

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Siletz Valley School
Siletz, 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 40 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 7:06 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Siletz Early College Academy- Update

Siletz Early College teacher Joe Scott summarized his role teaching the Native American language Athabaskan at the school, made possible by their receipt of a grant. Mr. Scott teaches the language to middle and high school students half of the day and develops elementary curriculum for it the other half. He is assisted by Cova St. Onge, Project Coordinator. This language was spoken by Siletz ancestors and had nearly vanished. Mr. Scott learned the language from Mr. Bud Lane, Project Director, who has been instrumental in sharing the language with Mr. Scott and students. Future plans include sharing the language on the internet.

Communications

Parent Debra Marthaller spoke in support of the schools in Siletz, saying the schools have benefited her children greatly. She urged the Board to renew the charter with Siletz Early College Academy.

Yaquina View students Kennedy McEntee and Brian Lighthill spoke in support of their teacher, Lori Miller. Parents Deanna Gravelle, Tiffany Faruki, Phoebe Hein, Celeste McEntee and Julie Lighthill also spoke in support of Ms. Miller, who was displaced from the school. Chairman Turner noted the matter will be referred to staff.

Board Reports

Board member Brenda Brown reported she recently testified at a public hearing for proposed legislation HB 2558, a bill supporting the designation of additional small high schools.

Board Vice-Chair Jana Cowan noted Toledo Elementary will present a talent show for grades K to 3 on April 29 at 2:00 p.m.

Board Chair Jean Turner congratulated the 30 students at Crestview Heights who mastered their multiplication tables (bringing the total at the school this year to 43). Board members present certificates to students achieving this goal, and then call the student's parents.

East Area Report- Siletz Charter Schools

Principal Bob Line thanked the Board for their support of the charter schools in Siletz, especially during these uncertain financial times. He also thanked the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for their support, and said programs like the language one mentioned earlier would not be possible without this support.

Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin reported the first School Day Restoration Fund monies should be received April 15. No unusual expenditures were noted. ADM is currently higher than projected.

09/10 Budget Information

Superintendent Tom Rinearson and Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented possible budget scenarios for the coming year. The range of state funding for K-12 education for the coming biennium is \$5.4 billion to \$5.9 billion. LCSD will build its budget on the state level of \$5.9 billion and will have spending plans for lesser amounts of state funding.

Using the higher state number would still mean reductions from the level of spending in place this current year of approximately \$7.5 million. State funding at the \$5.4 billion level would mean an additional reduction in LCSD of approximately \$2.6 million (for a total reduction next year of \$10.1 million from the current level of spending).

The next state revenue forecast will be released May 15th. Superintendent Rinearson noted this information was shared with board members prior to their vote regarding the need for a layoff of personnel next year.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson reported Sam Case and Taft Elementary Schools were recipients of over \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively in Oregon lottery "Scratch It for Schools" proceeds. U92 radio teamed with Sam Case and BOSS radio with Taft Elementary for this event.

The Superintendent thanked Oregon Sea Grant for their donation of \$2,000 to cover transportation costs to the Hatfield Marine Science Center during half-price days. Thirty-one classrooms and over 1,000 students participated in this program. He recognized Community Partnership Liaison Ruth McDonald for her contributions, noting she "makes it happen."

Mr. Rinearson reported Newport High will become a Channel 6 “weather bug” beginning in June. At that time, weather and wind speed at the school will be reported on Channel 6. Science curriculum is a part of the designation as well.

Superintendent Rinearson reported Taft High teacher Neil Borzcik is teaching a Marine Science course using “Wet Paint,” an online collaborative program. Students do marine science research and post their projects online. They work collaboratively with other students, much like college courses.

Mr. Rinearson noted Friday, April 17 marks the end of the next to last grading period of this school year.

The Superintendent congratulated Sam Case Elementary for capturing the attendance flag with the lowest absentee rate for elementary schools in the district for the month of March.

Superintendent Rinearson introduced Sara Johnson, who will become the Human Resources Director next year.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 08/09-37

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

- Minutes, March 10, 2009 Regular Session;**
- Policy IKF, High School Diploma...;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum.**

Intent to Renew Siletz Early College Academy Charter

Motion 08/09-38

On motion of Director Coulter, seconded by Director Ron Beck, the Board unanimously approved their intent to renew the charter with the Siletz Early College Charter School. This approval will initiate negotiation of a new charter contract with that school, which will come before the Board at a later date.

Intent to Layoff Personnel, 2009/10

Motion 08/09-39

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board approved the need for a layoff of personnel next school year by a vote of four “aye,” one opposed (Director Brown). Board members expressed their desire to minimize effects to students and staff.

Director Brown stated she “strongly believes we need to protect our programs and classrooms. I think we need to do everything else first.”

Resolution, Teacher Appreciation Week

Motion 08/09-40

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2008/09-40 declaring the week of May 3 through 9, 2009 as “teacher appreciation week” in Lincoln County schools. Chairman Jean Turner read the proclamation to the audience.

Information on Student Fees, 2009/10

A revised fee schedule for the coming year was presented. The two recommended changes are:
•maximum fee for high school activity cards from \$11 to \$15; •maximum fee for admission to non-athletic events (i.e., prom) from \$15 to \$20. The revision will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Eddyville Charter School Contract

This agenda item was continued to the next meeting.

Out of Country Field Trip, Newport High (Greece, Italy)

Motion 08/09-41

On motion of Vice Chair Jana Cowan, seconded by Director Coulter, the Board unanimously approved a request from Newport High teacher Samantha Murphy to begin fundraising for travel to Italy and Greece during spring break 2010. Chairman Jean Turner asked about consequences should safety conditions in the country to be visited change; Ms. Murphy replied that EF Education Tours provides refunds if the state department issues advisories. She also noted that in addition to being fun, the trips are extremely educational. Students may have to miss up to two days of school; total cost per person is approximately \$2500. The Board reached consensus to move this item from “discussion” to “decision” (pursuant to fundraising) the evening of the board meeting.

Ms. Murphy also shared pictures of a summer 2008 student trip to China.

Results of Title Audit

Title Programs Administrator Clint Raever reported the Oregon Department of Education conducted a Federal Programs monitoring visit in LCS D during February of this year. Most of the findings were related to notifications and non-uniformity of program implementation. Title III (English Language Learners) will involve more staff development. The goal is to have most corrections complete by the end of May or earlier.

The audit generated no monetary findings, and commendations were issued to the Teen Parent Program, the Homeless Education Program and to staffs for their obvious caring for students.

Mr. Raever will present the results of the corrective actions at the June school board meeting.

Discussion on Borrowing Options

Most years, the District faces a cash shortfall prior to the receipt of property tax revenues in November. Though Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs) have been used in the past when the cost of borrowing was lower, current conditions preclude their use this year. Business Manager Julie Baldwin reported more cost effective methods of borrowing exist, including inter-fund borrowing and borrowing from local banks.

More information will be shared in the fall when the amount needed is known.

Superintendent's Contract

Motion 08/09-42

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Beck, the Board approved a new three-year contract for Superintendent Rinearson (the longest allowed by state law). The superintendent's salary will remain as it currently is, in keeping with the Superintendent's offer to freeze his salary. The Board reached consensus to vote on the contract (it was listed as a discussion item in the Board Folder).

Information on Air Quality Testing, Toledo

Director of Support Services Rich Belloni reported Toledo Elementary will be taking part in air quality testing in the coming months. USA Today conducted air quality modeling scenarios across the country and determined that Toledo Elementary falls at the lower end of the spectrum. Mr. Belloni noted that no tests were done to make this determination (only computer modeling). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be studying the air; the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is also involved with the effort. More information will be shared as it is learned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent