



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 14, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Carolyn Barclift at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 14, 2008, at the Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also present were Vice President Bob Shirley, Directors Russ Lehman and Frank Wilson, Student Representative Adam Buchholz and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. Director Rich Nafziger was not in attendance.

President Barclift led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 2007. VICE PRESIDENT SHIRLEY SECONDED. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2007. VICE PRESIDENT SHIRLEY SECONDED. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

VICE PRESIDENT SHIRLEY MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE GRIFFIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS. DIRECTOR WILSON SECONDED. THREE AYES, ONE ABSTENTION; MOTION CARRIED.

Audience members who wished to speak regarding agenda items were identified.

VICE PRESIDENT SHIRLEY MOVED TO TAKE AGENDA ITEM 1.3 OFF THE AGENDA. THERE WAS NO SECOND; MOTION FAILED.

There was no one signed up to speak under Community Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Superintendent Lahmann requested removal of Item 6.1 from the Consent Agenda.

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED, ITEM 6.1 HAVING BEEN PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION. DIRECTOR WILSON SECONDED. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, January 28, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Centennial ES
- Monday, February 11, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, February 25, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, CHS
- Monday, March 10, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 17, 6:30 pm, **Study Session**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 24, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, McKenny ES

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved two new contracts:

NEW CONTRACTS - effective the 2007-08 contract year

Gwin, Sharlon – Special Education, Centennial Elementary School. Approved a one-year .5 contract, beginning December 6, 2007.

Statler, Caroline – Special Education, LP Brown Elementary School. Approved a one-year .5 contract, beginning January 2, 2008.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated January 14, 2008.

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Instructional Materials Committee

The Board approved the materials previously submitted by the IMC for the Board's review.

4.2 Carl D. Perkins Grant

The Board approved submission of a grant request to qualify the Olympia School District to receive \$56,947 in federal grant funds for supplemental support of Career & Technical Education.

5 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

5.1 Final Acceptance – Quote No. 799, Portable Relocation

The Board accepted the relocation of a portable classroom from Jefferson Middle School to Centennial Elementary School.

6 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

6.1 *Pulled from consideration.*

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved cancellations totaling \$229,683.56, and the following expenditures: Private Purpose Trust Voucher Nos. 6 and 7, in the total amount of \$263.61; Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 30023 through 30077, in the total amount of \$109,108.54; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9665 through 9704, in the total amount of \$157,916.37; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 140545 through 140703, in the total amount of \$868,015.08.

8.2 Facility Use Request – Reformation Orthodox Presbyterian Church

The Board approved a request from the Reformation Orthodox Presbyterian Church for continued use of Hansen Elementary School for a period of one year. The church has been using Hansen for Sunday morning worship since February 2005.

REGULAR AGENDA

4 STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS

4.1 Report on Autism and Transitions Coordinator

Assistant Superintendent Hans Landig, Student Support, facilitated an update on the District's Autism program and a report on accomplishments achieved since the hiring of a Transitions Coordinator. Hans Landig introduced Kim Acuff, who spoke about the progress of the Transitions program, and her role as coordinator. Student Mary Lafau spoke about her experience with the Transitions program following her high school graduation, and some of the

life skills she learned in the program. Kelli Ehresmann, coordinator for OSD's Autism Spectrum Disorder program (ASD), spoke about her work on developing tools and programs, and emphasized the teamwork involved in supporting students. She spoke of the need for inclusive opportunities and for finding ways of improving outcomes for students. She introduced Noah Mattson, a 9th grader at CHS, who reported on the difficulties he experienced in transitioning from elementary to middle school, but that he became successful after participating in a Social & Organization Skills (SOS) classes in both middle and high schools.

In response to a question from the Board, Dr. Landig reported that the District is currently more successful in transitioning students from middle school to high school than we are with the elementary school to middle school transition, and are currently working with families to focus on it this spring, including providing a transition model for students who may not be in need of special services.

Lisa Ritter expressed her thanks to the Board for supporting and funding special services.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Policy 2161– 1st Reading

Assistant Superintendent Hans Landig, Student Support, recommended the adoption of Policy 2161, Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students. The revised policy combines Policies 2160 and 2161 to comply with changes in Federal law and the Washington Administrative Code governing services to students with disabilities. He noted that we are required to have the revised policy in place by March 31st in order to continue to qualify for state funding. Dr. Landig reported that the policy was crafted by a committee on which he served, and was intentionally created to be broad enough to reflect the concepts of special education without requiring frequent modification, allowing the specifics to be set forth in the procedures.

Vice President Shirley asked for an electronic copy of the policy in order to submit his recommendations.

1.2 2008-2012 Strategic Plan

Superintendent Bill Lahmann provided a brief overview of the process utilized in drafting the Strategic Plan. President Barclift recognized the members of the Strategic Plan committee who were present.

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE 2008-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN. VICE PRESIDENT SHIRLEY SECONDED. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

President Barclift expressed gratitude to the Committee, staff and all others who contributed to the preparation of the Strategic Plan, referring to it as a great framework for the District.

1.3 Review of OEA Statement

As to a review of the November 26, 2007, statement submitted by the Olympia Education Association (OEA) regarding Director Lehman, Vice President Shirley excused himself from the discussion on the basis of his oath of office as a director and as an attorney, saying he had drawn the conclusion that this item holds the possibility that we (the Board) may conceivably go too far in the direction of chilling the political speech of Director Lehman, citizen.

Mike Snodgrass, referred to First Amendment rights, reciting quotes from several politicians and compared them with Director Lehman's comments as noted in the OEA statement. He stated his disappointment that the Board was dealing with this issue instead of focusing on the many significant issues the District has before it.

David Johnston, president of OEA, stated that, as he now understands the distinction, he would consider their November 26th statement as a listing of concerns rather than as a complaint. Mr. Johnston spoke about the events leading up to the November 26th statement, noting that the concerns were not about political iterations or statements. The concerns were submitted with a sincere desire for a positive outcome. He apologized for possibly inaccurately stating the potential solutions, clarifying that he was seeking a process that would facilitate further discussion. He said the intent was to tie their concerns to the just-adopted Strategic Plan, noting an important synergy between what we say we're going to do and what we actually do. He said he and the association were concerned that mutual trust and respect were deteriorating and they hoped to get that back on track. He said he understands the importance of free speech and shares that value. He said he did not intend to quell free speech, but rather to support speech that doesn't divide and leaves room for reconciliation. If complete and open communication is a primary value it is important to be able to say what we believe in without being divisive; that the only time we use divisive language is when we intend to divide. He said he hoped there would be a way to work together on the issue we can and agree to effectively understand when we can't.

Director Lehman recused himself from making any decision about the issues raised by the OEA letter. With a lack of a quorum, President Barclift stated that at a time when a quorum was present, the options would include 1) doing nothing, 2) obtaining further legal advice to be heard in executive or open session, to be determined at that time, 3) defer discussion in order to arrange for facilitated discussion about the working relationship between the Board and the union, and, 4) issue a statement from the Board that Director Lehman speaks as an individual, he does not speak for the Board, and is free to say whatever he wants to say. The major substance of the complaint is the impact Board members can have on the relationship between the administration and the union. If the Board so desired, it could issue a statement renewing their commitment to a positive working relationship with OEA.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / HOT TOPICS

Director Rich Nafziger has submitted a notice of resignation. The administration created a process for the Board to consider for filling the District 2 position. Superintendent Lahmann distributed the draft to the Board and reviewed the proposal.

VICE PRESIDENT SHIRLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR RICH NAFZIGER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 14, 2008. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

President Barclift asked the administration to announce that the position is open. The Board agreed to consider the process it would use in filling the position.

Superintendent Lahmann reviewed the league alignment process currently being considered. Director Lehman encouraged the inclusion of parents and coaches in the discussion.

Superintendent Lahmann announced that Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Governor Gregoire would be meeting at Roosevelt Elementary School on Wednesday, January 16th. He added that he was scheduled for surgery on his back on January 25th and noted that Assistant Superintendent

Jim Crawford would be their first point of contact in his absence. President Barclift added that she and the Superintendent had agreed to postpone his mid-year evaluation to the end of February.

President Barclift asked the Board if they had considered the dates she proposed for a Board retreat and for reviewing Board policies. It was suggested that they could not set a date for a retreat until a new Board member had been appointed. As to the policy review, Vice President Shirley suggested that the policies be sent back to Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) for more work. President Barclift reminded the Board that they had agreed to hold a series of work sessions to review policies, and in keeping with the decision, she would send them additional dates to consider.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Wilson noted that he had attended the most recent meeting of the Thurston Regional Planning Commission and would continue to attend as his schedule permitted. He thanked Tim Byrne for providing support and back up for those meetings. He also reminded the Board of the reception Roosevelt Elementary School had planned for them on Friday, January 18th.

Vice President Shirley announced that Jim Justin, President of the Olympia School District Education Foundation (OSDEF), would be on the January 28th Board agenda to provide an update on their activities over the past year, as well as plans for the months ahead. He also reminded the Board that the District musical, *Cinderella!*, sponsored by OSDEF, is only five weeks away.

President Barclift said she had attended the Tumwater Chamber of Commerce legislative reception, where Representative Alexander, Representative Williams and Senator Fraser talked about the upcoming session and the challenges they face in a short session. She said Representative Williams will be initiating legislation designed to address the County's unwillingness to collect impact fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lahmann, Secretary

Carolyn M. Barclift, President