

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, June 23, 2009- 7:00 p.m.
Newport High School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Jean Turner, Chairman

Present: Jean Turner, Chairman; Jana Cowan, Vice-Chairman; Brenda Brown, Director

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approximately 50 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 7:25 p.m. with a quorum of three board members present. Directors Ron Beck and Amy Coulter were excused from the meeting.

Public Hearing, 2009/10 Budget

The Board recessed into a public hearing of the 2009/10 budget approved by the Budget Committee on May 28, 2009.

Toledo teacher Ron Hahn stated his belief that as many as eight teaching positions could be saved by eliminating three administrative positions at the District Office (Director of Support Services, Operations Administrator, and Curriculum/Instruction Administrator).

Parent Clifford Ryer expressed his concern with reducing one teacher at Isaac Newton Magnet School. He noted the school is the only one in the district receiving state report card ratings of “exceptional.”

Newport teacher (and parent) Lori Miller asked if the possibility of closing a school could be revisited if the state legislature appropriates additional funds. The regular session then resumed.

Communications

Ms. Lori Miller addressed the Board regarding processes (including those for 504 plans and IEPs) and “thinking out of the box.”

Newport High student Katlyn Beck asked the Board to retain NHS band teacher Matt Sadowski, saying he has vastly improved the band.

Board Reports

Director Brenda Brown reported both houses of the state legislature approved the “small schools” bill, which will result in additional funding (approximately \$386,000 per year said Ms. Brown) for Toledo High. Chairman Turner thanked Ms. Brown for her concerted efforts on this legislation.

Insurance Carriers, 2009/10

District Agent of Record Mark Collson summarized insurance proposals for the coming year. He recommended PACE/Special Districts for liability, property, and auto insurance, and SAIF for workers compensation insurance. Cost for this coverage will be neutral from the present cost, said Collson. Last year the District, based on Mr. Collson's recommendation, decided to stay with PACE over another carrier, despite the slightly higher premium at PACE. Policy holders at PACE have equity in the company; that equity resulted in over \$15,000 being returned to the District to offset premiums.

Cognitive Guided Instruction/Improving Math Achievement

Mentor teacher Deb Gaffney described several programs ongoing in the District to improve student achievement in mathematics, including: •**Cognitive Guided Instruction** (helping teachers understand how students learn and providing effective teaching strategies); •**Math Instructional Coaches K-8** (two trained math instructional coaches will support staff in implementing the new national and state math standards); •**Moving Math Forward** workshops (ODE-sponsored training focused on understanding and implementing new K-12 National Council of Mathematics standards); •**Math Alignment Project** (north area project lead by teacher Allison Samuels over the past four years to align math instruction); and •**High School Math Cadre meetings** (facilitation of high school math discussions by Brian Hanna and Teresa Atwill on how to implement new national standards).

West Area Report

Newport High Principal Jon Zagel reported 151 seniors graduated from NHS this year. Approximately 90% of these students stated they will be continuing their education. He noted two ongoing summer programs in the west area: the 21st Century learning center and the SEAS (Science, Engineering and Art School) program.

Mr. Zagel described the process leading to the possibility of the reconfiguration of schools in the west area for next year, saying a "perfect storm" of conditions exists with declining enrollment, rising costs and less funding from the state. With substantial reductions looming, it became evident that keeping all four schools open would result in draconian cuts to all of them. West area principals are recommending restructuring schools in Newport and the closure of one elementary school (which one is not yet decided). The current plan is for a K-3 school (also housing the pre-school), an intermediate school with grades 4-5-6 (and housing Isaac Newton Magnet School), and grades 7-12 at the high school, though grades 7 and 8 will be a prep academy.

"This is the hardest thing I've ever had to do," commented Zagel. He said the west area administrators believe it is the best decision for kids, and will save teachers and programs. Chairman Jean Turner said the discussion is continuing, and said though every area in the district has had to make similar changes it does not diminish the pain felt in the west area.

A community meeting for patrons to hear the plan and give input or ask questions is planned for Tuesday, June 30, 2009- 6:30 p.m. at Newport High School. The Board will learn more about the proposal in a work session July 7, and will be considering it at their July 14th regular session meeting.

Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin shared financial reports as of May 31, 2009. She reported state timber revenue is down in Lincoln County, and said interest rates continue to decline. The ending fund balance for the 08/09 year will be about \$2 million.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Chairman Jean Turner for her service as Chairman this year, and presented her with a plaque.

The Superintendent reported Facilities Manager Tim Kaufman was recognized by the Oregon School Facilities Management Association as a “Certified School Facilities Specialist.” He was also pictured in the newsletter.

Mr. Rinearson gave kudos to Oceanlake Elementary for winning the attendance flag for May.

The Superintendent thanked Fred Meyer for their donation of \$3,278 to the District from their “Support Our Schools” campaign. Selected vendors donate \$1 for each of their items sold during a nine week period.

Superintendent Rinearson reported the Board will be meeting in several meetings in July: a work session July 7 (7:00 p.m., Newport High); a retreat work session July 10 and 11 (location to be determined), and a regular session July 14 (7:00 p.m., Newport High).

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 08/09-46

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

- Minutes of the May 12, 2009 Regular Session;**
- Life of An Athlete Program;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Food Service Contract, Sodexo, 09/10.**

A proposal to give termination notice of the agreement for school based health centers was removed from the Consent Calendar due to a conflict of interest (Jana Cowan) and the fact that only three board members were present. The Superintendent is recommending the centers’ protocols be reviewed to ensure student safety; it is intended they will continue operations. This item will be considered at an upcoming meeting.

Approval of Charter- Siletz Early College Academy

Motion 08/09-47

On motion of Director Brenda Brown, seconded by Director Jana Cowan, the Board unanimously approved the charter contract for Siletz Valley Early College Academy for the July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014 time period.

Approval of Charter- Eddyville Charter School

Motion 08/09-48

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved the charter contract for Eddyville Charter School for the July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014 time period. The enrollment cap of 200 students will remain as is.

Approval of 09/10 Area Calendars

Motion 08/09-49

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously approved the area calendars for the 2009/10 school year as distributed June 23, 2009. Calendars in the east, west and south areas of the District are very similar, with school improvement days occurring on Mondays.

In the north area, Taft 7-12 will be going to a four-day regular school week with Fridays set aside for staff development and student remediation.

The calendar for elementary schools in the north area is very similar to the one used this year, with a five-day regular school week. School improvement days will occur on Fridays for the north area elementary schools.

Mr. Rinearson noted the proposed realignment of west area schools may see a change in that calendar. Staff will look at the number of instructional minutes to ensure compliance with state requirements.

The calendars may be accessed on the district's website, www.lincoln.k12.or.us.

Approval of Writing Prime- Planned Course Statement and Syllabus **Motion 08/09-50**

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Brown, the Board approved the syllabus and planned course statement for a new course at Waldport High School: Writing Prime. The course is designed to assist students struggling with writing. With the Board's approval, all district schools may access the course.

Assistant Principal Brian Gardner presented this item, and reported teacher Kathleen Ritzman contributed significantly to the effort.

Approval of Resolution 2008/09-13 Adopting 2009/10 Budget **Motion 08/09-51**

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2008/09-13 adopting the 2009/10 budget as approved by the Budget Committee May 28, 2009. The budget delineates an appropriation level that is likely higher than the spending plans to follow.

Chairman Turner noted one rationale is that if the District were to receive additional revenue, it could be spent without reconvening the budget committee.

Ms. Baldwin said many parts of the budget will not change, i.e., the debt service fund, the levy amount, and the tax rate.

Approval of PACE and SAIF Insurance Carriers **Motion 08/09-52**

On motion of Director Cowan, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved PACE/Special District of Oregon for general liability, property, vehicles, and errors/omissions insurance, and SAIF for workers compensation insurance for the 2009/10 year.

Approval of Facilities Agreements **Motion 08/09-53**

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Cowan the Board unanimously approved agreements for rental of space as noted in the June 23, 2009 board folder. Director Brown stated she concurs with the agreements, "as long as they have the 30 to 90 day termination clauses."

Approval of Resolution 2008/09-12, Certification of Election Results **Motion 08/09-54**

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Cowan, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2008/09-12, Certification of the May 19, 2009 Special District Election Results. Directors Beck, Cowan and Turner were re-elected to four year terms in the election.

Oaths of Office

Business Manager Julie Baldwin administered oaths of office to Directors Cowan and Turner.

Discussion of 2009/10 Alternative Education Programs

Operations Administrator Joe Novello presented a list of alternative education programs for the 2009/10 year. They are the Toledo High Alternative program, the Carolyn Brown School, and Insight School of Oregon. Insight School, an online high school, serves students from all four district high schools plus one middle school student. The list will return to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

Information on Lincoln City Career Tech Report

Operations Administrator Joe Novello reported Lincoln City Career Tech staff sent the school's annual report electronically prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Novello noted great strides have occurred in the school's program.

Information on New Field Trip Form

Mr. Novello noted a recent arbitration decision was the impetus to a revised field trip form for the district. The form adds several components, including an overnight supervision plan.

Title Audit- Corrections on Findings

Earlier this year, the district took part in an audit of Title programs by ODE. Title Programs Administrator Clint Raever presented a corrective action report to the Board under separate cover. Mr. Raever is working closely with ODE to correct the findings (mostly related to notifications and non-uniformity of program implementation).

Discussion on 2009/10-1, Organizational Resolution

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented the annual "Designation of District Officers, Clerks, Agents and Depositories of Fund" resolution. Changes for the coming year include the change in ADA coordinator to the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Support Services; lowering of the mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.55 per mile; and Budget Committee vacancies in Zones 2 and 3. The resolution will return to the Board for consideration at the next regular session.

PSA- Murray Lein- Occupational Therapy

A Personal Services Agreement for the 09/10 year with Muray Lein, Occupational Therapist, was presented. The agreement will return to the Board at the next meeting for consideration.

09/10 Board Meeting Calendar

In previous meetings the Board expressed a desire to change the week of monthly board meetings to the third Tuesday of the month. A calendar reflecting this change was presented and will be considered at the next meeting. (Note: the July 09 meeting is scheduled to take place on the second Tuesday of the month, July 14th.)

Summer Board Retreat

The Board met in a retreat over two days last summer and asked to have a similar meeting this year. Board members were asked to forward topics for discussion to Laurie Urquhart.

Other

Several unidentified audience members asked if the Board could examine how responses to “blue cards” are handled; this will be discussed at an upcoming Board retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent