

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, December 13, 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; approximately 30 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 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Communications

Vice Chairman Jean Turner reported she and other board members received several emails from a patron questioning the District's use of the construction excise tax (CET). Chairman Beck suggested placing this item on the January board agenda to allow staff time to gather data.

Board Reports

Chairman Beck wished Superintendent Rinearson "happy birthday," and noted he needed to leave the meeting early due to travel plans.

Mr. Beck gave kudos to Newport Intermediate students, staff and principal for their excellent work with "math facts" (multiplication tables). He visited the school recently to participate in both seeing students in action and distributing certificates to those who passed their math facts test on the first attempt. "That excitement for learning is why I'm here," commented Beck.

Director Liz Martin directed the Board's attention to the most recent edition of the "Harbor Light," Newport High's newspaper. She noted the strength of the paper.

2010/11 Audit Report

Kenny Allen of Pauly, Rogers and Co. presented the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. He reported the District received an unqualified, clean audit, the highest attainable. He noted new federal audit requirements state funds must be placed into five categories: non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

Mr. Allen thanked Business Manager Julie Baldwin and staff for their excellent work; Ms. Baldwin thanked Business Services Supervisor Kim Cusick for stepping forward to assume many new duties related to the audit.

Student Representative

Newport High Student Body President Sophie Hendrix updated the Board on several activities at that school, including: ●the NHS Cross Country team placed 5th in state competition; ●the Leadership Team planned a “blue out” for a basketball game at the school; ●Holiday Spirit week is taking place this week, prior to winter break; ●the second “write-a-palooza” event is being planned for students to explore several different writing styles; ●a career fair took place at the school, with over 30 community members coming in to visit with students; ●many NHS students took part in the recent Yaquina Bay bridge celebration, including the band and cheerleaders; ●students continue to work on ocean literacy; ●a future activity is being planned to send supplies to troops overseas; ●the “Mr. NHS” contest is coming up and will benefit Doernbecher Children’s Hospital.

West Area Report

Sam Case Principal Ryan Relken thanked the Booster club for their hard work on the holiday concert recently held at Newport Intermediate School. He reported construction planning is ongoing and has resulted in changes, i.e., separate pick up/drop off “loops” for buses and parents.

Student improvement is increasing, and teachers are employing many visual learning techniques.

Newport Intermediate Principal Majalise Tolan reported the school in the midst of the Olweus anti-bullying campaign. So far, 75% of students know at least two anti-bullying rules. The next goal is for 75% of students to know 75% of the rules.

The “Polar Express” movie will be shown at NIS on December 15th. Students involved with this year’s east coast trip will be selling concessions.

Newport High Principal Jon Zagel noted the Board toured new construction on campus the evening of the board meeting. “The changes at Newport Prep have really changed our culture,” said Zagel. He thanked Board members for their hard work on the bond measure, and gave kudos to Rich Belloni and staff for in depth communication with employees in schools to learn their opinions about what will work best in new classrooms/space.

Mr. Zagel reported several Chinese educators visited Newport High recently to explore the IB program. He noted the visitors represent a school with high test scores and a 100% graduation rate. But in deeper discussions, it was learned the school has zero teen parents, speakers of a different language, or homeless students. “Our doors are open to everyone,” said Zagel. He thanked the Board and Superintendent for their outstanding contributions, and said he is proud to be a part of this district.

State Revenue Forecast

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented an overview of the current year's budget as well as projections for the coming year. Staff has six fewer work days this year, compared to 12 last year. Administrators/Confidential/Exempt employees volunteered to accept pay freezes. There were reductions to positions this year as a result of decreased state funding.

The state revenue forecast for the current year is down by \$306 million from the close of the legislative session. Mid-year cuts to K-12 education are not expected, but future forecasts bear watching. The volatile global market has a significant impact on Oregon's economy.

For the coming school year, the state school fund is expected to be \$25 million less than the current year, which will result in a reduction of approximately \$235,144 to LCSD. In addition, "School Year Subaccount Funds" will not be available to districts. These two factors, combined with "roll up" costs for the coming year (assuming no reduced days), could result in a reduction of approximately \$2.5 million compared to the current year's adopted budget.

Student enrollment has flattened, moving away from the steep decreases seen in prior years. Because the district has been able to maintain an adequate beginning fund balance, borrowing funds has been eliminated, saving between \$25,000 and \$60,000. Building carryover funds have been used to hire additional staff.

Ms. Baldwin explained "stop loss," the category LCSD has been in with regard to state funding for the last several years. Stop loss states that state school fund money is based on either the higher ADMw of the prior year, or the actual ADMw of the current year. The district is close to exiting stop loss status (in a few years). Superintendent Rinearson reported the state legislature initiated this funding mechanism for districts with declining enrollment (over 70% of districts in the state). "It backs you off the cliff, though the cliff is still there," said the Superintendent.

Other unknowns for 2012/13 include a reduction in federal grant funding, the possible elimination of federal forest fees, and uncertain ESD funding levels.

Ms. Baldwin reported the Learning Support Team will continue to monitor the budget picture, looking at ways to lessen the impact of reductions with a focus on student achievement.

Chairman Beck left the meeting at this point due to travel plans, and turned the gavel over to Vice Chairman Jean Turner.

Monthly Financial Report

Business Manager Julie Baldwin reported the District received substantial state timber revenue in November. She learned from County Treasurer Linda Pitzer that this timber revenue stream appears to be stronger than last year's. This is considered "local revenue." When local revenue is higher than expected, state school fund monies decrease to the district. Strong local revenues could mean a negative adjustment from the state in May of 2013.

Superintendent Rinearson cautioned the Board that though the district received higher than expected local revenue, it would be offset by a reduction in the state school fund.

Capital Construction (Bond) Update

Director of Support Services Rich Belloni and Business Manager Julie Baldwin updated the Board on the progress of bond projects around the district, sharing pictures and the monthly budget reports for each project.

The artificial turf fields are substantially under budget.

“We are keeping our word with what we said we would do with bond funds,” said Belloni. “We do as much ourselves as we can, thus saving money. The tough economic times have resulted in good prices for us.”

The school by school financial reports divide projects between those funded with bond revenue, construction excise tax funds, and building maintenance funds. Superintendent Rinearson said the natural tendency would be to move forward on projects listed in columns other than bond projects. “We need to complete everything we said we would do in the bond first.”

Mr. Belloni stated an unanticipated cost has arisen at the new Waldport High site as a result of a different fire marshal in that area. (He met with the previous fire marshal last year, though the plan developed then has been superseded). The new fire marshal is considering the need for a new water tank that could cost up to \$500,000. “I am hoping to reduce that cost substantially,” said Belloni.

Mr. Rinearson noted the significant impact on local builders, suppliers, etc., saying he has been told by several that the bond work has enabled them to stay in business. He said Mr. Belloni will present an in-depth report on bond projects every six months or so.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Rinearson recognized Crestview Heights Learning Specialist Krista Williams for obtaining a Target field trip grant. The grant will fund an excursion to the Hatfield Marine Science Center for 48 students in February.

Mr. Rinearson thanked Optometric Physician Dr. Rick Letherer for his donation of six eye exams to students, along with glasses for those who need them. Dr. Letherer started this tradition in 1994, and has given this gift every year since then.

The Superintendent thanked Road and Driveway for their recent donation of paving behind the softball backstop at Toledo Jr./Sr. High.

He recognized Crestview SLP Heather Loman, whose thesis will be presented at an international conference.

He noted he and Assistant Superintendent Sara Johnson attended a STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) meeting with district ocean literacy partners and the Oregon Department of Education. “ODE is very interested in learning about how we developed these partnerships” said Rinearson.

He also congratulated Newport Intermediate School, Attendance Flag winners for November, the third consecutive month.

Toledo Elementary will host a winter festival on December 15th at 1:00 p.m., and Newport High’s winter concert is the same date, 7:00 p.m. at the Newport Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Rinearson noted that Communications Coordinator Mary Jo Kerlin developed a brochure to help share financial information about the bond projects.

The Superintendent wished Director Liz Martin “Happy Birthday” on December 28th. He noted Friday, December 16th is the last day of school before Winter Break; school resumes Tuesday, January 3rd.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 11/12-32

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

- Minutes, 11/8/11 Regular Session;
- Policy IK, Academic Achievement;
- Policy IKA, Grading System;
- Policy IKFB, Graduation Exercises;
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;
- Policy AD, Educational Philosophy;
- Policy AE, District Goals.

Mr. Rinearson noted that early notification by employees planning to retire this year has been very helpful.

Appointment of Gary Nees to Budget Committee, Zone 2

Motion 11/12-33

On motion of Director Ellis, seconded by Director Martin, the Board unanimously approved Gary Nees as the Zone 2 Budget Committee member, to serve a one-year remainder term to June 30, 2012. (The previous Zone 2 representative resigned the position. The standard term of office for budget committee members is three years.) The first Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2012.

Mr. Nees was recruited by Zone 2 Board member Liz Martin.

Approval of OSBA Resolutions; Candidate

Motion 11/12-34

On motion of Director Bondley, seconded by Director Ellis, the Board unanimously approved two resolutions and a candidate to the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee. One resolution would allow

consecutive terms for the secretary/treasurer; the other would allow the legislative policy committee more flexibility to make changes to legislative policies and priorities.

David Dowrie was approved as the Zone 10 representative to the Legislative Policy Committee. He currently serves on the Linn Benton Lincoln Board of Directors.

Discussion on Superintendent’s Evaluation Instrument and Timeline

Each year, the Board conducts an evaluation of the Superintendent. In addition to input from Board members, District administrators will be asked to complete the forms. The evaluation will take place during January, 2012.

Director Martin noted the Board has mentioned using a different evaluation tool; the Superintendent said it would be a good topic for a board retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent