

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, November 16, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.
Waldport High School
Waldport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Ron Beck, Chairman

Present: Ron Beck, Chairman; Jean Turner, Vice-Chairman; Brenda Brown, Karen Bondley, Liz Martin, Directors

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 35 members of the staff, media and patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Ron Beck called the session to order and convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Introductions

Chairman Beck introduced Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD Superintendent Susan Waddell and board member David Dunsdon. Mr. Dunsdon is a former LCSD board member.

Budget Committee

The LCSD Budget Committee has an opening in Zone 4 (Toledo, Eddyville, Siletz). The deadline for applications has been extended until the position is filled.

Those interested in serving in this volunteer position may not be employees of LCSD, must currently reside in the respective zone, and must be registered voters. Applications are available at all schools in this zone, at the District Administration office and on the District website (www.lincoln.k12.or.us).

Communications

Yachats resident Brad Webb expressed his hope for construction of a high school in Waldport to move the current school out of the tsunami zone. He also said it would be critical to employ local contractors if the Board chooses to seek a general obligation bond, and said patrons in the south area would work hard to pass it. "I would like to see us work hard to pass a bond; this could be an economic stimulus plan for Lincoln County," he commented.

Toledo resident Merrick Kriz addressed the Board regarding the Mary Harrison building and possible outcomes. She urged the Board to engage in a discussion with members of the Toledo community regarding the building, and said a meeting is planned for December 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Toledo City

Hall. She also asked the District to delay any work on asbestos removal. “We will work cooperatively with you,” said Kriz. “We need time to explore our options.”

Superintendent Rinearson noted the Board asked him to look at different options with regard to district facilities, which is all that has occurred with regard to the Mary Harrison building.

Staff Recognition

Superintendent Rinearson reported LCSD received the “Excellence in Curriculum Leadership” award for the Ocean Literacy Project. The Oregon Association of School Executives presented the award to the Board during the recent OSBA conference. Mr. Rinearson recognized ESD Superintendent Susan Waddell, as some ESD funding has been used for this project.

Board Reports

Board members described their experiences at the Oregon School Boards Association annual conference held in Portland. Each described their particular “take away” from the training.

Student Representative

Waldport High ASB Vice President Eddie Stymington updated the Board regarding activities at that school, including: ●freshman orientation was “amazing” this year; ●homecoming week went well, with decorated hallways, skits and a penny drive occurring during the week; ●students are working to display class pictures from past graduating classes, dating back to 1909/10; ●a canned food drive is in process until December 3rd ●members of the school’s National Honor Society are tutoring students at the school; ●Kayak Shack students Willis Mullen and Robert Ewart recently spent the day with Gov. Kulongoski during dedication of the new Beaver Creek State Park.

South Area Report

Crestview Heights Principal Mary Schaer noted that school received an “Outstanding” rating on the state report card for the second consecutive year. Three families have relocated to Waldport based on these ratings, said Schaer.

Staff members at the school are working on alignment of science curriculum, which includes standards from the ocean literacy project.

Ms. Schaer thanked the Waldport and Yachats Lions Club for their donation of \$857, to be used for admissions during field trips. She also said a “Beavers vs. Ducks” food drive was held (Ducks won the competition).

Waldport High Principal Von Taylor noted new technologies are in use at the school, and introduced teacher Dave Wirick and students Jerry Waterman and Wyatt Glasgow.

Mr. Wirick first noted his appreciation for the Board and their work. He then described how students are learning about forestry, from visiting timbered areas to creating wood products. Students in Geometry

are using Cartesian coordinates to “write” on blocks of wood (using the Computer Numerical Control (CNC) milling machine)

Student Jerry Waterman presented the boat hull he designed and built using two computer programs.

A grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation received last year enabled the school to purchase a 3D printer, demonstrated by student Wyatt Glasgow. Mr. Glasgow created a small toy-sized car.

Mr. Taylor noted the school’s 3D printer, CNC plasma cutter, router and milling machine provide exciting opportunities for students. He introduced the south area facilities steering committee members at the meeting, including Herman Welch, Bill Turner, Brad Webb, and Susan Woodruff. “This building has served us well, but it is time to get us out of the tsunami zone,” said Taylor.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of October 31, 2010. The cost of some health insurance plans increased significantly; interest rates are holding steady. The District did not have to borrow funds to meet expenses, as it typically does in October.

Financial Update- Current and Next Year

Business Manager Julie Baldwin demonstrated how the budget for the current year has evolved from its adoption in May 2010, through the projected deficit in the state of \$577 million, shared later in May. The district cut 12 work days and reduced school and department budgets by \$1.7 million in response to this deficit.

In August, LCSD learned of “EduJobs” federal funding which translated to additional revenue for LCSD. At the end of August, state projections indicated an additional shortfall for the biennium of \$377.5 million. The EduJobs funding was used to offset this new shortfall for school districts. The next revenue forecast from the state is expected November 19. Ms. Baldwin report the state is in jeopardy of not meeting federal maintenance of effort criteria with respect to special education services.

LCSD’s state school fund revenue is based upon “stop loss,” a formula used by the state to assist districts with declining enrollment.

A reduction in state revenue coupled with “roll-up” costs (using current employee contracts) for the coming year could result in an expected shortfall of approximately \$3.86 million for 2011/12. More information will be shared as it is received.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized Toledo Elementary for their “**Sock it to Polio**” campaign. Staff is hanging socks throughout the school to collect money to help eradicate polio worldwide. The school is also hosting its annual **Turkey Bingo** fundraiser on November 19th beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Rinearson thanked optometric physician Dr. Rick Letherer for his annual donation of six eye exams along with glasses for students who need them.

The Superintendent thanked Linda Lee, a nurse and author who donated thirty copies of her book, "Autism- Living With My Brother Tiger." The books were given to some students in the Young Adult Skills program, as well as to the LCSD autism specialist and to each speech/language pathologist in the district.

Superintendent Rinearson congratulated Taft Elementary, attendance flag winners for October. He reported all schools will be closed for Thanksgiving November 24 through 26.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 2010/11-16

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

- Minutes, 10/5/10 Work Session;
- Minutes, 10/19/10 Regular Session;
- 2010/11 Alternative Education Programs (Carolyn Brown School, Toledo Alternative, Insight School of Oregon);
- PSAs for OCAMP Grant- OSU and NW Education;
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum.

Approval of Date for First Budget Committee Meeting

Motion 2010/11-17

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Martin, the Board unanimously approved May 24, 2011 as the date for the first Budget Committee meeting for development of the 2011/12 budget. The location and time will be determined in the coming weeks.

Approval of Resolution 2010/11-7 PERS Bond Payoff

Motion 2010/11-18

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2010/11-7, prepaying callable pension bonds in the amount of \$1,400,000.

Several years ago the district issued bonds to retire the District's unfunded liability for PERS (Public Employee Retirement System). This allowed the District to pay a lower PERS rate for current payroll expenses.

Paying this bond now will save the District \$651,500 in interest payments. The District began building reserves intended solely for this purpose to address increasing PERS bond debt costs in the future. The amortization schedule increases significantly annually.

Approval of Appropriations Transfer, PERS Debt Service Fund

Motion 2010/11-19

On motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Turner, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2010/11-8, Appropriations Transfer- PERS Debt Service Bond. The transfer will accommodate the payoff of the aforementioned \$1.4 million PERS bond.

Business Manager Julie Baldwin reported she checked with the Oregon Department of Revenue to ensure the District could take this action without doing a supplemental budget.

Approval of Resolution, American Education Week

Motion 2010/11-20

On motion of Director Bondley, seconded by Director Brown, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2010/11-5 proclaiming the week of November 14-20, 2010 as American Education Week. This week is recognized nationally and is intended to recognize all employees who work in public education for the important work they do. Chairman Beck read the proclamation to the audience.

Policy JBAA, Section 504- Students

Federal Programs/Operations Administrator Joe Novello presented Policy and Administrative Rules JBAA, Section 504-Students. The policy will return for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Novello reported the policy was developed in part because of an Office of Civil Rights (OCR) complaint at Siletz school. The chief OCR attorney working on the issue must approve the policy before the Board considers it. This should occur prior to the next board meeting.

Addendum- OSBA Election

Motion 2010/11-21

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Turner, the Board approved Resolution 2010/11-9, Oregon School Boards Association election. The resolution lists two changes to the OSBA Constitution, as well as a list of OSBA legislative policies and priorities. The constitutional changes involve revisions to the way OSBA dues are calculated, and adding two OSBA Board of Director positions.

Facilities Improvement Review

Superintendent Rinearson reported a telephone poll will be conducted the week after Thanksgiving to gauge local voters' opinions of the District issuing general obligation bonds for facilities improvements. An internal poll will be conducted as well.

Board members expressed interest in meeting in a work session to consider results of the surveys. Chairman Beck surmised if the Board decides to move forward and is successful with the bonds, it is committed to maintaining high schools in all LCSD communities for at least 15 years.

He also noted a different bond program affiliated with federal ARRA funds to be used for capital projects. These bonds ("Qualified School Construction Bonds") provide federal tax credits for bondholders in lieu of interest. Mr. Beck wondered if capitalization could be paid using Construction Excise Tax revenue. Superintendent Rinearson said Rich Belloni has been working with Seattle Northwest Securities, and noted the District would have to be confident in the amount of revenue to be gleaned from construction excise tax funds over 15 years. If enough revenue was not generated, the general fund would have to be tapped.

Election Do's and Don'ts for Public Employees

Discussions about a possible bond election include consideration of the law with regard to restriction on political campaigning for public employees. Superintendent Rinearson noted these restrictions do not apply until a measure is delivered to the county clerk's office for certification.

As noted in a publication from the Oregon Secretary of State's office, "the overriding principle is that public employees may not use their work time to support or oppose measures, candidates, political committees or petitions."

Public employees may wear campaign buttons, and may use personal time, lunch hours, breaks, days off, etc. for political activity.

Board Priorities for Development of the 2011/12 Budget

Part of the budget development process includes input from the Board of Directors. Board members began a discussion of their priorities with regard to development of next year's budget.

Superintendent Rinearson stated the Board's priority the last few years has been to keep as much money in the classroom as possible. Director Brown agreed with this, adding the District should consider sustainability of its programs as well. This topic will return for consideration at the next regular session meeting.

Resolution Declaring Board Vacancies

An election for special districts will be held on May 17, 2011. Vacancies on the school board as of June 30, 2011 include Zone 1 (four year term; currently held by Karen Bondley); Zone 2 (four year term; currently held by Liz Martin); and Zone 4 (two year remainder term; currently held by Brenda Brown.

A resolution declaring the vacancies will return for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

Board Self Evaluation Survey- Results

In September of this year, Board members completed an online survey to evaluate their performance as a Board. The survey indicates Board members feel they are working together well.

Director Brown said comments on the survey indicate board members feel their retreats have been helpful. Director Turner commented, as one of the longest serving board members, that the current team is "working the best since I have been here." Superintendent Rinearson concurred, saying board members have to consider managing for agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent