



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 12, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Rich Nafziger at 7:03 pm on Monday, February 12, 2007, at the Knox Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also attending were Vice President Carolyn Barclift, Directors Russ Lehman, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Rachel Reclam, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

President Nafziger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2007. DIRECTOR PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

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

Community Comment

Stephen Bray, member of the OHS Site Council and parent of OHS student, spoke regarding the education reform movement, and noted that the proposed delay of WASL requirements at the state level will require adjustments to the program. He said this would also become a budget issue and require a look at other priorities. He said he's not sure we've looked carefully enough at the variables as to why some students are not succeeding, but by trying to put all students in one box we may find we're not meeting the needs of anyone. He encouraged the Board to look at the broader picture.

VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that the consent agenda contained the resignation of Bob Wolpert, Director of Facilities and Operations. Board members and Superintendent Lahmann spoke highly of Mr. Wolpert and thanked him for his contribution to the District.

As to the motion: **SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, February 15, 6:30 pm, **Strategic Plan Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, February 26, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Marshall MS
- Monday, March 12, 6:30 pm, **I-728 Public Hearing**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Thursday, March 15, 6:30 pm, **Strategic Plan Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 19, 6:30 pm, **Study Session (2007-08 Budget)**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 26, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, LP Brown ES

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved one retirement, one leave of absence and two new contracts:

RETIREMENT

Wells, Mark – Math Teacher and Athletic Director at Capital High School. Accepted notice of intent to retire, effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Parsons, Anna – Special Education at Lincoln Elementary School. Approved a medical leave of absence effective the 2006-07 school year, effective February 9, 2007 through the end of the school year.

NEW CONTRACTS

Burleson, Alyssa – Psychology and PE at Olympia High School. Approved a one-year leave replacement contract effective the 2006-07 school year, beginning Feb. 6, 2007. (Ms. Burleson is filling .40 FTE vacated by Paul Rae's (.20) and Erin Johnson's (.20) leaves of absence.)

Bushue, Dean – Special Education at Lincoln Elementary School. Approved a one-year leave replacement contract effective the 2006-07 school year, effective February 9, 2007 through the end of the school year. (Mr. Bushue is filling the FTE vacated by Anna Parson's leave of absence.)

2.2 Issuance of 2007-08 Certificated Contracts

The Board approved the issuance of 2007-08 contracts to those provisional and continuing-contract certificated employees determined by the Superintendent to be entitled to same.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated February 12, 2007.

3.2 Administrative Classified Personnel Report

The Board accepted a letter of resignation submitted by Bob Wolpert from his position as Director of Facilities & Operations.

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Overnight Field Trip

The Board approved the following overnight field trip:

- **OHS:** New York, New York; National High School Model United Nations Conference; TO INTERACTIVELY LEARN ABOUT DIPLOMACY AND THE WORKINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY PARTICIPATING IN A CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS FACILITY; 9 students, one advisor; March 6-10, 2007.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the cancellation of vouchers and warrants totaling \$83,484.21, and the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 28981 through 29050, in the total amount of \$61,404.23; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9067 through 9068, and 9089 through 9128, in the total amount of \$1,767,877.39; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 137728 through 137729, and 137853 through 138037, in the total amount of \$699,826.35.

8.2 Student Teaching Contract

The Board approved a contract with Washington State University for the purpose of providing cooperative arrangements for student teaching and related educational experiences for students enrolled in the College of Education.

8.3 Facilities Use Request

The Board approved a facility use request from Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Olympia to use Garfield Elementary School for Sunday worship services.

REGULAR AGENDA

The following item was removed from agenda and will be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Times

The Board will review its current meeting times and discuss possible alternatives.

4 K-12 TEACHING & LEARNING

4.1 Middle School Math Review

President Nafziger spoke to the need for higher standards, with WASL being the floor for all students and the goal being college readiness and preparation for competing in the world economy, well above the level of WASL standards. Beyond that, we need to set a standard to monitor our progress at a high level of mathematics achievement for all levels. He went on to say that we also need alternatives to allow students to move on to higher level tracks, as well as to provide remediation for students who need more support. The third component is professional development; providing time and resources is absolutely essential to provide our teachers with the tools they need to enable our students to succeed.

Matt McCauley, Executive Director of K-12 Teaching & Learning, provided information on graduation requirements, college readiness, and instructional effectiveness to ensure basic skill development. Debbi Hardy, Director of Curriculum, spoke about K-5 resources and support tools, and presented information on ways the District is continuing to improve its professional development programs. The Middle School Math Review Committee presented information on the adoption of a core text for the OSD middle schools.

President Nafziger again asked the Board and District to set a college-readiness standard, using the WASL requirement as a floor for achievement, setting a higher standard for all students.

Julie McDougall, teacher at Marshall Middle School, presented the strengths and challenges of McDougal Littell, and Kate Trafton, also a teacher at Marshall Middle School presented the strengths and challenges of CMP2, and reviewed a sample lesson in each curriculum. In response to a question from the Board, Kate Trafton stated she found students to be considerably more engaged in the learning process than she had seen in the past.

Lexi Overstreet and Mikayla Hougan, both students at Washington Middle School, addressed the Board about their current experiences with their CMP2 pilot class. They said they don't really understand the math and don't like it, and found through conducting a survey among their class that the majority of their class don't like it, as well.

PRESENTATION

Individuals from Olympia Parent Advocates for Real Math (OlyPARM) were invited to present their information on the middle school math curriculum review.

Dez McGahern stated that OlyPARM came into existence just nine months ago, to ensure an open and fair process. He said they were there to offer a proposal for a third option, which would provide the adoption of McDougal Littell as the core curriculum with CMP2 materials as a supplement.

Dr. Theresa Tsou served on the review committee for two years. She said the District is currently high performing, and in the top 10% of districts in the state. She provided charted comparisons of the experiences of other districts in the state with CMP2, concluding that engagement in the classroom does not necessarily translate to success with standardized tests. She also provided comparison data with regard to knowledge retention and current trends, along with considerable other data.

Kay Lee Evans provided information regarding McDougal Littell and gave many examples of lessons, comparing McDougal Littell with CMP/CMP2. Frank McCormick spoke about the relation between math and science, stating that they share a language, each giving context to the other. He presented a comparison of math scores, along with graphs depicting the scores, stating that improvements in science are shown with schools using traditional math. He added he finds CMP2 lacking in many of the basic concepts students will need in order to be successful in science, and the District runs the risk of having science teachers teaching remedial math.

Maribeth Duffy stated that she is concerned about all students in the district and is not representing only higher-end students, recognizing different learning and teaching styles. Each student should be provided a method which will give them the best opportunity to succeed, and their parents an opportunity to help them. The compromise suggested would allow no one to feel disenfranchised. She reiterated their recommendation to adopt McDougal Littell as the core curriculum, and added that the publisher will provide a second set of books for every student free of charge. She stated the need to align curriculum from the top down, aligning middle school with high school.

Mike Snodgrass reiterated that 73.3% of 10th grade students have passed the WASL, and suggested that a curriculum be identified to address the needs of the 30% of students who have not passed the 10th grade WASL. He stated that a "one size fits all" approach isn't realistic, and reminded the Board of the precedent they set in approving a compromise with the Westside boundary decision. He also presented material provided by McDougal Littell outlining the scope of extra materials that are part of the textbook purchase.

Dr. Burton Guttman, a member of the faculty at Evergreen State University, said he has seen a disastrous decline in the ability of incoming college students in mathematics due to the proliferation of constructivist curriculum mathematics, with a major cause being the problem-based method of teaching, not just in math, but across the curriculum.

Marie Dunn, Greg Rightmier, Gordon Wallace, Beth Flynn, Lisa Mallott, Jeff Nejedly, David Christensen, Heather Francks, Carla Borgaard, Christina Williams, Linnea Comstock, Keith Liedes, Don Sorun, and Kris Paeth (reading a statement from Melinda Mulcahey, a math teacher at Black Hills High School with children in OSD) all addressed the Board with comments in support of McDougal Littell or the compromise suggested by Oly PARM. A possible correlation between the 30% of 10th grade students who have not passed the WASL and the 30% of students in the Free/Reduced Lunch program was suggested. Concerns were also expressed about the following: Trailblazers, and extending those trends into middle school; the critical need for basic skills and fundamentals, and the ability to have math facts at the ready; a need for options; a concern about passing rates; how parents would be supported with CMP2 and whether the suggested support of parents is realistic; how students are doing in the pilot programs and why no metrics have been presented; whether WASL standards will be the future measure of success; what effect CMP2 might have on potential acceleration; whether CMP2 will be phased in, if adopted; whether teachers will integrate recommended supplemental materials; the importance of having parents keyed in and able to work with their kids—all were concerns or issues raised or identified by the speakers.

The Board determined to have a further discussion at its February 26th Board meeting, with the decision to be placed on the agenda for the March 12th meeting. Director Shirley said he had many additional questions he had not asked during the meeting, and would like an opportunity to have those questions addressed. He agreed to submit his questions to the appropriate persons for discussion at the next Board meeting.

At 11:24 pm, the Board recessed to Executive Session to discuss real estate matters; they reconvened and immediately adjourned at 11:35 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Bill Lahmann, Secretary

Rich Nafziger, President