

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
January 23, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Russ Lehman at 7:00 pm, Monday, January 23, 2006, at Roosevelt Elementary School, 1417 San Francisco Avenue NE, Olympia, Washington 98506. Also attending were Vice President Rich Nafziger, Directors Carolyn Barclift, Rich Nafziger and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Palmer Buchholz, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Lehman.

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, Peter Rex, Director of Communications & Community Relations, made a brief presentation to the Board to thank them for their hard work on behalf of students. Included was a video clip featuring students of Roosevelt Elementary School, defining "leader", "School Board Member" and giving us their perspective on what a School Board does.

Mike McDonald, principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, welcomed the Board and introduced those staff members who were present. Their presentation included a review of their SLIP (Student Learning Improvement Plan), an overview of their reading plan, and a look at their successes and celebrations. Highlighted were "Success for All", a comprehensive approach to reading designed to ensure the success of every child, and the many types of celebrations they utilize to motivate students.

DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2006. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

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

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Director Barclift noted the upcoming FRN meeting, requesting input from Board members of any information they would like her to carry forward to that meeting.

Superintendent Lahmann invited everyone to the upcoming District musical, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the current week, *Pirates of Penzance*.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, January 30, 2006, **6:00 pm, Joint Meeting & Tour/Griffin School Board**, Capital High School, 2707 Conger Avenue NW, Olympia, WA 98502.
- Monday, February 6, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Study Session**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, February 13, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, February 27, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Reeves Middle School, 2200 Quince Street NE, Olympia, WA 98506.
- Monday, March 13, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, March 27, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Reeves Middle School, 2200 Quince Street NE, Olympia, WA 98506.

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board accepted one retirement and approved one new contract:

Peeples, Julie – Library Media Specialist at Pioneer Elementary School. Retirement accepted effective the end of the 2005-06 school year.

Wildenhaus, Mary – Grades four and five at McLane Elementary School. Contract approved to work .50 FTE effective 2005-06 school year only, beginning January 3, 2006. (Position needed to alleviate complexity in these grades.)

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated January 23, 2006.

6 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

6.1 Construction Change Order Approval – Washington Middle School

The Board approved a construction change order in the amount of \$49,270.71 for the Washington Middle School Modernization and New Additions project.

6.2 Call For Bids – Capital Projects, Field Reconstruction Projects and Small Works Projects

The Board granted permission to call for bids for capital projects at Pioneer Elementary School and Reeves Middle School; field reconstruction projects at Capital High School and Reeves Middle School; and small works projects at various school sites.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 27784 through 27834, in the total amount of \$45,844.96; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 8418 through 8444, in the total amount of \$263,372.04; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 134698 through 134807, in the total amount of \$294,868.01.

8.2 Financial Reports – November & December 2005

The Board approved the November & December 2005 Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the Associated Student Body, Capital Projects, Debt Service, General, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

Regular Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Physical Education Requirements

A panel comprised of Matt McCauley, Jeff Carpenter, Cathy Crabbe and Matt Grant presented information on the health, fitness and physical education programs currently in place in the District, including the program steps in place to educate the entire student on the basis of fitness for life. It was noted that physical education is no longer activity-based. Cathy Crabbe described her experiences with physical education over the past 20 years, and described some of the assignments current classes are asked to complete.

Matt Grant offered a principal's perspective based on his meeting with students, expressing a need for flexibility, relevancy of courses and better communications, while being supportive of strong standards and high expectations. He expressed his concerns with the obesity factor, with provisions that would allow students to opt out or take fewer classes, and with the physical space limitations of classrooms if students are not the in larger PE classes. He noted that students are finding a way to meet the current requirements; students who are struggling with schedules are the exception.

Director Shirley outlined his proposal, noting that within the guidelines of state requirements, and after nine years of physical education, his proposal pertains more to excusing students from PE classes, rather than alternative means of fulfilling the existing requirements.

Jeff Goltz – students are faced with too many choices and too few hours, and while everyone agrees on the value of health and fitness education, there are simply not enough hours in the day for those students with a passion for music or art or who need an additional academic course. He noted that as the legislature specifically allowed for flexibility in this area, it may be appropriate to resolve the balance in favor of allowing students to get out of PE. He added that further use of zero hour would make adequate sleep practices more difficult for many students, at a time when researchers are increasingly emphasizing the importance of eight hours of sleep for everyone.

Linda Schactler – has a freshman daughter at CHS who is very much into athletics, and is an IB student with focus on both academics and sports; urged the Board to support students who have made a personal commitment to health and fitness, and recognize those students who have already made the choice. She stated that the 9th grade PE class is a good cap for all the previous years of physical education, and asked the Board to build flexibility into the program to allow students an opportunity to bring discovery back into their high school choices.

Micheal Williams – from the perspective of a student, a parent and a teacher, this is a great District. He said he was here to speak for the physical educators, noting that they don't have the same focus as coaches. Physical educators put time and energy into developing curriculum and are dedicated to change; coaches are focused on making competitors. Kids learn in PE—it's not just about activity—and they really need that 10th year.

Barbara Davis – urged the Board to consider flexibility wherever you can, including curriculum flexibility to include PE, that is, how do we package PE and encourage those students who just don't want to do it? She said she has come to believe that no one maintains their health throughout their life without thinking of themselves as athletic. She suggested restructuring classes to be more flexible, and providing more diverse activities, such as yoga, dance, fencing, clogging, etc., in order to appeal to an otherwise unconnected group of students.

John Edwards – father of three former OSD students – too many of us are not getting the life skills needed in the area of physical fitness. It affects not only individuals but medical costs for all; physical exercise is critical to provide students the skills to establish a routine of physical exercise for their fitness and long range health. Limit the exemptions; students need the focus.

Cynthia Wolfe – representing a Capital High School parent organization – while we all recognize the importance of physical activity, we request there be more flexibility, to include school and community sports and other activities such as ballet, crew and other training. Families should be able to utilize waivers, and testing should be allowed to assess level of knowledge with, for instance, a health curriculum which could be read at home. There are many options besides PE, and many which are equally valuable in setting patterns for relieving stress and establishing life patterns.

Devin Currens – student at Olympia High School – we are in an academically rigorous school and the current requirements impact many students. Colleges are not necessarily understanding if you cannot take an AP class in order to meet a PE requirement.

Ben Dear – senior at Olympia High School – did not take an alternative credit in the summer, but is pursuing the alternative credit for this semester. Why should students not have the option of receiving credit for the many supervised sports activities they are doing anyway?

Parker Townley – sophomore at Capital High School – many students spend much of their time on sports and other athletic activities, which contribute to maintaining a healthy lifestyle; many students have found current policy difficult to handle and interfering with their advanced classes. IP and AB students find it exceedingly hard to fit a second year of PE into their already packed schedules. A change in the District policy would alleviate many difficulties for students.

Kathryn Mertens – Olympia High School – PE is an integral part of education; however, a student can achieve the same level of knowledge through sports. She said she had learned a lot through sports, and if you are participating in a sport you learn to stay in shape through year round training. Perhaps there should not be complete waivers, but sports programs should be an allowed alternative.

Jessica Brezicha – Olympia High School – inspired to stay in shape through athletics; PE instruction from the same teacher/coach didn't have the same impact as the fitness and nutrition values learned during cross-country and track team activities.

Megan Thompson – senior at Olympia High School – while PE has a place in school, she stated she has been well educated in health and fitness through school volleyball, club volleyball, school rugby and national rugby participation. Her summers are spent at sports camps, and national rugby requires two months of rigorous cardio and strength training for one week of competition. Extensive instruction in nutrition, teamwork and leadership were gained through sports, not through PE.

Aaron Bray – Olympia High School – took two years of PE and didn't consider a waiver. He noted that there are many students who enjoy PE and will choose to take additional PE classes, stating that it was unlikely an exodus from PE classes would occur if more flexible waivers were available. He suggested a PE test, whereby students could demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the areas covered by the PE curriculum, including nutrition, fitness, health issues, taking blood pressure, etc., would free up time for those students who choose more academics or other electives.

Daniel McCartan – there is a tremendous amount of variability when people in similar circumstances were either granted or denied a waiver based on the approval of a principal or designee. Having an alternative education opportunity available allows a student a choice for something that will be fun for them. Adults can't make kids like something if they are determined not to like it. Students should have an opportunity for an experience they really like.

Leslie Owen – mother of Ben Dear – Having heard compelling arguments from the sports philosophy and the physical education philosophy, it is obvious both have their place. In addition to fitness and health, students gain other things from their athletic experiences that may not be available to students based strictly on PE classes. She noted that her kids have had many successes through sports, but they've had some failures; those, too, are lifelong learning experiences. She added that some of the things they have learned from their coaches have not just been about competition, also creating added value to their learning.

Student Representative Palmer Buchholz stated that students are very angry, in particular highly academic students, and she reviewed the current graduation requirements, the requirements of Washington universities and noted how difficult it is to schedule to best prepare for college.

President called a ten minute break at 10:12 pm.

1.2 Revision to Policy 1410, Closed or Executive Sessions, First Reading

Director Bob Shirley presented proposed revisions to Policy 1410, designed to better reflect the criteria for closed and/or executive sessions of the Board of Directors.

After discussion, the review of Policy 1410 was put on hold.

1.3 Resolution 432, Intent to Reduce Student Dropouts

The Board reviewed a resolution establishing a goal of reducing by 50% the number of students in the Olympia School District who drop out, to be achieved by the end of the 2007-08 academic year.

**DIRECTOR NAFZIGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 432, AS PRESENTED.
DIRECTOR PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Barclift questioned *The Olympian's* representation that the technology levy would allow the District to televise future Board meetings. It was noted that the question did come up; Russ recalled his response that he hoped that could happen. Director Barclift stated her concern that the misrepresentation to the public should be corrected. Peter Rex said he would follow up.

President Lehman announced his creation of a Select Committee on Student Engagement, to establish goals to increase student retention to, with a goal of retaining a minimum of 90 students based on current statistics. Vice President Nafziger will work on composition of the committee, to include representatives from city government, from the community and from the District. Director Parvinen asked if further exploration of the scope of the committee might be advisable. After further discussion it was determined that the draft proposal would be distributed to the Board for their review.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Highly-Capable Program Update** – Spring 2006
- **Outdoor School Options** – Spring 2006

President Lehman adjourned the meeting at 10:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President