

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, March 10, 2009- 7:00 p.m.
Taft 7-12
Lincoln City, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Jana Cowan, Vice Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 40 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Vice Chairman Jana Cowan convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:11 p.m. with a quorum of four board members present. Chairman Turner was excused from the meeting.

Student Representatives, Taft 7-12

Taft 7-12 Student Council representatives Andy Derringer (President), Crystal Connor (Historian), Marissa Fochtan (Freshman President), Doug Gakstatter (Sophomore President), Aly Viles (Treasurer) and Anne Marie Sketch (Secretary) addressed the Board about activities at their school.

Ms. Connor reported she is gathering information for a scrap book of the events that have occurred at the school so far this year. Treasurer Aly Viles said is developing a “student of the month” program, and students are involved with monthly beach cleanups with the city of Lincoln City.

Principal Scott Reed reported Anne Marie Sketch was elected 2009/10 DECA President, and noted the great performance by Aly Viles at the state swim meet.

Public Hearing, Siletz Early College Academy

The Board recessed into a public hearing to hear input on the proposed renewal of Siletz Early College Academy Charter School. No comments from the audience were generated, though Principal Bob Line noted the positive experiences of families at the school.

Annual Report, Siletz Early College Academy and Siletz Valley School

Principal Bob Line reported his report would cover both charter schools in Siletz (K-8 and 9-12). He noted the good collaboration between the school(s) and the District, and said most students attending them reside in Siletz. About 60% of students are of Native American descent; the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution fund supports many activities (including athletics) at the school. He noted the SMILE program (Science and Math Investigative Learning Experience) has offered many opportunities for staff and students.

Community service is an important aspect of both schools, and volunteerism has doubled at the schools this year. Parent involvement has also increased.

Superintendent Rinearson noted there are two charters in Siletz, one for the K-8 school and one for the high school. He asked Mr. Line if, since he was combining his report, there had been discussion about combining the charters. Mr. Line responded that a merger is not possible under existing charter school law.

The high school charter is up for renewal as of June 30, 2009. The Board will consider their intent to renew this charter at the next board meeting.

Board Reports

Vice Chair Jana Cowan reported Toledo Elementary is host to artist-in-residence Mamadou, who is teaching African drumming to students.

Director Ron Beck noted his presentation of 14 Certificates of Achievement to students at Yaquina View Elementary attaining multiplication table mastery.

Kent Hanrahan- BOSS Program

Taft 7-12 volunteer Kent Hanrahan described the “BOSS” (Basis of Student Study) program at the school. Students are encouraged to suggest ways the school might be improved. Students whose suggestions are selected are recognized in a variety of ways.

Taft 7-12 Report: Four Day Week, 09/10

Taft 7-12 Principal Scott Reed presented a proposed plan for four-and-a-half-day weeks in the coming year. As it stands now, the plan lengthens the school days Monday through Thursday by 26 minutes each, with Fridays reserved for staff development and student interventions. Students may also access additional learning opportunities on Friday afternoons such as internships, on-line, guest lectures, proficiency based learning and Oregon Coast Community College offerings. Mr. Reed reported several successful high schools in Oregon currently use this model, including Corbett and Colton.

This year at Taft 7-12, attendance improved, and suspensions/expulsions are noticeably down. Vandalism has also decreased significantly.

The proposal will save 1 FTE, but is suggested as a way to improve student learning rather than to save money. “Our teaching staff is on-board with this plan,” said Reed. He stated the most important way to impact student learning is the quality of instruction, which the proposed plan will help to improve. The plan will return to the board for consideration at the next meeting.

Director Beck asked about bus routes on the K-6 side; Mr. Reed replied the routes are not mixed with those of the high school. Mr. Beck then asked if parts of the plan must be negotiated; Mr. Rinearson said those issues are being pursued.

Taft High Eligibility Project

Taft 7-12 Athletic Director Mychal Williams updated the Board on the Taft High Eligibility project, ongoing for the past year and a half. (The project allows Taft students to follow different athletic eligibility requirements than those listed in LCSD policy IGD). Mr. Williams reported signs of positive improvement for students struggling academically but participating in athletics. Students are provided tutoring to help them get back on track.

Director Cowan asked how non-athlete students are being helped. Principal Scott Reed noted there are interventions in reading and math, and students are encouraged to get involved with clubs and school pride.

Financial Report

Ms. Julie Baldwin presented the financial report for February, 2009 showing the decline in state funding. Interest rates remain low, but student numbers are holding steady.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson reported Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown will visit Ms. Murphy's 4th period government class March 16. She will lead an activity on the importance of youth voting.

The Superintendent thanked the Waldport Lions Club, who presented a new bike and helmet to Crestview Heights second grader Brooklyn McElroy. She was selected from a pool of students completing books and their respective book reports.

Mr. Rinearson thanked Morag Reid and the Toledo community for their widespread support of Campbell's "Labels for Education" program. 20,000 points were generated from the labels collected, which will enable the "purchase" of a variety of PE/recess equipment. Ms. Reid coordinates this effort.

Superintendent Rinearson recognized the 16-member NHS Robotics team, who placed 11th of 54 teams in regional competition. The team is advised by teachers Brian Hanna and Mike Jakobsson.

The Superintendent noted his visit to Yaquina View Elementary to watch the robotics club in action.

Mr. Rinearson reported parent/teacher conferences will take place this week in the north, south and west areas. Though most conferences will take place Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and Thursday evening, patrons should contact the respective school for the exact hours. The east area will hold conferences the first week of April.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 08/09-33

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

- Minutes, Feb. 10, 2009 Regular Session;**
- Minutes, February 24, 2009 Work Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum (including contract for Tom Zandoli);**

- Renewals, Non-Renewals of Probationary/ Licensed Personnel;
- Policy DG, Banking.

Approval of Intent to Renew Eddyville Charter

Motion 08/09-34

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board unanimously declared their intent to renew the charter with the Eddyville Charter School (ECS). This approval will initiate negotiation of a new charter contract with ECS, which will come before the Board at a later date.

Approval of Custodial Contract, Sodexo

Motion 08/09-35

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board unanimously approved a five-year contract with Sodexo for custodial services, through June 2014.

Director of Support Services Rich Belloni, local Sodexo manager Bill Hemphill and Sodexo District manager Cedryc Logan presented responses to questions asked under separate cover by board member Brenda Brown. The turnover rate for custodians in LCSD is at 10.7% this year, but was between 12 and 18% in previous years. There are currently 8 “rollover” custodians (formerly employed by LCSD), down from 11; two of the 11 retired and one was hired by the district in a different capacity.

In response to a question about training, Mr. Hemphill noted the orientation process, wherein new custodians are fingerprinted and attend a four-hour training on fire safety, accidents, etc. before they start work. Many times new custodians begin as substitute employees to learn the job before they become permanent employees. Mr. Logan added they also receive monthly trainings on safety and customer relations.

Mr. Belloni reported there were 33 custodians when custodial services were outsourced. Since that time six years ago, some schools have closed resulting in the current staffing of 28. (When schools were closed, the respective area was credited with whatever savings were realized, said Belloni). The custodial contract was revised as schools were closed. There was an in-house manager when the district employed the custodians, but that job was eliminated for a time and principals managed the custodians with some oversight by head custodians. Mr. Belloni said he administered union and disciplinary issues during this time, and said this method was not a productive one.

Forty-six percent of custodians participate in some form of medical insurance, said Belloni (it is optional). In response to a question about training and skills, Mr. Belloni noted most maintenance of equipment like boilers and fire suppression systems is done by Facilities/Maintenance staff.

LCSD sold the existing custodial equipment to the vendor for \$50,000. Mr. Hemphill reported Sodexo has purchased approximately \$17,000 worth of new equipment at the beginning of the contract.

Responding to a question about monthly reports and satisfaction surveys, Mr. Belloni said he talks to Mr. Hemphill mostly daily (weekly at least), so they do not do written monthly reports. Sodexo reports to the Board annually, and Superintendent Rinearson and Director Belloni take part in an “expectations” meeting with Sodexo leaders annually. Principals completed satisfaction surveys, and most are happy with their custodians. At three buildings, principals expressed concern with their night custodian(s).

Approximately \$325,000 per year has been saved since the district contracted for custodial services, said Belloni. Pay for new hires is low; it may help to offer a slightly higher wage though that money would have to come out of funds currently directed toward classrooms.

Oregon School Employees Association mailed each board member a packet of information about custodial services; the cover letter stated Forest Grove's custodial contractor realized a profit margin of 40%. Mr. Belloni disputed this, and Mr. Logan reported the profit margin there (Sodexo provides custodial services in Forest Grove) is under ten percent.

Responding to a suggestion to renew the contract for one year rather than five, Mr. Belloni stated his preference for a five year contract to provide continuity to the district and to custodial employees. He also noted the contract with Sodexo currently states either party may terminate the contract with 120 days notice.

Approval of Resolution in Support of HB 2558 and HB 3401

Motion 08/09-36

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2008/09-9 in support of HB 2558 and HB 3401, two bills currently being considered in the State Legislature and whose passage would lessen the severity of the economic downturn. HB 2558 would enable Toledo Jr./Sr. High to be considered a "small high school," thus eligible for additional funding. HB 3401 would allow LCSD access to its PERS side account (an account established when the District bonded its PERS liability, currently unavailable to the district).

School Calendars, 2009/10

Operations Administrator Joe Novello presented school calendars for 2009/10. The east, west and south calendars will use a common calendar including five staff development days occurring on Mondays.

The north area proposes two separate calendars, one for the 7-12 school (the four-and-a-half-day week calendar) and one for the elementary schools. Principal Scott Reed described the proposed high school calendar earlier in the meeting. The proposed north area elementary calendar has a 5-day week and includes six staff development days on Fridays.

The calendars will return to the Board for approval at the next board meeting.

Policy IKF, High School Diploma...

Operations Administrator Joe Novello presented a revised policy IKF, High School Diploma including a new section on "credit options." The new portion allows students to receive credit for work done in alternative settings, including performance-based work and demonstration of competency of a subject as defined by the district.

Information on Safe Schools Grant

Safety Coordinator Sue Graves and Operations Administrator Joe Novello described the "Safe Schools Healthy Students" grant recently submitted. If successful, the grant would provide \$1.5 million per year

for up to five years for Lincoln County communities and schools. Results of the grant application will be known between July 1 and September 30.

Superintendent Rinearson commended Sue Graves and all involved with completing the application, as the turnaround time was exceptionally short. Many community partners are a part of this application.

Board Vice Chair Jana Cowan thanked Ms. Graves and others who worked so hard to complete the application.

Information on Retirement Event

The annual retirement/recognition event is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at the Embarcadero. Retirees and employees with years of service awards will be honored, along with employees of the year and volunteers.

Information on Tax Anticipation Notes/Borrowing Funds- Cash Flow

Business Manager Julie Baldwin is exploring ways to address an expected cash shortfall prior to the receipt of property tax revenues in November. Tax anticipation notes have been used in the past but because interest rates have declined, this method is no longer advantageous to the district. She will present a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

Discussion on Superintendent's Contract

This agenda item was continued to the next meeting.

Information on Board Zones

Jack Nickerson, now with the Linn Benton Lincoln ESD, presented information regarding the current configuration of school board zones with the goal of realigning the zones along voter precinct boundaries, eliminating split precincts and balancing voter populations between zones. Mr. Nickerson presented two options for the Board's consideration, and will present another at a future meeting.

If the Board wishes to move forward with realigning the zones, they may do so by resolution said Superintendent Rinearson.

Plan to Address 08/09 Budget Shortfall- 2009/10 Budget Outlook

Superintendent Rinearson reported the current year's funding has stabilized. Staff is developing the budget for the next biennium, though the situation is and will remain extremely fluid. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

Director Beck asked about outcomes if the May state revenue forecast is down substantially from projected. The Superintendent replied it is likely legislators will further tap federal stimulus dollars if this occurs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent