



# ***BOARD REPORT***

A Summary of the December 21, 2010 School Board Meeting

The school board met in regular session on December 21, 2010 at Newport High School with approximately 20 members of the staff, media and interested patrons present.

## **Communications**

Chairman Beck reported state school Superintendent Susan Castillo approved Superintendent Rinearson's request for a waiver pursuant to the small schools funding at Waldport High.

Tracey Taylor, representing the Taft Booster club, addressed the Board regarding the artificial turf field in Lincoln City. He noted the field is used by many different groups, in addition to students.

Toledo track coach Janet Johnson reported the track program has grown substantially over the past several years. She said the track there is in "dire need" of replacement.

Newport Booster President Rob Thompson said 50-75 people gather in Newport each Friday morning to support students. He noted extra-curricular activities provide critical support to students' ability to navigate the school system and life. "We can't upgrade classrooms and not the athletic fields," said Thompson. He encouraged the Board to include new fields in the bond measure as "it is a natural fit."

Waldport Booster President Eric Clark noted Waldport High's location in the tsunami zone and said the effects of a tsunami have been seen around the world. He noted the existing football field did not have lights this year, and the school does not have a home track. He urged the Board to "do the right thing for the kids in Waldport and all over the county."

Jim Chambers, representing the Toledo Booster club, said that group encourages the Board to

consider carefully the proposed artificial turf fields. He reported Toledo built a new grass field a few years ago that regularly floods. "We are in a wet climate here. The kids need something to do; I encourage you to include the fields in the bond," said Chambers.

## **Board Reports**

Director Liz Martin reported she recently had the pleasure of distributing "math facts" certificates to Taft Elementary students who learned their multiplication tables. She also visited Taft 7-12.

Director Martin said the Newport choir/band concert was outstanding, and recognized teacher John Bringetto for his "passion for music."

## **Draft Audit Report**

Kenny Allen of Pauly, Rogers and Co., P.C. presented a draft audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The report is in draft form as LCSD has not yet received audit reports from the charter schools in Siletz.

Mr. Allen said the District's audit has been complete for a few weeks, and said the firm would be issuing an unqualified opinion, the highest level attainable. He commended the accounting staff for their good work and professionalism.

## **Financial Reports**

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented final 09/10 general fund and special revenue fund reports as well as financial reports as of November 30, 2010. She reported local assessed property valuation increased.

The Board Report is a summary from the latest meeting of the Lincoln County School District Board of Directors. For additional information, you may contact Laurie Urquhart, Secretary or Tom Rinearson, Superintendent at 265-4403.

Ms. Baldwin noted district enrollment increased in the month of November, which is unusual and a positive sign.

Director Brown asked if the building maintenance fund is replenished using revenue from the sale of property; Ms. Baldwin replied in the affirmative.

Staff is working with Sodexo (custodial services) to revise their contract to reflect the reduction of school days.

### **“It’s Time to Reinvest in Education”**

Business Manager Julie Baldwin shared information prepared by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators detailing the state of Oregon’s funding of education over the last four bienniums. She reported education has received a declining percentage of the state’s total revenue each year since 2003. That year, education comprised 58.7% of Oregon’s state budget. The percentage in the current biennium is 50.8%.

Superintendent Rinearson noted state expenditures have increased 34% since 2003, but education expenditures have only increased 16%. Class sizes have increased, school employee positions have decreased by about 10% across the state, and many districts have reduced school days.

Mr. Rinearson said this information is being shared across the state.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Rinearson recognized the Lincoln City branch of the Lincoln County Board of Realtors for their donation of \$2,850 to Lincoln City schools. The funds were raised to benefit the “Realtors for Kids” clothing fund.

Mr. Rinearson gave kudos to Safety Coordinator Sue Graves, who was invited by the U.S. Department of Education to present (all expenses paid) at the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools meeting in Santa Monica, California.

She presented to over 100 new grant recipients on “Developing an Emergency Plan- Start to Finish.”

The Superintendent recognized Newport Intermediate sixth grade teachers Jana Osterlund and Jo Train, recipients of a week-long artist-in-residency sponsored by the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, U.S. Bank and the Nye Beach Merchants Association. Students participated in the “Washed Ashore Project,” an artistic endeavor turning plastic washed up on beaches into art. Students visited the Visual Arts Center to see the exhibit, did a beach clean-up, toured the Dahl Disposal recycling center, created masks and wrote stories about them, and created a display in a school hallway.

Superintendent Rinearson congratulated Crestview Heights School, attendance flag winners for November. He wished school board member Liz Martin “Happy Birthday,” and said all LCSD schools are closed for winter break. Schools will re-open January 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, depending upon the area.

### **Approval of the Consent Calendar**

The Board approved the Consent Calendar items, including:

- Minutes, 11/9/10 Work Session;**
- Minutes, 11/16/10 Regular Session;**
- Policy JBAA, Section 504- Students;**
- Cooperative Agreement, Toledo Swimmer to Newport;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum, including:**
  - Resignations:** Lisa Collier, NHS; Denise McGuckin, HLS; Eugenia Mitchell, TOES; Joan Helms, Oceanlake; Victor Zimchek, Taft 7-12; Benjamin Hensley, Taft 7-12; Dixie Merchant, Olake;
  - New Classified Hires:** Gail Schuetze, Olake; Amanda Zerr, NIS/INMS; Leonila Ibarra, NHS/NPA; Covina Marchant, Toledo Jr./Sr.,
  - Temp. Licensed Hire:** Robert Helms, Taft Elem.;
  - Leave of Absence Requests:** Kris Thissell, 1/24/11-6/10/11; Doug Hoffman, 1/24/11-3/28/11; C. Lynn Chamberlain, Extension- 1/4/11;

-**New Coaches:** Rebekah Borden, NHS; Kirsten Buckmaster, NHS; Patrick Wolfe, WHS; Al Burkey, Toledo HS; Casey Hamlin, Taft 7-12; Luke Hall, Taft 7-12;

•**Resolution 2010/11-6, Declaration of Board Vacancies.**

### **Board Priorities for 2011/12 Budget**

The Board approved its priorities for development of the 2011/12 budget. Board members would like to keep as much money in the classroom as possible, and to consider sustainability of programs.

Director Brown encouraged staff to look at saving “nickels and dimes” wherever possible, including utility costs, credit card expenses, travel, etc.

### **Information on Total Instruction Alignment**

Assistant Superintendent Sara Johnson reported Total Instructional Alignment (TIA) is proceeding well. This work includes alignment of the system, including standards, curriculum/assessment, and instructional practices. The key, said Johnson, is deeper implementation. “We are about two-thirds through unpacking the standards our students are responsible for,” said Johnson.

She noted there is a need for benchmark tools, in addition to OAKS testing currently in use.

### **Information on Qualified School Construction Bonds**

Business Manager Julie Baldwin reported the Oregon Department of Education expects to have approximately \$60 million in unused Qualified School Construction Bonds (“QSCBs”) available. The program authorizes school districts to borrow at very low interest rates (potentially as low as 0%). An allocation, not to exceed \$15 million for any one district, can be used toward a general obligation bond authorization.

A new application period will occur January 3, 2011 through February 1, 2011. If the district was successful in obtaining these bonds, decided to seek

general obligation (G.O.) bonds which voters approved, cost of the G.O. bonds could be substantially reduced.

### **Audit Joint Agency Request for Proposal Process**

The District is required by policy to seek Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for audit services every five years (with three annual extensions allowed). LCSD is participating in a joint public agency RFP for audit services with Corvallis, Greater Albany, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Monroe and Philomath School Districts.

Proposals will be reviewed in February, with a recommendation to the Board in March.

### **Discussion on Results of Polling/Facilities Improvements**

The District conducted a poll of voters as well as an internal online poll of employees regarding the possibility of seeking general obligation bonds for facilities improvements. The Board met in a work session December 14<sup>th</sup>, and continued the discussion at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Conclusions indicate a majority of respondents give the school district a positive performance rating; that they believe the district spends its money wisely and that they would support a bond measure for facilities improvements.

Director Belloni presented information on the cost of maintaining grass fields versus synthetic turf. Though the initial investment in building an artificial turf field is higher, the long-term maintenance costs are lower. The synthetic fields drain quickly and may be used much more often than grass fields in our rainy climate. Artificial turf fields must be maintained by being “groomed” and redistributing the rubber pellets.

Mr. Belloni examined facilities’ improvement projects developed by engineers to see if other approaches to them may be used. He and Superintendent Rinearson will meet with the engineers in the coming weeks about the projects

(heating systems, controls, etc.) to discuss different ways to accomplish them and to reduce costs.

### **Discussion on General Obligation Bonds/Ballot Resolution**

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented a draft resolution calling for a measure election to ask voters to consider issuing general obligation bonds, not to exceed \$63,010,000. The bonds would provide funds for capital assets and bond issuance costs, including: ●building a new Waldport High School to move students and teachers out of the tsunami zone; ●construct new classrooms at existing sites to replace portable classrooms; ●increase available classroom space to meet future needs of K-3; ●make improvements to bring all facilities to ADA compliance and safety standards; and ●make site improvements, athletic field improvements, and pay demolition costs. The bonds would mature in 18 years or less from the date of issuance.

If the board votes to move forward with a bond measure and voters approve it, taxpayers' rates would not increase, but would remain close to the same. Bonds issued in 1995 will be repaid in 2012; if new general obligation bonds are issued, they would assume close to the same rate as the existing bonds.

Board members discussed the pros and cons of artificial turf fields.

The Board plans to vote on the resolution at the January 18<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.

### **Grant Application- School Based Health Centers- Facilities**

Mr. Belloni updated the Board on a grant application he and Lincoln County staff have been developing with over the last few months. If successful, the grant would be used to improve school based health center facilities at Toledo Jr./Sr. High and Newport Prep Academy. The grant's deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Superintendent's Evaluation- Process and Timeline**

Each year, the Board conducts an evaluation of the Superintendent. In addition to input from Board members, District administrators will complete the forms.

The evaluation forms will be distributed January 19<sup>th</sup>, and are due back February 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Next Regular Session Meeting: January 18, 2011- 7:00 p.m. @ Sam Case Primary*