



Olympia School District

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~ DRAFT ~

Unofficial until
approved by the Board

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 MARCH 12, 2007

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 12, 2007, at the Knox Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also in attendance 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.

PRESENTATIONS

"Entertainment Explosion", an entertainment group comprised of talented, mostly-retired citizens, presented a donation of \$2,000 to the Olympia School District's Homeless Program. Presenting on behalf of Entertainment Explosion were Scott Schoengarth, Jini MacDonald, Ed Knuckey and John Vosburgh. The funds were raised through a variety show held at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, to benefit homeless youth served by Community Youth Services, Tumwater School District and North Thurston Public Schools, in addition to the Olympia School District. Superintendent Lahmann accepted the check on behalf of the District, and expressed his gratitude for their generosity, as did President Nafziger.

Peter Rex, Director of Communications & Community Relations, addressed the Board regarding the celebration of Classified Employee Appreciation Week, March 12th-16th. He read a resolution outlining some of the many responsibilities undertaken every day by our classified employees and offering the gratitude of the Board and the administration. President Nafziger presented Certificates of Appreciation to Cathy Smith, Judy Cole, Joyce Cunning and Jim Wall, who were present to accept on behalf of themselves and their colleagues. Certificates were also issued to Cathleen Talberg, Polly Claudio, and Rod Greene, who were not at the meeting. Superintendent Lahmann spoke, as well, of his appreciation for the excellent work of all of our classified employees.

VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2007, AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

A sign up sheet was handed to President Nafziger, indicating the names of those who wished to speak to agenda items.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mike Snodgrass, offered gratitude and admiration to the Board for the enormous amount of time and energy they expend in representing the Olympia School District, even though, he said, admiration doesn't always equate with agreement. He added that questioning is part of the democratic process, and he asked the Board rhetorically who they were representing, offering his view that they represent all of the public, not just students, parents and teachers.

CONSENT AGENDA

DIRECTOR LEHMAN 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

- 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, 6:30 pm, **I-728 Public Hearing**, Knox Center
- 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 accepted two retirement requests:

Porter, Judith – Librarian at McLane Elementary School. Effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

Weber, Patricia – Librarian at Marshall Middle School. Effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The administration recommends approval of the Classified Personnel Report dated March 12, 2007.

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Approval of Instructional Materials

The Board approved the purchase of instructional materials, as previously submitted.

4.2 Overnight Field Trip

The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

- **OHS:** Portland, Oregon, and Ellensburg, Washington; Wind Ensemble Festival; CLINICS WITH TWO COLLEGE BAND DIRECTORS AND PERFORMANCE AT CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY; March 1-3, 2007; 52 students, one teacher, one parent.
- **OHS:** Camas, Washington; State Knowledge Bowl Tournament; March 23-24, 2007; five students, one teacher.
- **OHS:** Spokane, Washington; State Business Leadership Conference; STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES AGAINST OTHER STUDENTS AROUND THE STATE; April 4-7, 2007; 24 students; two teachers; one parent.

6 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

6.1 Call for Bids, Capital Projects – Henderson Street Field and Marshall Middle School Field Reconstruction

The Board granted permission to call for bids for two field reconstruction projects: Henderson Street Field, located at Olympia High School at the corner of Henderson Boulevard and North Street, and the football/soccer field located at Marshall Middle School. Both projects are part of the 2003 Capital Improvement Bond measure approved in February 2003.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved cancellation of Warrant Nos. 138152, 29148, 138300 and 9172, in the total amount of \$159,265.66; and approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 29100 through 29149, in the total amount of \$122,140.81; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9149 through 9173, in the total amount of \$1,348,897.83; General Fund Voucher Nos. 138152 through 138301, in the total amount of \$593,719.10; and, Transportation Vehicle Fund Voucher Nos. 60 and 61, in the total amount of \$152,011.80.

8.2 Approval of Donation Received

The Board accepted a bequest of \$25,000 received from the Grace Ekman Whitley Trust to be used for library or science education in our elementary and middle school programs.

REGULAR AGENDA

4 K-12 TEACHING & LEARNING

4.1 Middle School Math Recommendation

Matt McCauley, Executive Director of K-12 Teaching & Learning, presented an administrative recommendation regarding a core middle school math program. The recommendation is to adopt CMP2 as the core math program at the middle school level, to utilize our current Glencoe math textbooks and a classroom set of Prentice-Hall Middle School Mathematics workbooks as supplements to the CMP2 program, and to continue offering algebra and geometry options. Mr. McCauley discussed the reasoning behind the recommendation and presented a list of provisions to be put in place to ensure successful implementation, if approved.

Kate Trafton presented a survey she sent home with her students for response from parents, and discussed the results she received back.

Annette Livingston Bleuler expressed concern that the program won't allow students to advance and doesn't meet students' needs.

Chris Henry, who has two boys in middle school and one in high school, said he saw computational fluency as the basis for students at this level, with deep thinking skills only appropriate for later learning. He said he saw what we have now as relatively successful; the proposed program appears to be difficult and expensive to implement.

Debbie Overstreet, spoke as the parent of a daughter currently in a CMP pilot. She noted that it is a language-intensive program that will be difficult for children with reading difficulties.

Maribeth Duffy, spoke in support of McDougall-Littel, stating that CMP could not be aligned with Science GLEs and referring to a document from North Thurston that shows where Trailblazers aligns and where it doesn't.

Kim Shorten expressed her concern that outdated Glencoe and Prentice-Hall texts will be used to supplement CMP2. She also stated concern that CMP2 addresses only one learning style, that one-hour blocks may not provide enough instructional time and that class sizes may also be difficult to manage. In addition, she suggested that it would be best to wait for the results of the OSPI study.

Minghui Yang, who holds a PhD in Applied Math, spoke of several concerns, noting the language-intensive nature of CMP2, and the need for building foundations though basic math skills, with time for other skills to follow when students are more mature.

President Nafziger asked if there was a motion:

DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE CONNECTED MATH PROJECT 2 (CMP2) AS THE CORE MATHEMATICS TEXT FOR OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOLS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CURRENT GLENCOE MATH TEXT AND A SET OF PRENTICE HALL MATH 1,2,3 WORKBOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EACH CLASSROOM FOR SUPPLEMENTAL USE TO ENSURE BASIC SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT AN ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY COURSE OPTION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT SECONDED THE MOTION.

Director Parvinen spoke of the opportunities she had to hear from the committee discussions, as well as the many emails, phone calls and letters. She talked with parents and teachers, and visited and discussed with staff in schools; and, lastly had the benefit of the hours of public testimony at Board meetings and the public forum. She noted that it is clear everyone is intent on success for our students, and that a balanced approach is needed. She committed to the support of professional development and ongoing assessments so gaps can be dealt with as identified.

Director Shirley spoke of the importance of retaining the trust of the voters, and offered thanks to the many people who have devoted a great deal of time to research and study. He spoke of the need for a commitment to professional development if CMP2 is approved, and of learning from the mistakes of what may be a flawed process.

Director Barclift asked about guides for teachers for special needs students, and Mr. McCauley said materials were available to address the needs of different types of learners.

Director Lehman noted the decision was difficult from the beginning due to issues involving class, the District's capabilities and priorities, public trust and confidence, and the role of the community in educational decision-making. He said the substance of the issue is to determine the most effective math instruction for our middle school students, with the process being so complete and thorough that the substance would prevail. He noted his belief that CMP2, when combined with more traditional options, could have substantial benefits for all our students, but that it required tremendous faith that, given the best of intentions, this radically-different way of teaching could be successful. He said since he does not currently have that faith, he supports the adoption of MacDougall Littel.

Vice President Barclift said the contentiousness of the process demands we learn lessons for the next time the Board looks at a curriculum adoption. She noted that a traditional advanced track is important, that high school teachers should be encouraged to participate in the professional development, as should 5th grade teachers. She agreed the implementation and professional development are critical and the Superintendent should remind the Board annually of its commitment.

President Nafziger said the ways in which our economy has changed in the last 20 years have made it clear that math has never mattered as much as it does now, and what was good enough 10 years ago is not good enough today. He went on to note that the textbook is perhaps only the fourth most important criteria for math success; most important is higher expectations of every single student and a different attitude about math. Next, we need an outstanding teacher in every classroom, and Olympia has outstanding teachers, with collaboration and diagnostics as the most effective form of professional development. Finally, we need multiple pathways for success to provide options for all learners. He said the latest research confirms that contextual learning is how learning occurs, that CMP2 is the most effective method for meeting EALRs, and aligns with NCTM standards and focal points.

Student Representative Rachel Reclam said she greatly admires global thinking, and that CMP2 has great potential, but will be dependent upon professional development elements that may need improving. She went on to say that communication which drives the way the world works, and improving the communication process is perhaps the greater problem.

President Nafziger restated the motion and called for the vote: **THREE AYES, TWO NAYS; MOTION CARRIED.**

4.2 Math Graduation Requirements & Tracking Program

The Board of Directors considered a proposal for the administration to develop a plan to increase the number of students in higher level math, revise the mathematics graduation requirements, and track student participation in advanced classes (i.e., AP, IB, etc.) and student performance on state and national assessments (i.e., SAT, ACT, NAEP, etc.). The K-12 Teaching & Learning office would work cooperatively with the secondary school mathematics departments and administrators to develop the plan for presentation to the Board of Directors in October of 2007.

President Nafziger said we have to shoot for a higher standard and would like to start collecting data on kids in advanced math and track SAT scores. It was suggested that tracking begin in the 5th grade, particularly since it will align with the implementation of CMP2.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that more math is needed in the trades, as well as in higher education and math and science professions. It was suggested that the administration come back to the Board in October with a plan, and President Nafziger and Superintendent Lahmann will report back to the Board with an outline for the recommendation criteria. It was also suggested that it should include how professional development is tracked, that a process debrief is needed before moving forward with the science curriculum review, that it needs to happen quickly in order to have value, and that having a facilitator may be beneficial.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Times

The Board reviewed its current meeting times and discussed possible alternatives. After discussion, the Board agreed to a new start time for Board meetings of 6:30 pm, with a goal of concluding meetings by 9:30 pm. The new time will go into effect at the next Board meeting, March 26th at LP Brown Elementary School.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT / HOT TOPICS

Superintendent Lahmann said our middle school administrators have surveyed parents and made a recommendation to eliminate middle school football and move to soccer. The administration is currently talking with other interested parties and will provide you with additional information as it is available.

Vice President Barclift noted that she had been selected as a Washington State School Directors Association alternate delegate to the National School Boards Association assembly in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lahmann, Secretary

Rich Nafziger, President