

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Work Session
Tuesday, July 22, 2014– following Special Session
Newport Intermediate School- Media Center
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Liz Martin, Chairman 14-15

Present: Liz Martin, Chairman; Karen Bondley, Vice Chairman; Ron Beck, Kelley Ellis, Terri Woodd, Directors

Also Present: Steve Boynton, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary; Steve Lamb, Spencer Lewis, Jill Zurschmeide- OSBA

Handout- “Advance Governance” from OSBA

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Liz Martin convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:49 p.m. with a quorum of all five board members present.

OSBA consultant Steve Lamb noted the late start and that the typical allotted time for the work session is three hours. The material he presented was condensed to fit in the window of time remaining (about an hour and a half).

Board Research

Mr. Lamb began the meeting by asking each board member why they ran for the school board, and what they see as the best part of being a school board member.

Karen Bondley said she has been on the board about five years. She was approached by several people to run, and said she had a great public education herself so wanted to return the favor. Her favorite part is being part of the successes.

Terri Woodd just completed her first year on the board. She was a high school English/theater arts teacher for 25 years and thought being a part of the school board was a natural extension of that. The best part for Terri is being still connected to education.

Liz Martin has been on the board about four years. “I was raised to be part of the solution,” said Martin. She was deeply involved with her children’s education, and thought being on the board would enable her to continue to contribute to education in Lincoln County. She enjoyed working with former superintendent Tom Rinearson, and said she shared his vision and is looking forward to working with new Superintendent Steve Boynton.

Ron Beck is the longest serving member of the board at 12 years. He was appointed just before major changes on the board and in the district occurred, and ran to try to make a positive impact on the district. The best part of the job for Ron is graduation; “The community comes together and kids you’ve known for years have graduated,” said Beck.

Kelley Ellis noted she is starting her third year on the board and is a “chronic volunteer.” She ran for the Board because no one else from her zone had filed to run. “The best part for me is being a parent on the board, as well as a resource for other parents. I am proud to say ‘call the District Office,’” said Ellis.

Why Local Boards

Mr. Lamb asked board members to consider the value of local school boards, noting that other ideas about the governance of schools are being bandied about the state (including having mayors act in this capacity, or ODE). “What do you bring?” asked Lamb.

Director Beck replied that a local board provides local control, and a “local flavor, outside of Salem and Portland.” Director Ellis mentioned self-governance, and Director Wood said the words “jury” or “team” come to mind.

Steve Lamb noted the importance of community confidence. “You are the window through which the community sees what is going on; our kids pick this up,” he added. He noted the large amount of research showing that local boards really do matter and said that citizen leaders provide local control, accountability and act as a “court of appeals.”

In addition, school boards can influence staff morale, continuity of purpose, personnel stability and achievement of goals. “What boards do and how they do it really matters,” said Lamb.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Lamb briefly touched on “who does what” between the Board and Superintendent, found on page 3 of the handout, “Advanced Governance.” He showed a short video demonstrating that it is difficult to see the big picture if one is focused on minutiae.

Board and Superintendent roles are defined in state statutes, board policies, the superintendent’s contract and institutional history. Mr. Lamb stated OSBA recommends the Board and Superintendent have working agreements to delineate both what needs to be improved and what is working well on the board team. He said the working agreements should be discussed annually.

Board Protocols

Prior to the work session, Mr. Lamb conducted a survey of board protocols so the Board could rate which items they saw as most important, less important, etc. Due to time constraints, the survey and results were not discussed. He urged board members to call OSBA with questions.

Board's Role in Student Achievement

Mr. Lamb noted the “Pygmalion effect,” the phenomenon whereby the greater the expectation placed upon people, the better they perform and its opposite “golem effect” in which lower expectations placed upon individuals lead to poorer performance by the individual. Lamb called the golem effect “the soft bigotry of low expectations.”

He showed a short video of student Dalton Sherman and his “Do you believe in me?” presentation, then asked board members and the Superintendent to provide their thoughts regarding the percent of LCSD students currently succeeding, and the percent expected to succeed. This exercise demonstrated the importance of establishing and using the same measurement or yardstick.

“The Board should have a shared understanding of what success means. It can be different between buildings and between communities.” Superintendent Boynton agreed that each building can have its own expertise and measure of success.

Establishing Goals

JFK's goal established in 1961 of sending an astronaut to the moon and returning him safely to earth has been called the “quintessential goal statement,” said Mr. Lamb. He suggested that Kennedy simply got in front of an already existing sentiment in the country in answer to the Russian satellite Sputnik.

“The most difficult job is to build collective will and create enthusiasm,” said Lamb. He reported schools with a high level of trust are three times as likely to yield positive outcomes. “You must create the conditions for success.”

Accountability

Accountability is about learning and adaptation, said Mr. Lamb. He showed a video of a student being shaken by a school employee, and said board members must remind themselves in such an incident that they are members of the court of appeals and cannot get involved. “Don't immerse yourself in the problem; you should get a heads up from the Superintendent though.”

He explained executive sessions must be properly called and said if they are not, board members could be subject to a fine of \$1,000 personally.

Next Steps

Lamb noted that “Someone is always watching.” For homework, he said the board could consider doing a board self-evaluation, think about what success looks like, and follow up on the board protocols.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent