

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, August 23, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Newport High School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Ron Beck, Chairman

Present: Ron Beck, Chairman; Jean Turner, Vice Chairman; Karen Bondley, Liz Martin, Kelley Ellis, Directors

Also Present: Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approx. 25 members of the staff, media and patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

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

Communications

Chairman Ron Beck noted the receipt of an invitation to Director of Health & Human Services Paula Sampson's retirement.

He also noted receipt of a communication from the City of Newport regarding an Urban Renewal committee on which he served.

Board Reports

Board member Karen Bondley thanked Sodexo and the Master Gardeners for their collaboration on development of garden beds at Taft Elementary. They hope to harvest in June.

Ms. Bondley also thanked the Pacific Communities Hospital Health District Board for their offer to support a health careers club at Newport High School. The club will meet twice per month to help students learn about health careers; field trips may include excursions to OHSU, OMSI and a university.

Information on Early Intervention Program

Early Intervention Specialist Jill Luther showed a video describing the Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education program. The program provides special education services to children from birth to age five at no cost to parents. Funding is provided by the Oregon Department of Education through the ESD.

The video was created using funds from a grant, and was developed by students in Newport High's Video Production class. Plans to show the video on LCSD TV are in the works, as well as having a link to it available on the District's website.

East Coast Field Trip

Assistant Principal Paul Tucker has organized and chaperoned an east coast trip for 7th and 8th grade students for the past seven years. Students visit historic sites in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. Through the years, 465 students, teachers and parents have gone on the ten-day trip; they begin with 65 different appointments, and many times add to these. Mr. Tucker created a video of the 2011 trip from pictures taken by a parent chaperone.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin introduced Business Services Supervisor Kim Cusick to the Board. Ms. Cusick has been with the district for eight years in a variety of accounting roles. With Ms. Baldwin's involvement in financial duties associated with the \$63 million bond measure, Ms. Cusick stepped forward to manage the day to day activities of the Business Services department.

Ms. Baldwin presented the general fund cash flow report for 2011-12 based on five years of financial historical data. Prudent management by the District has resulted in adequate cash reserves to eliminate the need to borrow funds this fall. (Historically, property tax revenues are not received in time to meet payroll expenses in October/November). The management of the district's funds also resulted in the high bond rating given the district.

Ms. Baldwin also presented a new financial report for general obligation and qualified school construction bonds. She noted funds from the Qualified School Construction Funds will be accounted for separately (rather than co-mingling the funds). The bond financial report will be expanded over time, including the percentage of bond dollars spent locally.

The district has invested funds in local Umpqua and Oregon Coast Banks offering interest rates above the local government investment pool. "We are investing in different instruments, with different maturity dates; all are callable," said Baldwin.

Superintendent Rinearson lauded Ms. Baldwin and Ms. Cusick, saying they have worked long and hard to "make it all work" since the original plan for business office support personnel changed.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized INMS teacher Mary Koike, one of three state level finalists of teachers of science. She is a nominee for the "2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science" teaching award. Ms. Koike was similarly honored in 2005 for math.

The Superintendent reported Safety Coordinator Sue Graves recently organized a volunteer effort involving 28 teens from the Gleneden Beach Christian Church and the Beaverton Christian Church.

During a “love thy neighbor” event, the volunteers assembled about 400 of the District’s newly updated Emergency Plans.

He thanked David Green, Coast District Manager for West Coast Bank for the donation of approximately 150 backpacks. H.E.L.P. Coordinator Katey Townsend will coordinate the effort to distribute them to students throughout the district.

The Superintendent reported he visited Marylhurst University to watch a team from LCSD present information on the Common Core State Standards. He noted LCSD was the only district invited to present at the conference. The Board will see the presentation at an upcoming meeting, and it will be shared at a state principals’ meeting in October.

Mr. Rinearson noted the OCAMP kickoff meeting is Friday, August 26 at Oregon Coast Community College. OCAMP (Oregon Coast Marine and Aquatic science Project) is beginning its third year.

Opening of school area breakfasts are scheduled as follows: **North Area-** Wednesday, August 31, 8:30 a.m. at Taft 7-12; **West Area-** Thursday, September 1, 8 a.m. at Newport High’s MP room; **East Area,** Thursday, September 1, 9:30 a.m. at Toledo Elementary (Arcadia); **South Area,** Friday, September 2, 8:00 a.m. at Crestview Heights.

The Superintendent also invited board members to the Ocean Literacy Symposium August 30 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Newport High School. In addition to a keynote speaker, 48 different breakout sessions are planned for the day at the Hatfield Marine Science Center and the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 11/12-17

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

- Minutes, 7/5/11 Special Session;
- Minutes, 7/12/11 Regular Session;
- Minutes, 8/9/11 LCRB & Special Session;
- Regular Personnel Items and addendum;
- Olalla ODE Contract 2011/13;
- ODE Juvenile Detention Education Program Contract 2011/13.

Resolution, HRA/VEBA

Motion 11/12-18

On motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2011/12-3, establishing a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)/ Voluntary Employees’ Beneficiary Association (VEBA) plan as noted in the 8/23/11 board folder. This will provide an additional option for employees that benefit both employees and the district.

New Contractor for Waldport Artificial Turf

Motion 2011/12-19

On motion of Director Turner, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Tiger Turf Americas/Beyond Grass as provider of the artificial turf sports field at the new Waldport High

athletic complex for a not to exceed price of \$327,906. This project was awarded to a different contractor two weeks prior who was ultimately unable to meet the specifications of the contract. The project was re-bid.

The turf is expected to be delivered September 14th, with a planned completion date of October 1st. Waldport High will play their first two football games on the Newport High field.

2011-12 Alternative Education program

Policy requires the Board approve alternative education programs annually. Due to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements, changes to district alternative education programs are needed. NCLB requires all teachers to be “highly qualified;” since Alternative Education teachers typically teach several subjects, they cannot meet this designation. Oregon teacher licensure laws do not align with NCLB. Sanctions imposed on the district due to not meeting this requirement were costly and limited the way NCLB funds may be spent.

Federal Programs/ Operations Administrator Joe Novello recommends LCSD’s alternative education program for 2011-12 be Insight School. Insight School of Oregon is an online school that will have campuses in the four LCSD literacy centers (one in each area of the district). Insight uses highly qualified staff for its online instruction.

In addition, the literacy centers will be staffed by Insight employees, HELP program staff and community volunteers a minimum of eight hours per day, four days per week.

Each student in the program will be provided a laptop computer and printer to use. If the student completes all of their courses with a passing grade at the end of the year, they will receive a stipend to help offset their internet connection costs.

Director Jean Turner asked how other districts in the state are dealing with the NCLB regulations and alternative education programs. Mr. Novello replied the larger districts are using several teachers in alt ed; some are contracting out.

The program will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update

Assistant Superintendent Sara Johnson provided an explanation of AYP and the district’s latest results. Progress on achieving AYP targets are measured in Oregon by the OAKS (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test. Benchmark scores are set at each grade level, and this year those scores (“cut scores”) were adjusted. This occurred because results at the third grade level were not a good indicator of future success at the 10th grade benchmark.

AYP is part of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. NCLB specifies the percentages of students meeting benchmark targets must increase to certain pre-set levels in order for schools to meet AYP. For the 10-11 school year, 70% of students were required to “meet” in both math and reading, up from 59%

and 60%, respectively the year before. This year, 80% of students are required to meet in both reading and math.

Two schools in the district are currently listed as “needing improvement” per the NCLB requirements: Toledo Elementary and Siletz Valley School (K-8). Schools are given this rating when they do not “meet” in a subgroup for two years in a row, in the same subject. There are nine subgroups. Students at these schools may transfer to another district selected school with transportation provided. The “choice” schools this year are Crestview Heights and Oceanlake Elementary.

To help schools improve, the District will send a team to schools to review programs and instructional practices, as well as student behavior practices. They will examine subgroups, and will work with the principal and site council on the school’s improvement plan. A tight focus on standards continues.

“We want all children to be prepared for college or a career when they leave our district,” said Dr. Johnson. She said the greatest impact on student learning is in the classroom, where students and teachers connect.

Superintendent Rinearson noted an unusual twist this year regarding the “needs improvement” schools in that one of them is a charter school. The district can offer help to the charter school to help it improve, but the school is not obligated to accept it. Yet, the district is ultimately responsible for student achievement at charter schools. “If they do not perform at a certain level, we can cancel the contract,” said Rinearson.

Discussion on Goal Development

The Board has been working to schedule a board retreat to develop board goals. Calendars have been challenging; they will try again to find a mutually acceptable date for all to meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent