



DRAFT – unofficial until approved by the Board

## *Olympia* School District

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### Board of Directors

Carolyn Barclift  
Russ Lehman  
Rich Nafziger  
Michelle Parvinen  
Bob Shirley  
Rachel Reclam,  
*Student Representative*

William V. Lahmann, Superintendent

### MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 26, 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 26, 2007, at Marshall Middle School, 3939 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502. Also present were Vice President Carolyn Barclift, Directors Russ Lehman, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Rachel Reclam and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kevin Evoy.

#### **FOCUS ON MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Marshall Middle School principal Kevin Evoy welcomed the Board and introduced staff members present. A brief presentation followed outlining how Marshall has organized its school improvement process through its Leadership Team and Professional Learning Communities for Mathematics and Humanities. John Hitchman, Malinda Lamm, Kevin Hoonan and Jason Haws assisted with the presentation. Students Julissa Perales and Ashley Wagaman provided information about two special programs at Marshall, a Multiple Intelligence Award Program and the Hansen Connection. A student orchestra ensemble played before the meeting.

A brief break followed at 7:35; the meeting reconvened at 7:54 pm.

**DIRECTOR MICHELLE PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2007. VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO SPEAK TO AGENDA ITEMS WERE IDENTIFIED.**

#### **COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Lynn Semega, a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, read a letter she wrote regarding a proposal to increase math requirements for high school graduation. She talked her own experiences growing up as one who was not proficient in mathematics, in spite of being exposed to many methods of instruction and diligent effort on her part. Although successful in all other academic areas, she found math to be a constant struggle and learned higher math is not for everyone. Her son, now 18, has had the same struggles, and is finding every four-year college expecting three years of math. She agreed that every graduate should be skilled in basic math, but said two years of meaningful mathematics should be enough to function competently for students whose strengths lie in other areas. She said she was opposed to a third year math requirement, and noted the importance of real life application in all math courses.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

**1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**1.1 Board Meeting Schedule**

- 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
- Saturday, March 31, 9:00 am, **Strategic Plan Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, April 2, 7:00 pm, **Joint Meeting w/Olympia City Council**
- Monday, April 16, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Thursday, April 19, 6:30 pm, **Strategic Plan Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, April 23, 6:30 pm, **Study Session (2007-08 Budget)**, Knox Center

**2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**2.1 Certificated Personnel Report**

The Board approved two new contracts:

**Kimberly Acuff** – Transition Coordinator with Student Support - a half-time contract effective February 12, 2007, through the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

**Mohamed El-Sokkary** – Social Affective Block teacher at Olympia High School – a full-time contract effective February 7, 2007, through the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

**3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

**3.1 Classified Personnel Report**

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated February 26, 2007.

**4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS**

**4.1 Approval of Instructional Materials**

The Board acknowledged the instructional materials available for review from the Instructional Materials Committee.

**4.2 Overnight Field Trip**

The Board approved the following overnight field trip:

- **CHS:** Bellevue, Washington; State DECA Competition; March 8-10, 2007; STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE MARKETING SKILLS THROUGH COMPETITION; 11 students, two teachers.

**8 FINANCES**

**8.1 Approval of Vouchers**

The Board approved warrant cancellations totaling \$130,471.36, and the following expenditures: Private Purpose Trust Voucher No. 1, in the total amount of \$608.65; Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 29051 through 29099, in the total amount of \$91,836.09; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9129 through 9130, in the total amount of \$1,748.01; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 138038 through 138151, in the total amount of \$311,325.06.

**8.2 Financial Report – January 2007**

The Board approved the January 2007 Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the Associated Student Body, Capital Projects, Debt Service, General, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

REGULAR AGENDA

**4 K-12 TEACHING & LEARNING**

**4.1 Middle School Math Review Discussion**

The Board continued its discussion related to the middle school math adoption. Director Lehman asked Scott Rutledge, head of the math department at Olympia High School, for his point of view regarding the math recommendations. Mr. Rutledge stated that his main concern was for feeder school teachers, as teachers must like a program to make it work.

In response to a question from President Nafziger, Matt McCauley discussed curriculum focal points, stating that NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) standards and revised focal points are about what students should be getting in mathematics. These are based on a student's need for a deep understanding of mathematics, as well as computational fluency, and although our state standards probably do not exactly align now, as it is a new document, likely they will in the future.

It was noted that we would balance a curriculum that is more conceptual with the supplemental materials necessary to balance basic skills and provide students with fluency in basics, including use of existing textbooks and software programs that come with CMP2, specifically designed to allow teachers to create worksheets and other skill-enhancing materials.

Director Lehman said he has five primary areas of concern:

- 1) Ongoing and substantial professional development
- 2) Adequate instruction time
- 3) Effective tracking and individualized teaching
- 4) Traditional offerings for faster learners – algebra and geometry
- 5) Engagement and expectations of teachers

Student Representative Rachel Reclam cautioned against extremism, but said CMP appeared to offer an opportunity to be more creative in our approach to more students. She said a well-operated CMP program has incredible potential if used in conjunction with the supplemental materials discussed, and she recommended keeping in place the algebra/geometry track that is so valuable for some students.

Debbi Hardy provided information regarding professional development, including trainings in the summer and fall, ongoing development with Professional Learning Communities, bringing in math coaches, release time for teachers, the focus of our TOSA (teacher on special assignment), etc. Additionally, there is opportunity for collaboration with other local districts. She also addressed some training opportunities for high school teachers.

**Frank McCormick**, spoke of his son's experience at Washington Middle School, noting that the concern is not about the curriculum, but about teacher engagement. He said the characterization of the parents involved was unfortunate, as it seemed to characterize them as insufficiently informed to make reasonable decisions for their own children, and as elitist. He said he supported the compromise position.

Director Lehman asked if a mixed curriculum was being suggested, and would it consist of one class teaching CMP and one class MacDougal Littell, or would each classroom teach a mixed curriculum? Mr. McCormick said he didn't have a recommendation for how that might work.

**Lisa Mallott** said this issue was hugely important to her, and wants the District to stick with the curriculum that is working; making no major changes. She said CMP sounds very high maintenance and she doesn't have the confidence the District will keep up with needed professional development.

**Jody Hanson** asked a series of questions generated by OlyPARM, providing copies for all Board members.

**Mike Snodgrass** wanted to be sure there was not consideration given to reducing instruction time in other curriculum areas. He noted he was offended by the characterization of elitism by the letter from the middle school principals. He suggested the focus should be on addressing the needs of the 25% of students who are not currently successful.

**Kay Lee Evans**, read an email she had sent to all Board members, clarifying her earlier statements on California's use of CMP. She also addressed the issue of extra class time and what the cost might be, and noted her concern about accelerating high-achieving students.

## **8 FINANCE**

### **8.1 2006-07 Budget Update, 2007-08 and 2008-09 Budget Projections**

Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal & Operations, provided an update on the 2006-07 budget status, and a look at early projections for the next two school years, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

*The following item was set aside to be placed on the agenda of the next Board meeting.*

## **1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **1.1 Board Meeting Times**

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

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Staff agreed to send an electronic version of the middle school principals' letter to all Board members. Superintendent Lahmann informed the Board of the efforts of the North Carlyon Neighborhood Association to adjust the Tumwater/Olympia school district boundaries in an area near Olympia High School. As the properties in question lie within Director District 3, the Board was unanimous in its appointment of Director Shirley to represent the Board in these discussions.

Vice President Barclift asked about planning for a spring retreat, noting she would send out an email with a few possible dates and outline a proposed agenda.

A discussion ensued regarding the process for Board approval of the math curriculum at the next meeting, and it was noted that an administrative recommendation will be offered, with any amendments to be submitted to the District.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bill Lahmann, Secretary

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Rich Nafziger, President