

**Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
March 27, 2006**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of the Olympia School District convened an Executive Session at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 27, 2006, at Olympia High School, 1302 North Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. This was a closed session for consideration of legal and bargaining matters. No action was taken as a result of this session.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Russ Lehman at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 27, 2006, at Olympia High School, 1302 North Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also attending were Directors Carolyn Barcliff, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Palmer Buchholz, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. Vice President Nafziger was unable to attend.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Lehman.

PRESENTATION

Matt Grant, Principal of Olympia High School, welcomed the Board and introduced members of staff who were present. OHS administration, faculty, and students presented an overview of the interventions used to keep all students on track to graduate, including extracurricular activities and instructional interventions. Their theme was getting all students on target to graduate and reduce the number of students dropping out by half, with particular emphasis on alternative programs and Student Learning Plans.

DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2006, AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES; MOTION CARRIED

There were no audience members who indicated a desire to speak regarding agenda items.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Maribeth Duffey – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. She noted that a group of parents from Boston Harbor are very concerned, particularly those with third and fifth grade students, and that more would like to have been at this meeting. She quoted statistics showing a ratio of no more than 15 students per teacher in early elementary is important for student learning and for achievement in later years as well, and smaller class sizes also lower the risk for difficulties in later school years. She added that other states are recognizing the need to lower class sizes, and on a national scale it is being proven that smaller class sizes are directly related to mathematic achievement.

Marta Gomez-Buckley – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. She stressed her concern that highly-capable students are not getting the instruction or curriculum they need and are losing interest and motivation. She asked if these students could be considered for supplemental materials to enable them to reach their capabilities.

Julie Hairston – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. She said the kids don't have a good core foundation yet and with too little capacity for one teacher to work one-on-one, there is no opportunity to build that solid foundation. She noted her concern with how over-crowded classrooms will affect their WASL scores, and commented on the distractions of a larger class and her own child's statement that she sometimes can't hear the teacher over the noise in the classroom. With teachers having less time to review work, the result may be students who hate school and lose the motivation to learn.

Susan Kelsey – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. She noted that no matter how effective a teacher is, 31 kids is too many to address all the issues. She went on to say that this is a foundational issue and we really do need more staff out there.

Jeff Nejedly – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. We see this issue clearly in our daughter's experience with no time available for the teacher to see that every student gets it, he stated, noting that two third grade students have left the school. He also noted that Boston Harbor parents are supportive and involved and need to see some solution, and get the additional teaching staff we need.

Sandy Michael – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. Sandy stated that her son is now in 5th grade, with 32 students in his class. He has been very happy and successful at Boston Harbor since Kindergarten; however, his class has continued to grow in the last two years. She invited the Board to come out to Boston Harbor for a visit.

Bill Dean – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. He spoke in support what everyone else has said, and stated that elementary school is a foundation; many countries chose to funnel their money into the elementary level, as the place where the least amount of money can make the most difference. He noted that Boston Harbor has great teachers, but that they cannot teach effectively with these loads. He later added that Boston Harbor is further hampered by currently having only a half time principal; resulting in a lot of deficiencies in meeting the needs of both students and faculty. He said his son languished for half a day in a room by himself, waiting for the principal to return; it was not a good experience for him.

Christina Williams – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. She said her son, now a junior at Olympia High School, went through Boston Harbor and had a wonderful experience with excellent teachers and small class sizes. Now her daughter is in third grade, she said, and she is seeing a vast difference; her daughter has gone from loving school to not wanting to go at all. She commented that one teacher cannot do it, even one with experience. She also noted that her daughter had marked the calendar with crying faces and "NO, NO, NO, NO, NO" on the days of WASL week.

Matt McKinnon – WMS Transfer Case. He stated he wanted to address the Board about the handling of his attempt to transfer his son and his disappointment in the way the matter was handled. He asked the Board to be involved in where they go from here to reach a final conclusion.

Kim Hamacher – Boston Harbor Class Sizes. She stated she was another third grade parent and was in support of the other parents who had spoken.

A discussion ensued during which the Board agreed with the parents that no one is satisfied with class sizes as large as the 3rd and 5th grades at Boston Harbor. Superintendent Lahmann noted that schools are funded on a formula, and the numbers don't always fall into place in such a way that will allow the structuring of desirable class sizes, and the smaller schools offer the greatest challenge. He asked the parents to work through their site council and continue to provide information to the District as we look at enrollment projections, staffing levels, and budgets.

President Lehman called for a five minute break at 8:34 pm; the meeting reconvened at 8:39 pm.

DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, March 30, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Public Forum-West Side Boundary Review**, Jefferson MS
- Monday, April 3, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Joint Meeting: Olympia City Council**, Knox Center
- Monday, April 17, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, April 24, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Study Session – Budget**, Knox Center
- Monday, May 8, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, May 15, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Study Session – Budget**, Knox Center
- Monday, May 22, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Boston Harbor ES

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board accepted one retirement and one resignation, and approved three leaves of absence:

RETIREMENT

Britt Nederhood – Interim Principal at Garfield Elementary School. Retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 contract year (June 30, 2006).

RESIGNATION

Rachele Thummel – English at Capital High School. Resignation effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Jennifer Cotey – Special Education (last assignment at Garfield Elementary School). A 1.0 FTE leave of absence effective the 2006-07 school year. (A continuation of her 2005-06 leave of absence.)

David Johnston – English at Capital High School. A .60 leave of absence (from 1.0 to .40), effective the 2006-07 school year, to allow him to continue as .60 FTE President of the Olympia Education Association (OEA). Mr. Johnston will continue to be paid by the District as a 1.0 FTE employee, with the OEA reimbursing the District for all costs related to the .60 FTE OEA assignment.

Samson, Kelli – English at Capital High School. A .40 FTE leave of absence (from 1.0 to .60) effective the 2006-07 school year. (A continuation of her 2005-06 contract status.)

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated March 27, 2006.

4 PUPILS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS

4.1 Overnight Field Trip Requests

The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

- **OHS** – Camas, WA; State **KNOWLEDGE BOWL TOURNAMENT**; 6 students, 1 teacher; March 24-25, 2006.
- **OHS** – Seattle, Washington; Future Business Leaders of America Annual Leadership Conference; STATE LEVEL COMPETITION (AGENDA ATTACHED); 23 students, 2 teachers, 1 parent; April 13-15, 2006.
- **CHS** – Klamath Falls, Oregon; Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference; **STATE LEVEL COMPETITION**; 6 students, 2 teachers; April 20-23, 2006.
- **AHS** - Ashland, Oregon; AP English Class, Shakespeare Festival; **VIEW THEATER PRODUCTION, STUDY OF SHAKESPEARE**; 14 students, 2 teachers, 2 parents; May 17-18, 2006.
- **OHS** – Walnut, California; Mt. Sac Relays; **TRACK MEET**, OHS Track Team, 15-20 students, 2 teachers, 1 parent; April 12-16, 2006.

- **OHS** – San Antonio, Texas; National Academic **DECATHLON TOURNAMENT**; 9 students, 1 teacher, 1 parent; April 26-30, 2006.
- **OHS** – Panhandle Lake, Shelton, WA; OHS Football Team, Unity Retreat; **TEAM BUILDING**; 100 students, 12 coaches / chaperones; August 21-23, 2006.

6 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

6.1 Final Acceptance – Bid No. 595, John Rogers Improvements, Phase II

The Board approved final acceptance of the Phase II, Mechanical Upgrades and Improvements to John Rogers School

6.2 Call for Bids – Olympia High School, Ductwork Revisions

The Board granted permission to call for bids to construct improvements to the heating and the ventilating system at Olympia High School for Halls 1, 2, and 3.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 28001 through 28002 and 28004 through 28062, in the total amount of \$62,290.45; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 8543 through 8570, in the total amount of \$337,631.56; General Fund Voucher Nos. 135103 and 135218 through 135366, in the total amount of \$458,310.90; and, Transportation Vehicle Fund Voucher Nos. 55 and 56, in the total amount of \$145,593.32.

8.2 Financial Report – February 2006

The Board approved the February 2006 Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the Associated Student Body, Capital Projects, Debt Service, General, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

REGULAR AGENDA

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Middle School Math Materials Review

Matt McCauley, Executive Director, K-12 Teaching & Learning, provided an update on the middle school textbook review process. The presentation included an overview of the work, process and recommendations of a middle school math review team, consisting of a team of 24 staff members and parents, in their review of seven different middle school mathematic text materials. The process resulted in the elimination of two of the sources, with five still under consideration. As the team continues to move forward, they will provide additional information to the Board. Superintendent Lahmann stated that a recommendation would be before the Board to enable going forward for next year.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Budget Briefing

Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal & Operations, updated the Board on projected 2005-06 revenues and expenditures. He provided a current look at the budget outlook for the 2006-07 school year budget, and outlined the process for developing the 2006-07 budget. He also provided clarifying information to the Board on Special Education revenues and expenses, and said the figures would be posted to the website. He added that he would be meeting with the Special Ed community and Board members in order to clarify costs for everyone.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / HOT TOPICS

A Parent Access project has begun at Jefferson Middle School which will provide parents online access to student record. The project is scheduled to roll out to all classes at Jefferson by September 2006. Jefferson is coming up with innovative activities to introduce parents to the program and to teach them how to use it. Once Jefferson is running, we will begin moving into other schools.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Highly-Capable Program Update**
- **Outdoor School Options**
- **Weapons and Dangerous Objects Section of Policy 3200**
- **Review of Inter-district Transfer Policy**
- **Boardocs.com – Vendor(s) Presentation(s)**
- **Parent Access Project – Staff Presentation**
- **Open versus Closed High School Campuses**

Director Shirley reported that the Olympia School District Education Foundation recently made grants to our schools in the amount of \$6,700. They actually had requests for \$30,000. He also noted that additional monies will be coming in, making additional grants possible.

It was noted that Vice President Nafziger, Directors Barclift and Parvinen, and Superintendent Lahmann would be attending the annual National School Boards' Association in Chicago in early April.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President