

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, March 15, 2011- 7:00 p.m.
Taft 7-12 School
Lincoln City, 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. 30 members of the staff, media and patrons

Call to Order-Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Beck called the session to order and convened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Communications

Olalla Center Director Ray Burleigh addressed the Board regarding a possible offer for the Mary Harrison building in Toledo and hopes for the Olalla program to expand. He thanked Director of Support Services Rich Belloni for his assistance.

Taft 7-12 teacher Barton Howe urged the Board to make decisions based on “what is best for kids,” especially when those decisions are difficult. “If you undertake a genuine quest to do what’s best for kids, you will be forced to counter long-held myths, vocal majorities (and minorities) and entrenched groups that have no interest in changing the way things are done,” said Howe. He read a long statement, concluding by saying the Board must respect the needs of all, not just those in charge.

Siletz Principal Bob Line reported the boys’ basketball team there won the state championship in the 1A division, and thanked the Board for their support.

Board Reports

Director Brenda Brown noted a recent “Teen Jeopardy” television show featured Ray Cooper, a former Toledo student. She also reported the Toledo “Save Our Schools” committee donated a large check in support of the facilities bond measure. (The donation went to the K.I.D.S. Committee, a political action committee working in support of the measure.) “I wanted to publicly thank them,” said Brown.

Student Representatives

Taft 7-12 students Doug Gakstetter, Jace Schwartz, Molly Altamore and Kayla Luck performed a ballroom dance they choreographed.

ASB Co-Presidents Jace Schwartz and Doug Gakstetter noted the leadership team is focused on school spirit, with a “Milli Vanilli” lip syncing assembly planned. Students at the school are rehearsing the “Little Mermaid” play for performances in early May.

North Area Report

Oceanlake Principal Betsy Wilcox invited Board members to visit and said their mural is now complete. The mural was made possible by the Let There Be Arts partnership and the parents group at the school.

Ms. Wilcox reported extra tutoring in reading and math is targeting students close to reaching benchmark scores. Staff took part in a week-long training at the school focused on language objectives. Follow up training is planned for April and May.

Taft Elementary Principal Dave Malcolm noted the school is focusing on beach safety, with Robert Smith of the Oregon State Parks scheduled to work with students.

TES students are currently engaged in a writing festival. Portland author David Greenberg kicked off the festival by discussing civil rights with older students (the writer’s father was an attorney for Martin Luther King, Jr.). Younger students are learning to write poetry. All students will submit a writing piece to be adjudicated; the school will publish an anthology at a later date.

Taft 7-12 Principal Scott Reed noted the school was used by the Red Cross as an evacuation center the day of the tsunami warning. He noted the timeliness of the school’s study of beach safety.

Assistant Principal Julie Lafayette reported staff development time has been used to expand learning options for students, aligning instruction to state standards. “Students learn in different ways,” said Lafayette. The number of “incompletes” has declined significantly, though much remains to be done. Many more students are taking classes from Oregon Coast Community College this year than in past years.

Ms. Lafayette reported grants have helped the school a great deal this year.

Taft 7-12 culinary arts students received a gold ranking at recent competition, and are now eligible to compete at the national level. Student Mandi Good placed at the silver level in individual competition, and student Tony Ray was named ProStart 2011 Student of the Year.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented updated financial reports as of February, 2011, replacing those the Board received earlier. Enrollment is holding steady.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson thanked Fred Meyer stores for a donation of \$2,152. Funds were generated in the "Support Your Schools" campaign, collected over three months at the local Fred Meyer. The money will be distributed among all schools.

Newport Intermediate/Isaac Newton Magnet School scheduled a dedication of their new mural, made possible by a partnership with Let There Be Arts. Mo's Restaurant donated chowder as an appetizer for the event; all students took part in the creation of the mural.

Mr. Rinearson reported Waldport High teacher Rose Burbee's Home Economics students recently held a quilt show to show their creations. Ms. Burbee's Physics students built windmills to continue learning about alternative energy.

The Superintendent congratulated Newport Intermediate School for winning the attendance flag for the second consecutive month. He reminded the Board of spring break March 21-29, and noted there is a possibility he will be attending the birth of his first grandchild about the same time as the April board meeting.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 10/11-28

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

- Minutes, 2/15/11 Regular Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Western States Insurance as Insurance Agent of Record- Other than Health Benefits.**

Approval of Pauly, Rogers & Co., P.C. for Audit Services

Motion 10/11-29

On motion of Director Brown, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Pauly, Rogers & Co., P.C. for audit services for the July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016 time period.

The District participated in a joint public agency RFP. Pauly, Rogers submitted a low bid and has done stellar work for the district for several years. The other bidder is new to the school audit business and submitted a higher bid.

Policy DFAA- Short-Form Investment (Bond Proceeds Only)

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented new policy DFAA, Short-Form Investment, Bond Proceeds Only. The policy has been proposed to accommodate the sale of general obligation bonds, and defines the investment of bond proceeds beyond the 18-month allowable term in current policy DFA.

The policy deals with bond proceeds only, and lists stringent diversification requirements.

The Board will consider the policy at the next meeting; it will be sent to the Oregon Short Term Board and filed with the state treasurer after approval by the Board.

Discussion on Purchasing Policies

Staff has been working with attorney Pete Gintner regarding the use of the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) process for construction projects. Staff recommends the following policies be changed in conjunction with this effort: DJ, Purchasing (amend); Policy DJA, District Procurement Policies (new); Policy DJC, Bidding Requirements (delete policy and administrative rules); and Policy DJCA, Personal Services Contracts (delete policy and administrative rules). Portions of policies DJC and DJCA are combined into the new policy.

Mr. Gintner noted he is familiar and comfortable with the suggested new policy DJA. He noted other local entities use this policy (the P.U.D. and the Port of Newport). “We will discuss the findings of fact (portion of the policy) at the next meeting. We may do as many as three to five projects using the CM/GC method,” said Gintner.

The policies were distributed to the Board at the meeting, and will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

2011-12 Budget Projections

Superintendent Tom Rinearson and Business Manager Julie Baldwin reported the District is facing another shortfall in revenue from the state for the coming school year. The governor’s currently proposed biennium budget stands at \$5.557 billion for K-12 education statewide (the current level is \$5.8 billion).

This level of funding would result in a shortfall in LCSD for the coming year of approximately \$3.25 million, equivalent to 36 licensed FTE or 27 school days.

School administrators are working on their budgets, using the following scenario: a salary and benefits freeze for administrators, Confidential and Exempt employees; licensed employees at step increases only, and Classified staffing projected based on the current agreement. This budget level also assumes reduction of 18.18 fte in licensed staff, a reduction of Classified staff, and a reduction of six days for all employees.

The information presented represents current thinking; it is not etched in stone. Another state revenue forecast is expected May 11th; LCSD’s first Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for May 24th.

Discussion on Superintendent’s Contract

The Board discussed a new contract for Superintendent Rinearson following his evaluation last month. The Board would like to offer a three-year contract to the Superintendent, the longest allowed by state law.

Mr. Rinearson offered to freeze his salary for the coming year. He also noted he may change his health insurance to a two-party policy next year. The Board will consider the contract in the coming weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent