

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Special Session
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 - 4:00 p.m.
Newport High School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Jana Cowan, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 10 members of the staff, media and interested patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Cowan called the session to order and convened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. with a quorum of four board members present. Director Brown joined the meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m. Four individuals were interviewed for the two open board positions in Zone 4 and 2 respectively. Each candidate was asked the same seven questions:

- 1. What do you view as the role of a school board member?**
- 2. What previous experiences have you had which might be helpful to you as a school board member?**
- 3. How do you feel the board should respond to angry people at board meetings?**
- 4. Explain your knowledge of the manner in which schools are funded in Oregon.**
- 5. What skills or strengths do you feel you would add to the current Lincoln County School District Board?**
- 6. LCSD encompasses more than four distinct communities. Do you think schools should deliver the same curriculum in the same manner in all areas, or should each area be able to choose the matter in which the information is presented?**
- 7. Please explain your understanding of the time commitment for this position.**

Following is a summary of each candidate's introduction and responses to these questions.

Board Interviews, Zone 4

Jon Howry, 4:00 p.m. Mr. Howry said he has been involved in a variety of organizations for some time, including Big Timber and Rifle, Mt. Tabor off road vehicles club and the Jaycees. He said he was a union member for many years and a job steward. He has worked in the private sector, is a displaced logger, and currently works for Braxling.

1. Mr. Howry commented the role of a board member is to "steer it in the right direction." He said the board needs to listen to public comment.
2. He noted the experiences mentioned in his introduction would be helpful as a board member.

3. Mr. Howry said board members "just have to put up with it (angry people)," unless they were to be bodily removed.
4. He said he believed schools are funded with tax dollars, mostly property tax "plus some state and federal money."
5. Mr. Howry stated his 26 years living in the district and watching his children and grandchildren go through the schools would be helpful.
6. This candidate said curriculum should be different in different areas, as it was when he was attending.
7. He said he thought the time commitment would be similar to that of other organizations of which he has been a part, and asked board members how much time they spend. Chairman Cowan commented one could be as involved as one would like to be, and said the board typically meets once per month. Vice Chairman Beck noted the board holds meetings around the district during the school year. Director Bondley said she usually averages "a couple of days per month."

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Mr. Howry, and informed him of one other candidate for Zone 4. "The Board will vote about 5:00 p.m.," said Rinearson. A recess was called at 4:13 p.m.

Brenda Brown, 4:40 p.m. (As Ms. Brown has been serving on the Board since 2005, she did not offer a personal introduction)

1. Ms. Brown stated the role of a board member is to set policy.
2. She noted her previous experience of serving on the board "for some time," and said she serves on several committees.
3. When asked how the board should respond to angry people at board meetings, she said "I listen."
4. Ms. Brown noted her "good working knowledge of the budgeting process, state funding and school funding."
5. She stated her past experience and institutional knowledge are the strengths she brings to the board.
6. Four communities- Ms. Brown said she feels there should be flexibility between communities, while at the same time required items throughout the district "should be funded at the same level in every area."
7. Time commitment- she commented she does not expect others to spend as much time on board service as she does. "You can make it as much or as little as you want." She said one should attend all meetings, "do your homework," and be up on all the issues.

Director Beck asked if she would be willing to run for election; she replied she had not yet decided. Director Turner noted the unusual nature of the interview due to the realignment of board zones. Each board member thanked Mr. Howry for his application.

Approval of Brenda Brown as Zone 4 Board Member

Motion 09/10-48

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Brenda Brown as the Zone 4 representative to the LCSD Board of Directors for the June 16, 2010 through June 30, 2011 time period.

Board Interviews- Zone 2

Patrice Clevenger, 5:00 p.m. Ms. Clevenger said she has lived in Lincoln County for five years; her youngest daughter attended school in Lincoln City for grades 8 through 12. She was an educator in Visalia, California as a teacher, parent and administrator. Upon retirement she moved to

Lincoln County, felt she had too much time on her hands, and began working at the Swindell Center in Toledo as coordinator.

1. Ms. Clevenger stated the role of a board member is to assist the rest of the board in making policy. She said she would like to serve on the board not to "fix things," but to give her knowledge and assets back to the community.
2. She stated her experiences as the parent of four children gave her in-depth experience, as well as her years as a teacher and principal. She noted her 31 years of education background, and added she managed an after school program for 1500 kids.
3. Ms. Clevenger said there are many times angry people at meetings, and said one should "listen politely and not give anger back,"
4. The candidate said schools are funded from the state general fund and lottery, timber, property tax and school improvement funds. Grants also play a part. "People need to be creative and think out of the box."
5. She noted her strengths and skills are her many years of service in education, including as a principal, working with budgets, site councils, and doing evaluations. "I would bring a lot to the school district," said Clevenger.
6. In response to the "four distinct communities" question, this candidate noted the curriculum is standardized by the state so all schools should have the same curriculum. "Principals are the instructional leaders at each school. Teachers teach to their strengths and that should be allowed. They should ask for help with the things they cannot do."
7. Ms. Clevenger said, with regard to time commitment, you should "give what is expected of you. You can never give too much time." She also said board members should visit every school, every class, every year.

Director Brown asked if Ms. Clevenger would be able to ignore an affinity with the Taft area where she lives. She replied that she would be able to look at the district as a whole.

Chairman Cowan asked the candidate's feeling about possible cutbacks to art and advanced classes. She answered that kids need the arts and music. "I would want to look at the budget to see if there are other things that could be cut."

Liz Martin, 5:30 p.m. Ms. Martin stated she is a lifelong Lincoln County resident and raised her family here (she has two college-aged children). She has been involved with schools for many years, first as a volunteer coordinator for seven years, and on site councils for 16 years. She has also been active with fundraising and booster clubs. "I am very aware of what we are facing here and am familiar with much of the language here." Ms. Martin commented she is compassionate about kids and feels each needs an opportunity. "We need to consider what is best for the kids. That's why I am here," she added.

1. Ms. Martin said a school board member's chief role is as a communicator. "It is important that people in our community know what a board does." She said the board needs to run a fiscally sound operation, and partner with the community.
2. She noted her previous experience (in addition to that already mentioned) includes service on the budget review team for two years and with the Chalkboard Project. "I worked for Hilton before I married and use many of those skills today."

3. In response to the "angry people" question, she said many times they simply want to be heard. "You need to acknowledge that you have heard them and let them know when you will respond."

4. Ms. Martin noted schools are not funded properly. Since Measure 5, districts are paid on a per student basis from the general fund. "I realize we are short again this year. I would like to see us find another way to put our priorities in order and take care of our kids," she said.

5. She said her skills and strengths include being a communicator to a vast array of people. "I am sensible, and I listen. This Board has done a wonderful job- I keep track. This is a job and a responsibility, and one that I look forward to."

6. To answer the "four communities" question, she said it is her hope that aligning curriculum is occurring throughout the district. "This is a difficult task. We have distinct communities, but I think the basics should be the same."

7. Ms. Martin noted her understanding of the time commitment as monthly meetings and added work sessions as well as other special meetings as needed. "I think I will have a lot of homework. My job allows me to put the time and effort toward this. I like to give it 100%."

Director Turner asked if she had attended any board meetings; she responded she has, through the years with different superintendents and issues. "It is not you against them, but we are all working for the same thing."

Director Brown noted the county wide district, and asked if Ms. Martin could represent the county as a whole. Ms. Martin said she feels strongly about representing the entire district. "I grew up here and know the makeup of the schools; I am not biased to any one area."

Chairman Cowan asked her feeling about music and the arts. The candidate replied she feels arts education is essential to a well-rounded experience, and said the private sector may be helpful.

In closing, Ms. Martin said she has mentored many children and is a compassionate person.

Director Turner noted both Zone 2 candidates are excellent, though said her vote would go with Ms. Martin. She urged Ms. Clevenger to find a role with the district if she is not chosen.

Director Bondley said it is a difficult decision as both candidates are very qualified. She said she would select Ms. Martin due to her length of time in the community.

Director Brown expressed her feeling that both are very qualified, and said she liked different answers from each of them. She had not yet decided.

Vice Chairman Beck said both struck a chord with him when they mentioned being a parent, and said both bring great experiences to the fore. Chairman Cowan echoed these sentiments.

Approval of Liz Martin as Zone 2 Board Member

Motion 09/10-49

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Beck, the Board approved Liz Martin as the Zone 2 representative to the LCSD Board of Directors for the June 16, 2010 through June 30, 2011 time period by a vote of four aye, one opposed (Chairman Cowan).

Oaths of office for both Ms. Brown and Ms. Martin were administered by Business Manager Julie Baldwin.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent