

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, December 9, 2008- 7:00 p.m.
Newport High School
Newport, 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; approx. 70 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Turner convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum of five board members present.

Student Representative

Newport High ASB President and student representative India Powell updated the Board regarding activities at that school, including: •a recent blood drive generated 35 first-time donors; •the City of Newport donated new street signs near the school with the “Cub” paw print on them; •the school improvement committee is exploring the idea of painting a Cub paw on the street in front of the school; •the school has a “giving tree” that will result in gifts to 50 students from Sam Case and Yaquina View; •student council will also “adopt” a family for the holidays by providing gifts to them; •a canned food drive is ongoing; •students are working to improve school spirit in a variety of ways.

Communications

Chairman Jean Turner noted the Board has received several additional written communications regarding the school based health center agreement. She asked audience members wishing to speak to this issue limit their comments to three minutes or less.

Teri Dubmeier addressed the Board as a mother of five (four at Eddyville, one at Newport High), Nazarene Church member and employee of Health & Human Services. She stated children attend school to be educated, and said they should be treated “just like everyone else” with regard to obtaining birth control: they should go to a doctor’s office.

Travis Todd asked the Board to apply two standards to the question of the school based health center agreement: are parents OK with it, and does it work. He said many claims have been made about results to be gleaned from a change in the agreement, with little evidence to support them.

Philip Schuster said the issue is one of mentorship, and what is being taught to the students. “What kind of example does this set? We need to protect the 40% who are abstaining,” said Schuster.

Mike Dean noted his opposition to the proposed change, calling it a “failed strategy.” He said parents who want their children to have access already have that choice.

Don Taylor spoke as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, expressing his support for the change in the agreement. He said he felt the change would reduce STD’s, unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

Gabrielle McEntee-Wilson urged to Board to make contraceptives available at school based health centers. She made the point that young women bear the majority of the consequences of unwanted pregnancies, many times spending their lifetimes in economic hardship. “It is illogical to assume that having contraception available is condoning sex.” She urged the Board to be mavericks and to allow the dispensation of contraceptives at school based health centers.

Linda Brazel quoted the inventor of the “Pill,” who said he thought it would not lead to more promiscuity, but changed his mind. Ms. Brazel said she is not in favor of “contraceptives being handed out.”

Sandy Adams thanked the Board for this “thoughtful, respectful process” and noted some core facts about the issue. Health providers must engage or attempt to engage families. “It’s not just a law, it’s a good idea. Rights come with responsibilities and consequences; it is our job to teach our teens this. We are working to remove barriers.”

Gretchen Gants gave the Board a petition she circulated in favor of the comprehensive plan with 151 signatures on it.

Paula Sampson stated that “we stand before you as concerned members of this community. We all stand united to protect the health, safety and futures of our youth.” She asked the school board to support the teen reproductive health plan, including dispensing contraceptives in school based health centers. She added “Nothing in this plan precludes parents from restricting their child’s use of the centers.”

Board Reports

Director Brenda Brown reported she and Jean Turner attended a meeting of the state revenue restructuring task force meeting. She also reported she distributed her first “Math Facts” certificates to students at Sam Case who mastered their “times table.”

West Area Report

Newport High Principal Jon Zagel summarized the first three months of the school year at that school. Staff began the Freshman Academy to assist freshman students adjust to high school life and academia. Referrals are down and attendance is up at the school.

New courses approved last year (Oregon Outdoors- with a waiting list- and Film as Literature) are going well. The school held “Career Day” with 40 presenters, and the Aspire Center is helping 154 students.

Two NHS students are National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists: Logan Williams and Zach Horvath. Mr. Zagel heralded Newport High alumni Amelia Zirin Brown (who recorded a CD with Yo-Yo Ma), Brent Barton (a new state of Oregon senator), Mark Hanrahan (a reporter of Fox 12) and Nathan Ball (an inventor and PBS host of “Design Squad”).

K-12 International Baccalaureate (IB) Update

West area Principals Marsha Eckelman, Sharman Ensminger, Kristin Becker and Jon Zagel provided an overview of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program in the west area. The Primary Years (grades K-5) and Middle Years (grades 6-10) are being explored.

Jon Zagel reported 109 students at Newport High are taking IB classes, with as many as 15 considering an IB diploma. He stated rigor at the school has been raised as a result of IB, and called the program “amazing.”

Presentation on SEAS

Science, Engineering and Art by the Sea (SEAS) program coordinator Jody Hanna shared highlights of the program with the Board. Four two-week sessions have taken place each of the last two summers, focusing on chemistry, biology, math, physics and art. The instruction is hands on and covers a wide range of subject matter. 98 students participated in the summer 2008 program, with one paid college intern and several high school student volunteers.

Licensed teachers and professionals in science and the arts teach the students; a diverse group of teachers and topics is offered. The program was self-sustaining the second year, and serves students in grades one through six.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Rinearson thanked optometric physician Rick Letherer for his donation of six student eye exams and glasses for those who need them. Dr. Letherer began this tradition in 1994, and has provided the service every year since.

Mr. Rinearson thanked bus drivers of Mid Columbia Bus Company, who donated a \$150 Payless Shoes gift card to the district’s homeless program.

Mid Columbia will also continue its tradition of offering four \$500 scholarships (one each to Taft, Newport, Toledo and Waldport High Schools). Building administrators will make the student selections.

The Superintendent recognized Waldport businesses Grand Central Pizza and Carpet Techs for their support of the 21st Century Learning Center in Waldport. Grand Central Pizza donated gift certificates, and Carpet Techs donated over 80 “reading rugs.”

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Carpet Etc. and installer Steve Schulist for their donation of a 12'x10' carpet remnant to Yaquina View, which Mr. Schulist bound. It is being used in one of the kindergarten classrooms.

The Superintendent wished board member Jana Cowan a happy birthday (December 7) and recognized board member Brenda Brown for a recent award she received from the Oregon State Marine Board.

He began a discussion of a board policy regarding showing movies in the classroom with a conversation on R-rated movies at the high school level. The Superintendent stated schools must obtain his approval first before showing R-rated movies. A list of movies that align with district curriculum will be developed, with eventual review by the Board.

The last day of school before winter break is Friday, December 19th.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 08/09-23

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

- Minutes, November 18, 2008 Regular Session;**
- Toledo High/Eddyville Charter Swim Team;**
- Power Language Arts Course, Toledo High;**
- Charter Amendments, Siletz Valley, Siletz Early College, and Eddyville Charters;**
- Revised 08/09 South Area Calendar;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Resolution 2008/09-5, 403(b) Plan Document.**

Approval- School Based Health Centers Agreement

Motion 08/09-24

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved by a vote of four "aye," one opposed (Director Beck) the agreement between LCSD and Lincoln County Health and Human Services pursuant to school based health centers as noted in the December 9, 2008 board folder, but removing the parenthetical remark in section 4.1 ("excluding the dispensing of birth control methods"). This change allows the dispensation of contraception at school based health centers as part of a comprehensive reproductive health care plan.

Director Brenda Brown reiterated her feeling that "we all hope our kids are abstinent until they are adults. We hope all parents talk to their teens about protection and sex. But that is not the reality." Many students do not have good support systems, and may not have adults to speak to. Ms. Brown noted the biggest reason for her support of the change to the agreement is the large number of at risk children in our district.

Director Beck expressed his opposition to the change, saying the school based health center agreement issue is not as clear as many of those coming before the Board. "There is no right or wrong answer tonight; it is a message we send our youth of 'we trust you but we don't trust you.'" He stated he would stand by the Board's decision, but voted with those that feel our current policy is the correct one. He also disagreed with state laws that require parental permission and involvement with a myriad of things, yet allow student access to birth control without parental permission. "The plan presented can reduce

pregnancies or reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases; it cannot do both...My vote represents 20% of the school board. I believe there are at least 20 percent of Lincoln County residents that believe as I do," stated Beck. He added that budget cuts may necessitate the closure of school based health centers in the future.

Director Amy Coulter said she sees it as a health care issue, not an emotional one. "It is about health and educating our youth. I would like to see more emphasis on abstinence," said Coulter.

Director Jana Cowan commented she "has no doubt that everyone I listened to have only the best interest of children in mind," and said she'd followed the issue for two years. She stressed the plan is for a comprehensive health care program teaching children about their bodies, abstinence, emotional aspects of sexual relations, and talking to adults about such matters. "Also this is not a school issue. The only thing we are asked to change is the agreement with Health and Human Services." If there is disagreement with patient confidentiality, that issue must be brought before the state. Ms. Cowan said there is good data saying the change in the agreement will prevent pregnancies, STDs and abortions. "Addressing the realities and leaving the moral issues in the families is important," said Cowan.

Chairman Jean Turner expressed her support for the change, saying "We have so many young people with no access to this information." She said she felt badly for the parents not supporting the plan and said if there was assurance that all students had family support "we wouldn't even be asked this." She expressed frustration with the issue, and said "I know we are not going to make half of you happy. I believe we must do this to keep our children safe."

Plan, 08/09 Budget Shortfall

Superintendent Tom Rinearson presented a plan to address the budget shortfall this school year. (More detail about the plan was shared in an email to all personnel and the Board earlier the day of the Board meeting). He explained a reduction in revenue from the state coupled with increased expenditures creates a deficit this school year totaling over \$1.95 million. The deficit will be addressed by reducing expenditures and raising/shifting revenue. For next year the District is looking a reduction of \$4 million. "We will have to make reductions, not like the Governor's statement that there will be no cuts to schools," said the Superintendent.

Central structures and departments will make reductions of approximately \$290,000, and schools will make reductions of approximately \$581,685. Building principals will forward their respective recommendations to Asst. Superintendent Len Geiger by December 19th. Human Resources and Business department staff will review the recommendations, and in the event of layoffs will develop a plan for the Superintendent's review January 5th.

Approval of Need to Layoff

Motion 08/09-25

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board declared by a vote of four "aye," one opposed (Director Brown) the need for a layoff of personnel this school year, directing staff to do everything possible to minimize the effects to students and staff. This approval is not a guarantee that layoffs will occur this year, but lays the groundwork should a reduction in force become necessary.

Director Brown stated a layoff should be the last resort and said the numbers are fluid at this point. Director Beck reminded the group of the 30-day notice of intent to layoff requirement in the licensed agreement. Ms. Brown suggested using school improvement days for school, and shortening the school year. The Superintendent noted his disagreement with that approach, as it creates a bigger deficit the following year.

Chairman Turner agreed the numbers are fluid, but said staff needs as much time as possible. "I fully support the communication to all staff that layoffs are the choice of last resort" added Turner.

Director Brown again stated her discomfort with the thought of a layoff, and said she would like to see plans from the buildings before declaring the need for a layoff. "I have a lot of heartburn when the numbers are so fluid. I would rather push it off and have a one item meeting to do this, or not do it at all."

Director Cowan said she wants to make it clear, in lieu of the timeline and critical nature of the issue, that layoffs are the choice of last resort. Superintendent Rinearson asked if the Board is directing him to use all available cash to avoid layoffs; the Board expressed consensus that they are not. (The Superintendent explained that using cash creates a larger deficit in the following year, as it is one-time money). Chairman Turner noted no one is in favor of layoffs, but they are sometimes necessary.

Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of November 30, 2008. Property tax revenues are comparable to last year. Enrollment declines have slowed, which should help the District's revenue next year. Monthly revenues from the state will be reduced by 1.2% beginning in January, 2009.

Superintendent Rinearson noted the estimated adjustment to the state school fund of (\$276,079), based on 2008/09 enrollment. This reduction is scheduled to occur in May, 2010. He said staff is monitoring this number.

Discussion on New Form, Superintendent Evaluation

The Board discussed a new evaluation form developed for a future annual review of the Superintendent's performance. The Board reached consensus to study the form and make suggestions over the next several months.

Discussion on Timeline, 08/09 Superintendent Evaluation

A timeline for the 2008/09 evaluation of Superintendent Rinearson was presented. The Board will use the same form as has been used the last several years. The evaluation will be done in January, 2009.

08-09 Board Goals, Timeline

The Board developed draft goals during a summer work session. With a busy fall schedule, some of the goals have not yet been addressed. The Board reached consensus to leave the goals as written; they will consider them for approval at the next meeting.

Discussion on District Goals

The Board discussed District goals and priorities, which they adopted last school year. Superintendent Rinearson noted the priorities help guide the development of the budget.

Discussion on Board Zones

The Board began a discussion on board zones and the future possibility of re-zoning. The zones are configured based on census figures; the last time they were adjusted was 1975. Director Beck noted the Board is elected at large rather than by zone, though they must live in the zone they represent. Chairman Turner suggested using school attendance boundaries. The Board will discuss this topic at a future summer board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent