



Olympia School District

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Draft

Board of Directors

Carolyn Barclift
Russ Lehman
Bob Shirley
Frank Wilson
Adam Buchholz,
Student Representative

William V. Lahmann, Superintendent

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MARCH 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Carolyn Barclift at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008, at Centennial Elementary School, 2637 45th Avenue SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Vice President Bob Shirley, Director Frank Wilson, Student Representative Adam Buchholz and Superintendent Bill Lahmann were also in attendance. Director Russ Lehman was absent.

President Barclift led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Centennial Elementary School Principal Alice Drummer welcomed the Board and introduced Centennial staff members. The CES Soundtracks Choir, comprised of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students and led by Jana Gedde, opened with a song entitled "Song of Peace." Student Council representatives from each grade level presented thank you cards to the Board, and Peter Rex, OSD Director of Communications & Community Relations, presented the Board with thank you gifts on behalf of the District, all in recognition of Board Appreciation Month, postponed from January due to weather conditions. Principal Drummer presented information regarding Centennial's WASL data and Site Plan Goals, as well as curriculum, climate and communications. The Soundtracks Choir closed with another song, "Agents of Change."

President Barclift thanked Principal Drummer and her staff and students, and called a five minute recess at 7:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY MOVED AND DIRECTOR WILSON SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2008. FOUR AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

OEAPA, THE OLYMPIA EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

Dan Cuomo, the Chinook UniServ representative, addressed the Board regarding the bargaining efforts between the District and the OEAPA, and offered a settlement proposal for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. Mr. Cuomo said the District's offers would provide greater increases for the lowest levels in the pay range, and very low increases at the higher levels where current and new positions routinely fall. He also noted that the comparisons used by the District were based on North Thurston and Tumwater, where circumstances are not comparable. He asked the District to treat this segment of its employees with the respect and dignity they deserve, and accept the latest proposal of the OEAPA, which respects the funds the District has stated it has available for this purpose.

David Price spoke about a public records request he had made to the District in January and the records he received in response. He said he wrote a subsequent email asking, "I would like to know if public funds have been spent for an improper purpose," and describing a document outlining a request from President Barclift to an attorney asking about a political maneuver to avoid an embarrassment to herself and Superintendent Lahmann. Instead of a response, he said, he received a letter dated March 5, 2008, from the District asking him to return the document, as it should not have been released under attorney-client privilege. He stated that once the document is out in public, it is a public document and he can do whatever he wants with it. Director Shirley responded that it seemed to him to be inappropriate for a school board member to ask legal counsel to help suppress a truth, and that he was very disappointed.

Maribeth Duffy stated that she and her family had supported the “simple majority” measure and were proud to do so, but she was concerned that the current levy hadn’t passed by a higher percentage. She said she thought it was because Olympia voters were concerned about accountability and appropriate use of funds. She expressed concern that education dollars were being used to pay attorneys because of conflicts on the Board.

Devika Saletore of CPSEA, Community Partnership for Special Education Action, invited the Board to attend their Resource Fair in the Commons at Olympia High School on Saturday, March 15, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mark Campeau invited the Board to McLane Elementary School’s Spring Fling and Auction on Friday, March 14, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He also followed up on an earlier comment about poor performance on levies, noting that levies had done poorly everywhere, likely due to County tax hikes and the downturn in the economy.

Director Shirley asked to have Consent Agenda Item 4.1 removed for separate consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY MOVED AND DIRECTOR WILSON SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA, EXCEPT ITEM 4.1. FOUR AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

- 1.1 Board Meeting Schedule**
- Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 pm, **Community Forum**, Knox Center
 - Monday, March 17, 6:30 pm, **Study Session (Budget)**, Knox Center
 - Wednesday, March 19, 6:30 pm, **Director Selection**, Knox Center
 - Monday, March 24, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, McKenny ES
 - Monday, March 31, 6:30 pm, **Joint Meeting-Olympia City Council**, Knox Center
 - Monday, April 14, 6:30 pm, **Study Session (Budget)**, Knox Center
 - Monday, April 21, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

- 2.1 Certificated Personnel Report**
The Board approved one new contract and two leaves of absence.
- NEW CONTRACT**
Hall, Amanda – Counselor at Reeves Middle School. Approved a one-year 1.0 FTE contract, beginning February 27, 2008. (Filling FTE vacated by Kate Cook’s change in assignment.)
- LEAVES OF ABSENCE**
Campbell, Tricia – Reading Specialist at Gar field Elementary School. Approved a childcare leave of absence effective May 16, 2008, through the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year.
Soderberg, Kristen – Social Studies and Yearbook at Olympia High School. Approved a .2 FTE professional leave of absence effective the 2008-2009 school year.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

- 3.1 Classified Personnel Report**
The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated March 10, 2008.

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

- 4.1** *This item was moved to the regular agenda.*
- 4.2 Overnight Field Trip Requests**
The Board approved the following overnight field trip:
- OHS** – Drill Team, state competition, Yakima, WA; 28 students, one coach, two parent chaperones; March 20-21, 2008.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved cancelled electronic transfers totaling \$271,787.72, and the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 30204 through 30259, in the total amount of \$61,773.06; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9753 through 9780, in the total amount of \$379,428.01; General Fund Voucher Nos. 141076 through 141208, in the total amount of \$509,294.48; and, Transportation Vehicle Fund Voucher No. 65, in the total amount of \$85,249.79.

REGULAR AGENDA

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Legal Advice Policies – 2nd Reading

Director Bob Shirley presented three policies for second reading, proposed with regard to advice from legal counsel and attorney-client privileged communications.

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY MOVED APPROVAL OF POLICY 1622; THERE WAS NO SECOND. MOTION FAILED.

Director Shirley indicated the Board should move on to the next agenda item.

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 OEA Letter of Concern

The Board considered two options of response to the letter of concern submitted by the Olympia Education Association on November 26, 2008.

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY MOVED TO APPROVE HIS LETTER OF RESPONSE TO THE OLYMPIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION; THERE WAS NO SECOND. MOTION FAILED.

DIRECTOR WILSON MOVED APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT BARCLIFT'S LETTER OF RESPONSE TO THE OLYMPIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. PRESIDENT BARCLIFT SECONDED.

The letter being considered extends an invitation to the OEA Executive Board to meet with the Board of Directors and select administrative personnel to have a discussion centered on their working relationship.

Director Shirley expressed concern that the letter leaves out key points regarding Director Lehman's right to express personal political views and participate in the political process even though he is an elected official, and his protected speech as an individual in communication with David Johnston and others. He went on to say that these points are fundamental to the OEA's letter and never should have been placed on a meeting agenda of the Board.

Director Wilson said his readings of the OEA's letter and conversations with David Johnston had led him to conclude that the letter was not about political speech or free speech; the concern is about the Board working with OEA members and treating them professionally. President Barclift said it has been made clear in discussions and other communications that the concern is not about an individual's right to free speech, but is about the impact the free speech had on the working relationship between the Board and our largest employee group.

As to the motion: **TWO AYES, ONE NO. MOTION CARRIED.**

2.2 TOPA Letter of Concern

The Board considered a proposed letter of response to the letter submitted by the Olympia Principals' Association on December 17, 2007.

DIRECTOR WILSON MOVED AND PRESIDENT BARCLIFT SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED RESPONSE LETTER AS PRESENTED.

Director Shirley said his concern, much as noted in Item 2.1 above, was about what was not in the letter.

As to the motion: **TWO AYES, ONE NO. MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Shirley commented that Director Lehman's absence was as a result of a recent stroke, and Director Lehman had requested that the next agenda item not be taken until he could be part of the discussion. President Barclift responded that the item has been considered very important at the meeting two weeks before, even considering the absence of the Superintendent.

As President Barclift prepared to continue the discussion, Director Shirley left the meeting at 7:35 p.m. As a result, without a quorum present, the following two items could not be considered.

2.3 Superintendent's Contract

The Board will consider a motion to allow the present contract with the Superintendent to continue toward its expiration date of June 30, 2010.

4.1 Instructional Materials Committee Request *(This item was moved from the Consent Agenda.)*

The Instructional Materials Committee has submitted a list of recommended materials for the Board's review. The materials will be available in the K-12 Teaching & Learning office until the March 24th Board meeting.

President Barclift objected to the mischaracterizations by a couple of speakers about actions of the Board and the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / HOT TOPICS

Superintendent Lahmann noted that he was pleased to be back at work, currently part time, but looking forward to progressing toward full time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Barclift reminded the Board of a study session on the budget coming up on Monday, March 17, 2008. She also announced the Community Forum scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008, where the public could meet the three excellent candidates for the Director District 2 seat on the Board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Wilson said he had spent the day touring some of the District's special education classrooms with Hans Landig, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support, and the week before had spent similar time in Career and Technical Education classrooms with Brad Hooper, Director of CTE. He encouraged the Board and others to visit those classrooms themselves and observe the excellent programs the District offers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lahmann, Secretary to the Board

Carolyn M. Barclift, President