

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors
Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Taft Elementary School
Lincoln City, Oregon

Minutes

- PRESIDING:** Amanda Remund, Vice Chairman
- Present:** Amanda Remund, Vice Chairman; Liz Martin, Karen Bondley, Kelley Ellis, Directors
- Also Present:** Steve Boynton, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary
- Handouts:** “Music is Instrumental;” Nutrition Services Newsletter, September 2016; Taft Elementary 2016-17 School Year Plan; Taft 7-12 Areas of Focus for Continual Improvement; Financial Reports, 8/31/16; School Rankings, 2015/16

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Vice Chairman Remund convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of four board members present. Chairman Beck was excused from the meeting.

Communications

LCEA President Peter Lohonyay addressed the board regarding new policy GCBDD/GDBDD, Sick Time. He shared a sample policy from another district, saying he preferred that one’s clarifying language.

Christine Tell and Mark Sanders, representing the Siletz Bay Music Festival, summarized activities of the Studio to Schools grant. The current year is the third for the grant, which provides music education and instruments for north area students, along with the opportunity to observe and play music with renowned visiting artists.

Sodexo Food Services Director Patty Graves shared a newsletter with the board, saying the school year is off to a good start.

Sodexo Custodial Manager Greg Rodocker congratulated Shannon Poole for her national award from Sodexo. Custodial Assistant Manager Michael Ginsberg nominated Ms. Poole, who was selected at the district, regional then national level for the “Sodexo Experience” award. Ms. Poole stepped in at Toledo Jr./Sr. High when needed, and offered stellar service which was reflected by the national award.

Board Reports

Director Ellis attended a recent alumni/staff volleyball game at Toledo Jr./Sr. High.

Vice Chairman Amanda Remund congratulated Waldport High, whose math state test scores increased significantly. She also noted students and staff are excited about the changes involving middle school students at the school.

She reported Crestview Heights will hold a “Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities” event on September 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Student Representatives

Taft 7-12 ASB Co-President Dylan Givargiznia and student representative Emily Williams updated the board on ongoing activities at the school, including: •7th grade orientation was planned by staff and supported by students, who acted as class guides and who assisted teachers; •this year’s play will be Willy Wonka and will take place in April, 2017; •fundraising for cancer will take place over a month’s time, with one week each dedicated to breast cancer, lung cancer, childhood cancer, and leukemia.

North Area Report

Oceanlake Principal Sandy Mummey reported the Structured Learning Center moved to a larger space, and said another Kindergarten class was added at the school (six total). The computer lab was repurposed to a classroom; music and P.E. are now offered all year. Students are learning mindfulness (self-regulation), and breakfast is now served in the cafeteria. Classified and licensed employees are participating in a book study (“Conscious Discipline”); the school is continuing with Daily Five. “We have a lot going on,” said Mummey.

Taft Elementary Principal Nick Lupo distributed a handout showing his plan for the year. Sixth grade students participate in band at the high school, and take part in a middle school-type schedule with rotating classes. Two Taft Elementary teachers participated in AVID training, which complements the high school program. Sixth grade students all received a school binder to help promote organization. They are using the binders as traveling lockers as they rotate from class to class. More music and P.E. instruction is being offered at the school than in the past.

Taft 7-12 Principal Majalise Tolan distributed a handout showing areas of focus for continual improvement at the school including communication, AVID and GEAR UP (college and career ready), Career and Technical Education, and Professional Development.

The school will offer parent/guardian training several evenings to respond to parent concerns titled “Let’s Talk About It.” Please contact Taft 7-12 for more information.

The school is participating for the second year in AVID for 7th through 10th grade students. Ms. Tolan noted the school will be focused on building relationships with students.

Career Technical Education (CTE) is being enhanced by the addition of a career exploration class and a health careers class. Culinary Arts and Child Psychology classes are continuing, and forest management has been added.

Teachers are sharing information with one another regarding professional development, as one size does not fit all.

Update on SWEET Program/Youth Transition Program

Special Education Administrator Cyndi Henry and Special Education Teacher Judy Clark-Upton summarized the Summer Work Experience Education and Training (SWEET) program recently concluded in the district. The program was funded by a \$36,000 pilot grant from the Oregon Department of Education; it offered ten special education students the chance to work a paid, six-week job at a local business. Students were also paid for one week of orientation and job skills prior to beginning at their work site.

The program was very successful, and resulted in two of the students being offered permanent positions. At least three of the sites want to continue volunteer/job shadow opportunities during the school year. The students earned about \$1,000 each.

Ms. Henry reported the district received a one-year grant from Vocational Rehabilitation and ODE as a result of the SWEET program. The grant will fund \$35,000 of a full time transition coordinator to work with students of varying disabilities on transition activities and employment opportunities. The coordinator will also be a liaison for students with other community agencies as needed.

ACT vs. Smarter Balanced Testing

High school principals Jon Zagel, Majalise Tolan and Clint Raever presented information about exploring the possibility of using the ACT test rather than Smarter Balanced (SBAC) at the 11th grade level only. They examined this topic for over a year, and came to the conclusion that the ACT test better serves students.

The Smarter Balanced tests take approximately 23 hours to take. If a student is also an International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced Placement (AP) student, testing time could increase to 41 hours. The ACT test takes about five hours to complete. Also, since the SBAC is not given to students in grades 9 and 10, there is a gap of progress monitoring.

The ACT test provides more information to students and staff, and in a timely manner so that instruction can be adjusted accordingly (unlike the SBAC). It is also a test that colleges accept.

The principals are not suggesting the District opt out of Smarter Balanced all together, but rather that parents have the option of opting their student out at the 11th grade level only. The test provides good information for grades 3 through 8, and the state selects that test.

Possible drawbacks to selecting the ACT rather than SBAC include a potential loss of federal funding at the state level. Several districts in the state are considering using a different test at the 11th grade level, and a state work group focused on the 'Every Student Succeeds Act' (ESSA; new federal education law) suggests that flexibility regarding the 11th grade test is imminent.

"The benefits outweigh the detriments," commented Mr. Raever. Principals will offer opportunities for parent and community input, and will explain their rationale for considering this change. Waldport High will offer both tests.

Director Ellis noted her concern with backing away from the SBAC after sharing information about it and defending it for the last year. Superintendent Boynton said that once the ACT or another test is a viable option, he would be surprised if any district in the state continued with SBAC.

Director Martin thanked the principals for their time and expertise.

Financial Reports

Director of Business Services Julie Baldwin reported enrollment figures are still in flux and would be reported at the next meeting. Revenue and expenditures are in alignment with typical activities for this time of year.

Associated Student Body (ASB) revenue and expenditures are now administered at the district office, per the auditors' suggestion.

Interest rates have increased slightly.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Boynton thanked the large contingent of people and organizations who held "Stuff a Bus" school supply drives. Mid-Columbia Bus Co. parked buses at the outlet mall in Lincoln City and Wal-Mart in Newport; approximately \$16,000 in cash and school supplies was gathered in Lincoln City. School supplies and cash donations gathered in Newport were shared with schools in Newport, Toledo and Waldport through the HELP centers. Director Ellis also noted a "Stuff a Bus" event was also held in Toledo with the help of Georgia Pacific.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Mr. Boynton thanked the Oregon Community Foundation for their continuation of the Studio to School grant, providing music education to students in Lincoln City schools. This is the third year of the grant, funded through the Siletz Bay Music Festival.

The Superintendent thanked Sodexo Food Services for providing breakfast and lunch to district administrators during one of their August trainings. He recognized Food Services Director Patty Graves for her excellent work.

Mr. Boynton reported Newport High students Leland Wood and Natalie DeWitt, Waldport High 2016 graduate Etasha Golden, and Waldport High teacher Kama Almasi are onboard the R/V Oceanus on a three-day research cruise from Newport to Portland. They joined students and teachers from Bandon, North Bend and Warrenton, and will be working with mammal and seabird researchers.

Mr. Boynton wished board member Amanda Remund an early "Happy Birthday."

He reported the number of homeless students in the district increased in 2015-16 to 772 students in grades K-12. The district H.E.L.P. program is working hard to help these students.

Mr. Boynton reported the district moved up in school rankings from 105 to 101.

The superintendent said that most schools are close to capacity, and said he is considering options to address this.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 16/17-7

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

- **Minutes, August 10, 2016 Regular Session;**
- **Minutes, August 23, 2016 Special Session;**
- **Regular Personnel Items;**
- **Board Goals Reaffirmed, 2016-18.**

Approval of 2016-17 Superintendent Goals

Motion 16/17-8

On motion of Director Bondley, seconded by Director Ellis, the Board unanimously approved 2016/17 goals for the superintendent as noted in the September 14, 2016 board folder. The goals cover four areas: financial, district improvement, elementary student achievement and secondary student engagement.

Approval of Policy GBED, Medical Exams/Drug Testing

Motion 16/17-9

On motion of Director Martin seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Policy GBED, Medical Examinations/Drug Testing as noted in the September 14, 2016 board folder. The policy was discovered to contain unintended verbiage, which Director of Human Resources Michael Morgan corrected. The policy was presented to the board for their review at the August meeting. Since then, it was revised to add a footnote that was deleted in error.

Update on Summer Projects; Water Testing

Director of Support Service Rich Belloni updated the board on projects in process or recently completed. Principals share their one and five-year plans with Facilities and Maintenance staff; the plans are implemented as they can be fit in.

This summer (not a complete list): ● A middle school wing was created at Crestview Heights, which involved significant remodeling including moving two labs, moving lockers, painting, and moving an office;

- At Sam Case, the computer lab was remodeled into a classroom; a bathroom was installed near the health room; old tile was abated in several areas;
- Oceanlake saw the Kindergarten room remodeled, two regular classrooms re-done, and the special education room remodeled. An art and music room was also created;
- Work on the seismic grant is nearly 100% complete at Toledo Jr./Sr. High. This work included replacing the old gym roof. Other work at the school included adding sound panels in the gym and painting a large "T" on the outside of the gym;
- At Yaquina View, the Title room was remodeled to be a regular classroom; the music room was re-done;
- Newport High west campus- remodel of the counseling center began last May and was delayed by the water testing done throughout the district over the summer. The counseling center project should be complete sometime in October.

•Taft 7-12 saw about 60% of the exterior of the building painted; sound panels in two classrooms were removed and replaced with walls;

Mr. Belloni reported district insurance company representatives examined weight rooms throughout the district and made recommendations. Nineteen combo weight racks were purchased as a result; some floors were replaced as well.

Grounds clean-up was done throughout the district.

The district had 1,480 water tests for lead, done throughout the district. Some rooms had several tests. A few areas have signs posted as “non-potable water- do not drink.” These are in areas that would not typically be used for drinking (e.g., a sink used for washing dishes before they go in the dishwasher, science labs, showers.)

New Policy GCBDD/GDBDD, Sick Time

Policy GCBDD/GDBDD, Sick Time was developed as a result of a change in state law. The policy applies to substitute employees, as others are covered under their respective contracts.

The policy will return for the board’s consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion Working Agreements, Board/ Superintendent

Several years ago the board and superintendent developed working agreements to guide the board and superintendent in working together. The board will continue discussion on the agreements at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent