

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, January 14, 2014- 7:00 p.m.
Newport Intermediate School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

- PRESIDING:** Chairman Ron Beck
- Present:** Chairman Ron Beck; Vice Chairman Liz Martin; Karen Bondley, Kelley Ellis, Terri Woodd, Directors
- Also Present:** Tom Rinearson, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; approximately 50 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 7:01 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

Communications

Jeanne St. John addressed the Board on behalf of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) regarding anti-bullying and “no name calling week.” She noted Newport Intermediate/Isaac Newton Magnet School is doing an incredible job with anti-bullying efforts. “The changes since Olweus (anti-bullying curriculum) went into effect are staggering,” said St. John.

She reported Newport High received the “School of Distinction” award from the Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition, and reported she and Terri Woodd led the Youth Leadership Academy in November. Ms. St. John and co-chair Ineka Estabrook presented a check to support the anti-bullying program at Taft 7-12.

Director Ellis asked if Olweus is being widely shared in the district. Mr. Rinearson said it is being used in several schools, though it is expensive. “The principals are starting to align their efforts,” he added.

National Board Certified Teachers

LCSD teachers Tami Johnson and Erinne Irish earned new certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and mentor teacher Kristin Becker was recertified. Board Chair Ron Beck presented each of the teachers with a framed letter of appreciation and expressed gratitude for their dedication and hard work.

Board Reports

Board Vice Chair Liz Martin announced that the Board would like to name the gym at Sam Case “Rinearson Court” in recognition of Superintendent Tom Rinearson and his many contributions to LCSD over the last ten years. She noted Mr. Rinearson’s long-time affiliation with basketball and said she believed this would be a great way of honoring the Superintendent. Chairman Beck agreed.

Approval of Naming Sam Case Gym “Rinearson Court”

Motion 13/14-24

On motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Woodd, the Board unanimously approved naming the gymnasium at Sam Case Primary School “Rinearson Court.” Board members noted their desire to hold the February 11th board meeting at Sam Case to dedicate the gym as mentioned.

Lincoln City Urban Renewal Presentation

Director Kurt Olsen of the Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency introduced Lincoln City representatives in attendance (Mayor Dick Anderson, Assistant Urban Renewal Director Alison Robertson, and Finance Director Debbie Mammone), and presented a proposal developed by that agency. Mr. Olsen reported they would like to amend their Year 2000 Development Plan in order to fund infrastructure projects, thus allowing development in the north end of Lincoln City. Expected results of this plan include an increase in construction excise tax funds to LCSD as well as local construction jobs.

Mr. Olsen noted the urban renewal agency will meet on January 27th at 5:00 p.m. in Lincoln City Council Chambers to discuss the plan and receive input on it.

Student Representatives

Newport Intermediate Counselor Erin Carey presented a slide show of the many activities in which students there have participated. She reported students are learning about respect as well as character education and leadership skills.

Fifth grade students Jillian Thompson and Hattie Imbler-Bremner shared a presentation about the leadership and anti-bullying skills they are learning.

Sixth grade teacher Joy Boeckman introduced students Ashton Sampson, Alina Chavez, and Madison Tough. The students described their work with special education students, the eight essentials of leadership, and their plan for a field trip to the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

INMS science teacher Katie Sard introduced students Britnie Gwynn and Ben Pierias, who described the upcoming winter social, recent field trips to the “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” play, NOAA, and the Hatfield Marine Science Center. They expressed appreciation for new art teacher Amber Sprague, and said three new electives will be offered second semester. A boat building competition is planned for March.

21st Century Grant Update

Joyce Thompson Graham described the new 21st Century Grant that provides afterschool enrichment programs focused on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

The program is offered in five school based sites (Taft Elementary, Sam Case, Siletz Valley School, Toledo Elementary and Crestview Heights) along with the Neighbors for Kids site in Depoe Bay. There is also a partnership between Crestview Heights and Seashore Family Literacy Center.

216 students are now participating in the program, with 150 on the waiting list. She said the hope of the program is to improve attendance, grades, test scores and discipline issues. Ms. Thompson invited interested parties to volunteer for and/or donate to the program.

Vice Chair Liz Martin gave kudos to Ms. Thompson for her hard work initializing the program. Administrator Libba Sager thanked Katey Townsend, Ruth McDonald, Sandy Mummey and Lauren Sigman for their work writing the grant.

West Area Report

Sam Case Principal Ryan Relken asked to postpone his report until the 'Rinearson Court' dedication next month. He thanked Board members for their service and said education is a community issue.

Newport Intermediate Principal Tiana Tucker noted most of her report was shared by students earlier in the meeting, and said the addition of a counselor and an art teacher has added to the school immeasurably. She reported students are holding a sock drive to benefit homeless students, and said four teachers from her building applied for model classroom designation.

Newport Prep/High Principal Jon Zagel said he would like to provide a report after semester grades are released (with regard to the school schedule this year). He thanked the Board for their leadership.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin presented financial reports as of December 31, 2013. She noted the 2012/13 audit report was shared by Pauly, Rogers and Associates via email to the Board. Student enrollment is looking positive.

For capital improvements, Ms. Baldwin reported funds remitted to T. Gerding in December were primarily for Gerding's expenditures, and reminded Board members that overall, 70% of funds paid for construction of Waldport High school were retained in Lincoln County (approximately \$9.9 million).

Ms. Baldwin expressed gratitude to the Board for all they do, especially with regard to their work with Superintendent Rinearson. Chairman Beck thanks Ms. Baldwin and her staff for their stellar work, as confirmed by the auditor.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rinearson introduced Linn Benton Lincoln ESD Superintendent designate Mary McKay, who attended the board meeting.

The Superintendent thanked the many organizations and individuals around the county who joined forces to help homeless youth at the holidays, including World Mark, Mariner's Square, District Office staff, OCCC nursing students, the Newport Rotary, Cohen and Park Photography, Yaquina Bay Communications and local businesses. "This is an indicator of our community and partnerships, and the amazing things that can happen when they are aligned," said Rinearson.

He thanked all board members for their service in honor of school board recognition month, noting they would be presented with a small gift later in the meeting.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 13/14-25

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

- Minutes, November 12, Regular Session;**
- Minutes, December 16, 2013 Special Session;**
- Regular Personnel Items and addendum;**
- Policy DJA, District Procurement;**
- Appointment of Search Screening Committee.**

Approval of Planned Course Statement, Gender Studies

Motion 13/14-26

On motion of Director Woodd, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved the Planned Course Statement for the Gender Studies course, as listed in the January 14, 2014 board folder. The course was developed by Taft 7-12 teacher Brittney Guenther, and will provide Fine Arts credit. Ms. Guenther noted she “wants kids to know it’s okay to be different. The class adds to the number of high academic caliber electives available, and may be offered starting the second semester of this school year.

Director Karen Bondley commented this course should “really enhance the mental health of our students and their self-esteem.”

Approval of Planned Course Statement, Stress Management

Motion 13/14-27

On motion of Director Ellis, seconded by Director Woodd, the Board unanimously approved the Planned Course Statement for the Stress Management course, as listed in the January 14, 2014 board folder. The course was developed by teacher Kristy Heller at Toledo Jr./Sr. High and will provide elective credit. Its goal is to teach students how to manage stress by using a variety of relaxation techniques. This class may also be offered starting at the second semester.

Ocean Literacy Update

Teacher on Special Assignment Matt Love and graphic artist Tim Sproul described the “Devocean” (devotion to the ocean) effort debuting in Lincoln County. LCSD administrators, teachers, students and community partners in marine science and education have collaborated together to study the ocean in innovative ways. “We were tasked with telling the story” of ocean literacy and its many iterations, said Love.

Devocean is a new awareness-raising campaign that will showcase the many extraordinary happenings related to ocean education in Lincoln County. “What we were lacking was an overarching theme,” said Love. He reported he went through visioning exercises with students and staff prior to launching the “Devocean” publication at Newport High last year. The goal was to create a sense of identity with the effort, which is associated with the entire county, not only the school district.

Board members were presented with sweatshirts bearing the Devocean logo in honor of school board recognition month. “There is something happening in every single community related to ocean literacy,” said Superintendent Tom Rinearson. “This could unite the entire county, and could help economic development as well,” he added.

Division 22 Standards Update

Operations Administrator Joe Novello noted the District is in substantial compliance with requirements of OAR 581-022-1610, Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools. An assurance form will be submitted to ODE by the deadline of April 15, 2014.

Superintendent Rinearson suggested the Board set aside time at their next board retreat to understand Division 22 standards with the “new Joe” (Operation Administrator).

Request to Renew Charters- Siletz Early College Academy and Eddyville

The Board received letters from both Siletz Early College Academy and Eddyville Charter Schools requesting renewal of the respective charter contracts. Public hearings for both requests will be held at the February 11th board meeting; the Board will consider the requests by March 11, 2014. If the Board wishes to move forward with renewing the charters, negotiations will begin on the charter contracts.

Admission of Non-Resident Students

The 2011 state legislature approved a bill allowing districts to continue to enter into voluntary inter-district transfers with other districts, but also created a new transfer process that does not require the consent of the school district in which the student lives. Two years ago, the Board adopted Policy JECB, Admission of Nonresident Students which describes the process to accommodate this law.

Part of the law directs the Board to decide upon the number of students they wish to admit by March 1st each year. They may also decide not to give consent to any person under this process. Operations Administrator Joe Novello noted he will share a FAQ sheet on open enrollment produced by ODE with the Board. The admission of non-resident students will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion on Food Services Program

Board members began a discussion on current food services in the District. Vice Chairman Liz Martin asked for information on the number of students eating breakfast and lunch daily, and said that any food being served should be of the highest quality.

Director Ellis challenged Board members to visit an elementary school to have lunch in the next month. She also asked to learn what barriers exist to the District’s receipt of competitive bids for food services.

Policy IGBAJ, Special Education- Free and Appropriate Education

Policy IGBAJ, Special Education- Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) was revised to accommodate changes to a state law. Districts must provide FAPE to children with disabilities enrolled in a public charter school located in the district. This includes students who may not be residents of Lincoln County. Special Education Administrator Susan Van Liew reported the district is aware of this requirement.

Policy JGAB, Use of Restraint and Seclusion

Policy JGAB, Use of Restraint and Seclusion was revised due to changes in OAR 581-021-0559, which now requires districts to submit an annual report detailing the use of physical restraint and seclusion to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Prior to this change, the information was simply retained in the district office.)

Superintendent Rinearson asked Special Education Administrator Susan Van Liew to explain how requirements of this policy might be met. She reported the district uses “non-violent crisis intervention” methods and offers an initial training of eight hours, with four hour refresher courses each year. The first four hours of the training teaches how to avoid restraining a student by de-escalating the situation. The second half is focused on what is done when those things do not work, and what to do when students become violent and are causing “extreme physical harm” to themselves or others. “We move the student to a break room so they are in a place where they can be safe,” said Van Liew. “We do a lot of work with staff to help de-escalate, which is best for both staff and kids.”

Both policies will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Custodial Services Contract

The term for the contract with Sodexo for custodial services will end June 30, 2014. The District is continuing to work with Sodexo to improve custodial services and would like to extend the contract for five years, through June of 2019. All original terms and conditions remain the same including the ability to terminate the contract for cause or convenience. Business Manager Julie Baldwin noted “there are challenges in the custodial arena, probably related to pay structure. We have been looking at this all year and have asked Sodexo to provide cost proposals for tiered levels of service.”

Chairman Beck asked if there is a gap between duties a custodian may have performed several years ago (i.e., if the heating system stops working) and what current custodians do. Director of Support Services Rich Belloni said the custodian will re-set the system, and if that does not work they contact Facilities and Maintenance staff (about the same as before). “We have a high turnover with our night custodians,” said Belloni.

Director Ellis noted her desire to learn more about the cost savings of contracting out several years ago versus not doing so. She also asked how many times we can legally amend a contract without going out for an RFP.

This item will return for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Approval of Tech Infrastructure Proposal

Motion 13/14-28

On motion of Director Ellis, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved a contract with Presidio to purchase switching equipment in the amount of \$251,957. Prior to the vote, Director of Support Services Rich Belloni presented information on a cost proposal to upgrade switches in the district. This upgrade is needed in order to carry additional internet traffic, moving to a gigabyte from a megabyte. (This item was moved to a Decision item to take advantage of an expiring price break.)

Waiver of Superintendent Evaluation 13/14

Motion 13/14-29

On motion of Director Wood, seconded by Director Ellis, the Board voted to waive the Superintendent Evaluation for 2013/14. Each year, the Board usually conducts an evaluation of the Superintendent. Given the circumstances this year (i.e., that Superintendent is retiring) and prior to the vote, Chairman Beck asked the Board to consider whether this is necessary.

Superintendent Succession Plan

The search for a new superintendent is in process, with the application materials available on the district website. The position closes January 31st; the Board and screening committee are scheduled to meet February 5th for training, followed by a closed session to begin looking at applications. First interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place about February 20th to 22nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent