

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, January 18, 2011- 7:00 p.m.
Sam Case Primary School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Ron Beck, Chairman

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

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 40 members of the staff, media and patrons

Excused: Karen Bondley, Director

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 four board members present. Director Bondley was excused from the meeting.

Introductions- Rep. Jean Cowan

Chairman Beck introduced State Representative Jean Cowan, who noted it is early in the legislative process. The state of Oregon faces a shortfall of approximately \$3.5 billion for the coming biennium, which presents a major challenge. The House of Representatives is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans; a co-governance structure is being tried this year, which could present opportunities for working more closely together.

Ms. Cowan noted the new Governor has proposed about \$5.4 billion for Oregon schools as a baseline number for the next biennium (current biennium funding is approximately \$5.7 billion). She said there are currently three preliminary bills modifying PERS, and at least three modifying funding for transportation (buses).

The Representative said a proposal to amend the state constitution related to Measure Five (the 1990 measure that changed how schools are funded) is being considered. She urged the Board and Superintendent to contact her with questions and as they hear of issues and rumors.

Communications

Chairman Beck read an email from Director Karen Bondley, who could not attend the meeting. She noted her full support of the proposed general obligation bonds, including upgrading athletic fields.

Mr. Beck also noted receipt of an invitation to the science and art fair at INMS on January 20th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Jeanne St. John addressed the Board regarding the upcoming “No Name Calling Week,” part of an anti-bullying effort. She noted young people who are bullied suffer more illness, have mental health issues and anxiety. She said this is a lifesaving effort and is about non-discrimination of students in minority groups of all kinds (gay, lesbian, transgender, racial, religious, etc). Ms. St. John distributed two handouts: a resolution the Lincoln County Commissioners will consider proclaiming Jan. 24-28 as “No Name-Calling Week,” and a sheet defining “affirm” versus “promote.”

Toledo Elementary and Toledo Jr./Sr. High Principals Bob Shindelman and Brian Flannery presented the Board with tote bags filled with school mementos in honor of school board recognition month.

Staff Recognition

Chairman Beck recognized Business Manager Julie Baldwin and her husband Andy for their efforts “camping out” in the early morning hours in Salem for the first come/first served Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs). LCSD was subsequently placed first on the list for \$15 million in QSCBs.

Board Reports

Director Brenda Brown reported she was invited to Toledo Elementary for lunch, and spent much of the day there. Students interviewed her about school board service.

Ms. Brown also reported she will not stand for re-election this year. Her term on the school board ends June 30, 2011; her hope in making the announcement now is for others from the east area of the county to come forward to run for this position.

Director Liz Martin said she completed her telephone calls to parents of students receiving “math facts” certificates at Taft Elementary.

Chairman Beck noted he will be visiting Newport Intermediate soon for awarding math certificates and for interviews by students regarding his service on the board.

Mr. Beck noted the upcoming “chocolate cake day” on January 27th at the Performing Arts Center to benefit the City of Aumsville (severely damaged by a tornado).

The Chairman noted with sadness the passing of Don Cohen, a long-time Lincoln County resident and broadcaster. “I really appreciate how passionately he challenged us,” said Beck.

Student Representative

Sam Case students Lexi Murphy and Lydia Miller of Ms. Gwynn’s second grade class presented the Board with books their class created in honor of school board recognition month.

Teen CERT Team

Safety Coordinator Sue Graves introduced Newport High teacher Dayl Wood and Taft 7-12 teacher Bruce Rasmussen who teach the “Teen CERT” (Community Emergency Response Team) class in their respective schools. The program educates students about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

Students from both schools spoke, saying the class has been beneficial in a number of ways. It is currently offered as a semester class at Newport and Taft, and is integrated into the health occupations class in Toledo. Conversations with Waldport High are in process.

Both Superintendent Rinearson and teacher Bruce Rasmussen gave kudos to Sue Graves, who was integral to making this training happen.

West Area Report

Sam Case Principal Ryan Relken welcomed the Board and audience to Sam Case and showed a short video. He said he is recruiting for the PALS (Partnership for the Advancement of Literacy in Schools) program, and will hold a meeting January 25 at 4:00 p.m. for that purpose. Mr. Relken also reported he is interested in starting a Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) group at the school.

Newport Intermediate/Isaac Newton Magnet School Principal Majalise Tolan reported they are preparing for No Name Calling Week, and will do a survey about bullying in the coming days. A mural project at the school has begun, with a primer party planned for Saturday, January 29.

Ms. Tolan reported students are participating in the Oregon “battle of the books” event on February 3rd.

Newport High Principal Jon Zagel reported the Robotics team will compete again this year; part of their charge will be to build a robot that can play a bit of basketball.

He said the school is celebrating the state writing test by having a week-long “Write-A-Palooza.” On April 13th of that week, 80 community members will come to school to assist students in learning how to write reviews of varying sorts (music, food, etc). There are 40 categories of review types.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of December 31, 2010. She noted the receipt of higher than anticipated “local revenue,” including payment in lieu of taxes and a rebate from SAIF, the district’s workers compensation carrier.

Ms. Baldwin noted enrollment trends indicate the district will have higher enrollment than anticipated, and may be out of “stop loss” (a state funding mechanism that provides additional funding for districts whose enrollment is declining).

Director Brown asked about numbers of students in “Expanded Options” and for whom the District pays tuition. Federal Programs/Operations Administrator Joe Novello replied there are about 40 each semester.

Chairman Beck asked if the District received its January SSF payment. Ms. Baldwin replied in the affirmative, and said the audit from Siletz was received.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized the LCSD Board of Directors and thanked them for their countless volunteer hours. He noted the current board enjoys the best working relationship of those he has worked with during his time in LCSD. The month of January is "School Board Recognition Month."

Mr. Rinearson thanked Jeremy Burke, Newport News Times Publisher, for his offer of free space in the paper. The District will be able to share good news and information with the community at no charge.

The Superintendent reported Oceanlake Elementary is holding a Family Literacy Night on Thursday, January 27th, from 5 to 7 p.m. The evening will start with a fundraising dinner, followed by dedication of the new mural at 6 p.m. Classrooms will be open from 5 to 7 p.m., with Daily Five and Write Tools activities.

Superintendent Rinearson reported Taft 7-12 received a second technology grant from GEAR UP. The school will use the grant for technology instruction. GEAR UP stands for **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms and is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It works to ensure that students in rural communities are prepared for postsecondary education.

Mr. Rinearson noted Taft 7-12 is in its second year of designing a proficiency-based best practice school and provides multiple learning options for reaching academic standards.

The Superintendent thanked TLC Federal Credit Union for a \$6,000 grant given to Taft Elementary. The grant will purchase two Promethean ActivBoards for Kindergarten classrooms, as well as a portable, programmable communication device for special needs students.

Superintendent Rinearson reported Isaac Newton Magnet School will hold a science/art fair this Thursday, January 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

He congratulated Toledo Elementary- attendance flag winners for December, and noted the end of the first semester is Friday, January 28th. Records Day is Monday, January 31; no school for students that day.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 10/11-24

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

- Minutes, 12/14/10 Work Session;**
- Minutes, 12/21/10 Regular Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Contracts: Business Manager, and Director of Support Services;**

•Process, Timeline- Superintendent Evaluation.

Director Brown requested the Superintendent complete a self evaluation as well.

Facilities Bond/Ballot Resolution

Motion 10/11-25

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Martin, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2010/11-10, Measure Election, Bonded Indebtedness as distributed 1/18/11. The resolution calls for a measure election May 17, 2011 for general obligation bonds in the amount of \$63 million. Bonds issued in 1995 will be repaid in 2012; taxpayers' rates for this bonded indebtedness would thus remain approximately the same (75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2010-11) if the bond effort was approved by voters.

The original amount of \$63,010,000 noted in the January 18, board folder was modified to \$63 million on the advice of Seattle Northwest Securities Corporation.

Ms. Baldwin explained the current rate per thousand dollars of assessed value has changed over the course of the last year due to higher assessed valuation. "Last week, Seattle Northwest sold QSCBs for Forest Grove School District at an interest rate of .469%."

Since the last board meeting, the Oregon Department of Education placed LCSD at the top of its Qualified School Construction Bond ("QSCB") list. This means the district has been authorized to sell \$15 million worth of bonds at a greatly reduced interest rate. It is anticipated that the bond property tax rate in Lincoln County would be 72 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation through the use of QSCBs if general obligation bonds are approved. She cautioned the Board there are many variables affecting the rate. Districts that fail to pass a bond levy on May 17 will lose the QSCBs allocation, and would have to reapply.

Director Turner asked if the Superintendent is allowed to speak about the bonds. He replied he is permitted to discuss actions the board has taken and their reasons for doing so, and said he is allowed to share information. "I cannot take a stand, one way or the other," said Rinearson.

Chairman Beck noted an organizing work session should be scheduled in the near future. He asked Board members to forward their suggestions.

Director Turner asked if "KIDS" Committee (Keep Improving District Schools) is still active. Director Brown replied that it is still an active political action committee, and said she is the only registered officer. She also said she knows there are many people anxious to help with the campaign.

Renewals- Probationary, Licensed Personnel

Assistant Superintendent Johnson thanked board members for their service, saying they are "like a cup of coffee: robust, strong and energize the district." She explained the renewal process, saying state law requires districts to annually notify all licensed staff of their contract status not later than March 15th. Probationary staff are recommended either for renewal or non-renewal; contract teachers are recommended for extension or non-extension.

Individuals hired as “temporary” employees are automatically non-renewed; this action is not based on performance. The formal list of employees will be provided to the Board prior to taking formal action February 15th.

Superintendent Rinearson stated if board members have a concern about someone on the list to please notify him, as the employee has the right to be present during an executive session.

Policy GBA, Equal Employment Opportunity

Human Resources Manager Chelsi Sholty presented two revised policies for the Board’s consideration. Based on recent changes to several federal laws, the Oregon School Boards Association recommended changes to Policy GBA, Equal Employment Opportunity. The updated policy now includes veterans’ status and genetic information. The policy will return on the Consent Calendar for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Policy GCC/GDC, Recruitment/Hiring/ Fingerprinting/Initial Employment

Ms. Sholty also presented Policy GCC/GDC, revised to reflect current practice and state law. All newly hired employees must submit to fingerprinting for a state or national criminal records check. A recent state law repealed the stipulation of new hires “who have direct, unsupervised contact” with children to include all employees. Dr. Johnson added that there are background checks done in addition to fingerprinting.

Director Brenda Brown noted some contracted employees begin working prior to their background check coming back. Ms. Sholty reported the district receives an email from the agency right way if there is an issue. The policy will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Information on REBOCS Meetings

Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD is scheduling “REBOCS” (Regional Education Board Chairs/Superintendents) meetings around the ESD. The purpose of these meetings is for Superintendents and Board Chairs to share their viewpoints and needs in informal conversations with legislators. There are currently three meetings scheduled for this winter and spring. The first meeting is January 24 in Albany, the second is March 28 at Oregon Coast Community College, and the third is May 23 in Albany.

Chairman Beck asked Board members to share questions/concerns with him.

ESD Resolution Services- 2011/13 Local Service Plan

Every two years, the Linn/Benton/Lincoln ESD presents a Local Service Plan and resolution to each of the twelve district within its boundaries describing services to be provided the following two years by the ESD. Tier 1 services are available to all districts and are determined to be essential to all. The emphasis on Tier 1 is on achieving the greatest economies of scale and assuring equity of access. They are funded using 90% of the ESD’s State School Fund (SSF) allocation.

Tier 2 services are allocated to districts using the remainder of ESD monies after funding Tier 1 services. These services are customized to the particular district.

Superintendent Rinearson reported there may be no Tier 2 services next year, as state funding is so questionable. He also noted the district will not know how much revenue it will get from the state until the budget is completed.

The resolution will return for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

Other

Director Liz Martin noted a concern with absenteeism. She also thanked everyone for the mementos for School Board Recognition Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent