan to recognize students learning multiplication tables, as noted earlier in the meeting. Jean Turner will present for Crestview Heights, Amy Coulter for Oceanlake and Taft Elementary, Jana Cowan for Toledo Elementary, Brenda Brown for Sam Case and Ron Beck for Yaquina View. Schools will contact Board members when they have students to be recognized.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent