

**LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Work Session (Retreat)
Friday, July 10, 2009- 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 11, 2009- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Overlook Condo, Nye Beach
Newport, Oregon**

Minutes

PRESIDING: Jean Turner, Chairman

Present: Jean Turner, Chairman; Jana Cowan, Vice-Chairman; Ron Beck, Brenda Brown, Directors

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Turner convened the meeting and called the session to order at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 10 with a quorum of four board members present. Director Coulter was excused from the meeting.

Planning for the Future

Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion about how LCSD may look in three to five years, including whether or not there will be schools in every community. Though they did not come to a conclusion, they did ask the point in time when revenue received by the District will no longer be able to support having enough teachers to staff a school in every community. They noted about 12 teachers per year are lost due to the increasing cost of benefits.

Director Brown suggested commissioning an in-depth inventory of facilities, including how all buildings are being used (including land, ball fields, etc.). The Superintendent noted there are facilities to maintain schools in every community, but said the Board needs to decide its philosophy. Mr. Rinearson will explore a facilities inventory, and suggested the Board decide what the next step should be after the inventory is completed.

Labor Negotiations Planning

Superintendent Rinearson suggested the Board plan to meet in executive session before each regular board meeting to discuss labor negotiations, starting in September. The Board reached consensus to do so.

A lengthy discussion about reductions in art and music followed. Director Cowan expressed her hope that music and art be offered to every student in the district. After discussing a multitude of ways to do this, the Board reached consensus to state that the district is moving forward with its focus on reading and math, but would like to see an emphasis on art and music as well.

Board Role with the Budget and Spending Plans

Director Brown expressed her desire to discuss the budget process, and said other districts and boards have work shops together to develop their budgets. "I would like to know where the numbers are coming from and why," said Brown.

Directors Beck and Turner noted that may be "crossing the line," and that it sounded more like a budget committee function. Superintendent Rinearson said he would like to know which districts took part in meetings like this, and how they did it. Director Cowan said she would like "something in the middle," with a narrative explaining the budget.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board reached consensus they would like to meet with Superintendent monthly to discuss information related to the budget, staffing, etc. It may be that he meets with two board members at a time for efficiency.

Transfers/Variances (Policy JECC, Assignment of Students to Schools)

Board members discussed the proposed west area reconfiguration and transfers (variances). Administrators asked that transfers already approved for students entering grades 4 and 7 be honored for the 2009/10 year. Current administrative rules state students' transfers remain in effect through the highest grade level served at that particular school. The restructuring will now make grade 3 and 6 the highest levels for Sam Case and Newport Intermediate, respectively (students entering grade 9 at Newport High would have had to apply for a transfer even before the reconfiguration).

Board members expressed agreement with administrators' request. There would be a return to the policy for 2010-11 for all students.

Alignment/Power Standards

Superintendent Rinearson noted the Board will receive a report on the alignment project and power standards at the August board meeting. He said staff is working on tying the power standards to report cards.

The meeting **Friday** was recessed at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting **Saturday** was reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

Continuation of discussion on music question from Jana started the day. (Originally the Board considered having administrators examine what two hours of music per week would look like. After long discussions, the Board decided not to pursue that line of thinking, and to make a statement that the Board would like to continue moving forward on reading and math, but would also like to see an emphasis on art and music).

Superintendent Rinearson stated the Behrens Foundation and Let There Be Arts in the north area contribute significant resources to art and music there. Also, conversations with the Newport Symphony have been ongoing for about three years. Those conversations have begun some wonderful activities that will likely continue and expand. The Superintendent said the Board is looking from the "50,000

foot level” and said they could examine where to put their energy to get the most impact. One idea is to include an emphasis on art and music in school improvement plans. “I think everyone will agree with you philosophically. The trouble is balancing reading and math with music and other things.”

Board members discussed meeting with site councils throughout the year, perhaps by region. Superintendent Rinearson said he would develop a process for this and would share it with the Board at a later date.

Communication

A question came up at a recent board meeting regarding how the Board responds to board meeting attendees speaking during the “Communications” part of the agenda. It was suggested the speakers receive a letter from the Superintendent acknowledging their participation at the Board meeting tailored to their area of concern (a sample letter was shared). Board members liked the letter and said the Board Chair would indicate which speakers should receive a response.

The Board then discussed email communication, especially that which is related to topics on board agendas. Many times contracts or other lengthy documents are sent to Board members under separate cover, either electronically or hard copy. Directors Beck and Cowan indicated they like to receive electronic versions, while Directors Turner and Brown would like hard copies.

Chairman Cowan broached the topic of having an interactive meeting explaining how the Board operates. Board members discussed developing a written explanation that would be placed on the District’s website, in District Dialog and available at board meetings. Laurie Uquhart and Mary Jo Fisk will develop this piece.

TAG Policy/Procedures

Board members discussed how LCSD is meeting the needs of Talented and Gifted students, and said the District has one and one-half FTE to serve the whole district. The District receives no extra funding for TAG students. Superintendent Rinearson noted there is a difference between talented and gifted students.

Credit by proficiency was suggested as one way to serve students from differing levels. Another suggestion was to develop a magnet school, either a K-8 or a K-6 building.

Board Zones

Per state law, school board zones should be similar in population size based on the latest census. Former LCSD Principal Jack Nickerson developed several scenarios realigning the board zones along voter precinct lines and based on updated voter records. The Board reached consensus on scenario “A,” which redraws the zone boundary lines more equitably.

The Superintendent noted this selection would place both Directors Cowan and Brown in Zone 4. These directors would draw lots to determine who would be assigned to Zone 4, with the other director assigned to Zone 2. Each would serve through their respective term dates. The Superintendent will develop a resolution to capture the Board’s intent.

Board members also talked about the possibility of a vacancy in Zone 1 due to Director Coulter's recent absences. They said it may be helpful to take care of re-zoning prior to filling a board vacancy.

Board Goals 09/10

Board members discussed several ideas for 09/10 goals for the board. They reached consensus to keep some of the 08/09 goals, and added other ideas. Director Beck stated he feels the Board will be focused on sustainability and the budget for the first few months of the year. Following are the draft goals developed during their discussion:

1. **The LCSD Board of Directors will acknowledge student achievement by:**
 - Recognizing elementary students for learning multiplication tables. (Board members will present the student with a certificate in the classroom, and will call the parents).
 - Creating a task force to explore a district wide celebration of the arts.
2. **The Board will work with the Lincoln County Clerk to align board zones to more equally represent population, per Oregon Revised Statutes.**
3. **The Board will analyze the licensed contract to:**
 - Decide if they want to negotiate with teachers;
 - Decide what parameters to give the bargaining team if the teachers notify us they want to bargain.
4. **The Board will continue supporting initiatives already in process, i.e., curriculum alignment, mentor programs, business/community partnerships and individual school improvement plans.**

The meeting Saturday, July 11 was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent