

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Taft Elementary School
Lincoln City, 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. 30 members of the staff, media and patrons

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

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

Communications

Otis resident Kate Twitchell addressed the Board regarding concerns with volunteer training requirements. She asked Board members to reply to her concerns.

Chairman Beck replied he has no direct knowledge of the required training, but noted his support of and appreciation for volunteers. Director Martin reported she has taken the training, which was changed to another company this year. She said she was happy to participate in it, and said it provides protection for those who are volunteering. (She added her opinion is expressed as a volunteer, rather than as a board member).

Board Reports

Director Liz Martin and Chairman Ron Beck noted their attendance at the re-dedication of Newport High's football field September 16th. Mr. Beck also attended the re-dedication of Toledo Jr./Sr. High's field.

Chairman Beck reported he and Superintendent Rinearson attended a meeting of the Linn Benton Lincoln ESD board of directors held in Lincoln County. He also gave kudos to all involved with the recent Yaquina Bay bridge walk, including the Newport High band and cheerleaders.

Vice-Chairman Turner stated the dedication of the Waldport High football field is scheduled for October 21st. She expressed the community's excitement about the new athletic complex there, and said "it is beautiful.

Student Representatives

Taft 7-12 sophomore class president Goldie Miller and vice president Kaley Engel addressed the Board regarding activities at their school. Both students are involved with the Gear Up grant, a program focused on increasing the college attendance and success in low income areas.

The students reported other events there include the “rebuilding” of the yearbook, and the production of the play Sleeping Beauty. Homecoming has already occurred, and was successful.

North Area Report

Taft 7-12 Principal Scott Reed shared more information on the Gear Up grant, saying this year’s sophomores have been visiting colleges since the 7th grade. He noted staff are employing several strategies to improve student achievement and gave kudos to all his staff, most notably special education teachers.

Mr. Reed thanked a dedicated group of volunteers who visit the school daily. He also recognized Associate Principal Ryan Hawkins, and said Mr. Hawkins has improved school climate at Taft 7-12.

The school’s graduation rate is higher, though using the “cohort” group from two years ago shows a lower rate. “If they used last year’s numbers, the rate is higher,” said Reed.

Taft Elementary Principal Dave Malcolm reported staff at that school are using “90/90/90” practices and Professional Learning Communities as well as power strategies to improve student achievement. Student testing has resulted in interventions for students achieving below benchmark levels.

Mr. Malcolm noted the annual Let There Be Arts gala was held recently; funds for arts education was raised at the event. He recognized Taft 7-12’s Culinary Arts students and teacher Pam Simpson, who catered the event.

Students and staff are planting a vegetable garden with the help of local Master Gardeners.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented updated financial reports as of September 30, 2011. She reported ODE awarded the full amount of the school year sub account in September, instead of splitting it over several payments. This award assists with cash flow in October and November, before property tax payments are received and distributed to districts. She noted ADM numbers on the report do not yet include students enrolled in Insight School, the district’s online alternative school.

Employee participation in various new health insurance plans has resulted in significant savings, allowing more funding to support student achievement.

Capital Construction Fund Financial Report (Bond)

Ms. Baldwin shared new color coded revenue and expenditure reports related to capital construction. The reports delineate funds paid to local vendors, as well as individual budget reports for each school's projects. Though the CM/GC contractor for the Toledo Elementary and Toledo Jr./Sr. projects is from out of the District, 88.85% of funds paid to this contractor have been paid to local vendors. (Sub contractors and crews employed by T. Gerding are from Lincoln County).

The financial reports will be posted on the district website.

Charter School Cost Information

Ms. Baldwin distributed a handout regarding revenue and expenditures for charter schools. Superintendent Rinearson noted this report was developed in response to a question from Director Kelley Ellis. He reported charter schools cost the district money; if LCSD charter schools were their own districts, they would have to operate without the significant support of the district.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson thanked West Coast Bank for their donation of about 50 three-ring binders to the District, made available when the north Newport branch closed. The binders were sent to Waldport High.

Mr. Rinearson recognized Ruth McDonald (LCSD Community Curriculum and Resource Liaison) and Rachael Bashor (School Liaison/Partnership Coordinator- Oregon Coast Aquarium) for their upcoming presentation on ocean literacy to the Lincoln County Commissioners.

The Superintendent reported five middle school teachers are participating in an ocean science curriculum pilot through UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science. Noah Lambie (Taft 7-12), P.J. Collson (NPA), Jo Train (NIS), Bob Dougherty (Toledo Jr.) and Terri Hanshumaker, (CVH) are taking part in the pilot program. "Of the 70 teachers taking part in this pilot across the country, LCSD has five," noted Mr. Rinearson.

Crestview Heights teachers Robyn Medici and Ingrid Olson will present on ocean literacy to the Ocean Science Teachers Association during the statewide inservice day October 14th.

Mr. Rinearson noted October 20th marks the end of the first progress period for the 2011/12 year. Parent/Teacher conferences are generally scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 26th, and all day and evening Thursday, October 27th (exact times must be confirmed with individual schools).

The Superintendent invited Board members to the Halloween event at the District Office, part of the "Deco-ween" fun in uptown Newport. Trick-or-treaters are invited to take a walk down "Sesame Street" between 5 and 7 p.m. on Halloween.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 11/12-23

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

- Minutes, 9/13/11 Regular Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Amended 2011-13 ESD Local Service Plan.**

Approval of Budget Committee Members, Zones 1 and 5

Motion 11/12-24

On motion of Director Bondley, seconded by Director Ellis, the Board unanimously appointed Sue Ryan to Zone 1 and Larry Anthony to Zone 5 of the LCSD Budget Committee, with three-year terms to expire 6/30/14. Both representatives have prior experience on the Budget Committee.

Zones 2 (Agate Beach, Depoe Bay, Schooner Creek areas) and 4 (Toledo, Siletz, Eddyville) remain open. Those interested in serving in these volunteer positions may not be LCSD employees, must be registered voters, and must live in the zone to which they are applying. For more information, please contact Laurie Urquhart or Mary Jo Kerlin.

Approval of Resolution, Native American Heritage Month

Motion 11/12-25

The board approved a resolution proclaiming the month of November as “Native American Heritage Month.” The resolution will be distributed to schools to help honor Native Americans in our schools and community.

Oregon Report Card

The Oregon Department of Education released the Oregon school report card October 6th; information on the LCSD results was sent to the Board under separate cover. Three district schools are rated Outstanding: Crestview Heights, Isaac Newton Magnet School, and Newport High. LCSD schools are trending upward, even with the academic bar being raised in Oregon.

Superintendent Rinearson made note of the significant academic improvement at Newport High. He gave kudos to Crestview Heights and Isaac Newton Magnet School for maintaining the high level of achievement; “it’s a difficult task to maintain at this high level,” said Rinearson. “It is our goal for all of our schools perform at this level.”

Update- Ocean Literacy, Community Curriculum Resources Liaison

LCSD Community Curriculum and Resource Liaison Ruth McDonald and Rachael Bashor, School Liaison/Partnership Coordinator- Oregon Coast Aquarium, updated the Board on activities and accomplishments from the last school year as well as future plans.

They reported the ocean literacy effort began in 2006, as a result of a conversation between Superintendent Rinearson and representatives from the Oregon Coast Aquarium and Sea Grant. The partner base has grown significantly since that time, as has grant funding for the initiative.

A teacher advisory committee meets monthly to incorporate reading, writing and math standards with ocean literacy. The District is in the third year of the OCAMP grant; efforts are underway to extend the grant funding beyond the initial three years.

Rachael Bashor began with the Aquarium in 2009 and initiated the Ocean Literacy Curriculum Committee. She and Ms. McDonald organized the first ever Ocean Literacy Symposium held August 30th for all district teachers and administrators. About 300 attendees participated in the event, with keynote speaker Craig Strang of UC Berkeley as well as 50 breakout sessions. Many of the breakout sessions were taught by LCSD teachers and administrators. Handouts from the sessions will be posted on the web soon. 80% of attendees asked for a repeat of the event.

Ms. McDonald reported she received calls from employees in other districts wanting to attend the symposium, and noted OCCC President Pat O'Connor offered the use of that facility for a future symposium.

Pinnacle Demonstration

Data Specialist Paul Williams demonstrated the District's Pinnacle system. (Superintendent Rinearson noted ESD dollars fund Mr. Williams' position). Though Pinnacle originated as an online method for teachers to enter grades and attendance for viewing by parents, it is in process of greatly expanding.

Plans for Pinnacle include an interactive online tool for teachers to access curriculum tied to standards, assignments and assessments. Student information is bar-coded individually; assignments may be viewed and printed at home.

Task analyses, vocabulary, and Total Instructional Alignment documents have been collected and incorporated into the system. The content will be visible to all teachers for use and refinement year after year. "It is full of resources," noted Mr. Williams. "There are issues to be considered and balanced," said Williams.

The system is being piloted by a group of teachers. Mr. Williams works with the technical side, while Assistant Superintendent Sara Johnson works on the teaching/philosophical side. Information will be shared with the Board as it evolves.

Continuous Improvement and Budget Planning Document

The "Continuous Improvement and 2012-13 Planning Cycle" document was presented to the Board. This tool is used by staff to consider the many tasks to be completed throughout the year, including the development of the coming year's budget. Human Resources information may also be incorporated at some point.

Board policy states the school board will set the date of the first Budget Committee meeting; this is reflected on the planning document as May 15, 2012. The board will consider this date at the next regular board meeting.

Superintendent Rineason directed the Board's attention to the portion of the document for November regarding tasks for the Board. "This is the time when we start the conversation about directives from the Board about budgets," noted the Superintendent. Director Ellis asked to meet with the appropriate person to better understand the processes. Business Manager Julie Baldwin will meet with her.

Construction Excise Tax Rates

The Oregon legislature passed in law in 2007 allowing school districts to impose a tax on new construction measured by the square footage of improvement, with different rates for residential versus non-residential construction. The law allows the rate to increase each year, though that has not occurred in our District. This topic will be considered at a future Board retreat.

Policy EFAA, District Nutrition and Food Services

The federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act" of 2010 requires changes to the District's food services policy. One of the significant changes is the requirement of availability of drinking water to students during meal times. The policy also has administrative rules which must be adopted by the Board per federal law.

The new administrative rules will necessitate the deletion of several policies in Section E of the policy book. The new policy and rules will return to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

Added Item: Weight Room, Toledo Jr./Sr. High

Director of Support Services Rich Belloni approached the Board about possibly contracting with T. Gerding Construction for the proposed weight room at Toledo Jr./Sr. High. Mr. Belloni reported this could result in assistance with structural considerations as well as operation of the weight training class.

Mr. Belloni is not making a recommendation at this time, but is simply examining the possibilities. The CM/GC process would allow this project to be incorporated into the contract with the current contractor, should that scenario be prudent for the District.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Superintendent

Chairman