



BOARD REPORT

A Summary of the December 9, 2008 School Board Meeting

The school board met in regular session on December 9, 2008 at Newport High with approximately 70 members of the staff, media and interested patrons 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 centers agreement.

Ten audience members addressed the Board on this topic, with five in support of the suggested change to the agreement and five opposed. The Board voted on the agreement later in the meeting.

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 NHS. 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 and Film as Literature) are going well. The school held “Career Day” with 40 presenters, and the Aspire Center is helping 154 students prepare for life after high school.

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 for 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 program was self-sustaining the second year, and serves students in grades one through six.

The Board Report is a summary from the latest meeting of the Lincoln County School District Board of Directors. For additional information, you may contact Laurie Urquhart, Secretary or Tom Rinearson, Superintendent at 265-4403.

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

The Board approved the Consent Calendar items, including:

- Minutes, 11/18/08 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, including:**
 - Resignations:** Kimberly Blevins, TOES; Lisa Higgins;
 - Coaches:** Andrea Jones, NHS; Kira Woosley, WHS;
 - Leaves of Absence:** Valencia Pillion, 11/10/08-12/19/08; Olivia Schroeder, 1/26/09-2/6/09; Mary Woods, 1/5/09-1/4/10;
- Resolution 2008/09-5, 403(b) Plan Document.**

Approval- School Based Health Centers Agreement

The Board approved by a vote of four "aye," one opposed (Director Beck) the amended school based health centers agreement with Lincoln County Health and Human Services. The most significant change in the agreement will allow dispensation of contraceptives at the centers as part of a comprehensive reproductive health care plan.

Plan, 08/09 Budget Shortfall

Superintendent Tom Rinearson presented a plan to address the budget shortfall this school year. 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 as follows: •usage of \$600,000 of District cash; •over-budgeted retiree benefits of \$117,000; •\$61,000 of general fund expenditures will be expensed through ESD Tier II monies; •an error by ODE in SSF (State School Fund) estimate of \$40,000; •difference in estimated average teacher cost vs. actual teacher cost \$266,760.

Reductions totaling \$290,000 from central structure departments and \$581,685 from buildings will make up the rest of the deficit.

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

The Board approved by a vote of four "aye," one opposed (Director Brown) the need for a layoff of personnel this school year. Staff was directed to work hard 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.

Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of November 30, 2008. Enrollment declines have slowed, which should help the District's revenue next year.

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. The Board will discuss this topic at a future summer board meeting.



Happy Holidays!!

Next Meeting: January 13, 2009 at Sam Case Elementary