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**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111  
April 17, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Russ Lehman at 7:00 pm, Monday, April 17, 2006, at the Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also attending were Vice President Rich Nafziger, Directors Carolyn Barclift, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. Student Representative Palmer Buchholz was unable to attend.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Lehman.

**PRESENTATION**

Superintendent Bill Lahmann acknowledged Olympia School District teachers who have earned the National Board Certification. Teachers recognized were: Kelli Ehresmann, Special Education teacher at LP Brown Elementary School; Jan Matzell, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at LP Brown Elementary School; Janet O'Halloran, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at McKenny Elementary School; Kate Chan, Foreign Language teacher at Olympia High School; and, Cindy Johson, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Pioneer Elementary School. Matt McCauley, Executive Director, K-12 Teaching & Learning, provided information on the rigorous process involved in achieving National Board Certification.

**DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 27, 2006. DIRECTOR PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**COMMUNITY COMMENT**

**Reneé Lewis – pre-IB at Capital High School** – speaking as the parent of 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school student. She stated that the opportunity for advanced classes was lacking at the middle school level, and they were looking forward to the pre-IB classes that would be available next year. She further expressed her disappointment at the decision not to provide any accelerated classes in Language Arts. She stated that it was not about the smart kids, or creating an elite group of learners, but rather about providing and enhanced for students who want to learn and have waited through the years for honors English and Language Arts classes. She went on, that in order to maximize the potential for every student, each student should have the opportunity to choose classes they feel will be challenging and appropriate for their learning ability. She asked for the opportunity to participate in the curriculum development process, and questioned the exclusionary method by which the decision was made.

**Ellen Rice – pre-IB at Capital High School** – speaking as the parent of a junior at Capital High School and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Griffin. She noted that there is much to like about proposed changes, but there is a weak link in the English curriculum and confusion about what is coming, as it involves losing a program works well for many students while in its place is to come a new program with unclear parameters. She stated that, as freshmen are at different levels in their reading and writing, there is a need for a well designed, clearly thought out freshman English program with suitable options for all students. She also stated that parents were addressed in patronizing tones at a parent orientation night, and that at least one parent was so offended by what was referred to as a “condescending attitude” that she was considering transferring her student to another school.

**Bill Lichty – pre-IB at Capital High School**, speaking as the parent of a sophomore at Capital High School and an incoming freshman who has been in the Griffin program. He expressed concern that capable and motivated incoming freshman at CHS are being denied an opportunity to pursue honors English. He noted his frustration at not being included in the decision process, and found the answers to the questions parents posed to administrators to be inconsistent. Secondly, he said he views the changes as experimental and are skeptical about the outcome, having been told the curriculum did not exist, but that teachers would be trained, and having concerns that the timing would work. He also noted there were no answers forthcoming when they asked about outcomes and measurement of success. As his third point, he noted that a reasonable solution exists, which would be to simply offer freshman and sophomore honors English.

In an effort to quell possible rumors about sophomore honors offerings, President Lehman referred to an email message from Principal Teri Poff in which she clearly stated that there will be honors offerings in sophomore English. Further, the proposed changes were not just a result of eight weeks of discussion by a few people. The school improvement team started on this topic many months ago, working closely with the CHS administration and site council, with a great deal of discussion. The proposed changes were brought to the Board a month or so ago. It does appear that there may be some communications issues that could have been improved upon. He stated that the suggestion has been made to CHS that a forum be held in the near future, inviting current 8<sup>th</sup> grade families from the three middle schools (including Griffin) on the west side.

**DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, INCLUDING THE ADDENDUM TO THE CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL REPORT. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

#### 1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, April 24, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Study Session – Budget**, Knox Center
- Monday, May 8, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Tuesday, May 9, 2006, 8:30 am, **Board Retreat**, AWSP
- 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
- Monday, June 5, 2006, 6:30 pm, **Study Session – Budget**, Knox Center
- Thursday, June 8, 2006, 4:00 pm, **Retiree’s Ice Cream Social**, Olympia HS Commons
- Monday, June 12, 2006, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Thursday, June 15, 6:00 pm, **Graduation-Avanti High School**, Knox Auditorium
- Saturday, June 17, 7:00 pm, **Graduation-Capital High School**, St. Martin’s Pavilion
- Monday, June 19, 7:00 pm, **Graduation-Olympia High School**, St. Martin’s Pavilion
- Tuesday, June 27, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center

### 2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

#### 2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board accepted six retirements and four resignations, and approved seven leaves of absence, one reduction in contract, one change in assignment and two new contracts:

#### RETIREMENTS

**Aldridge, Jack** – Middle School Teacher, Marshall. Approved retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year. (Mr. Aldridge was on a leave of absence the 2005-06 school year.)

**Brown, Pamela** – Grade One at Boston Harbor Elementary School. Approved retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

**Cline, Mary Beth** – Speech/Language Pathologist with Special. Approved retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

**Day, Barbara** – Counselor at Capital High School. Approved retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

LaTourrette, Kathy – Middle School Teacher, Reeves. Approved retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.  
O'Sullivan, Catherine – Grade Five at Roosevelt Elementary School. Approved retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Howseman, Susan – Intermediate Teacher and Counselor. Approved resignation effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year. Ms. Howseman has been on a 1.0 FTE leave of absence the past two years. She returned her 2006-07 contract unsigned, along with a letter indicating she wanted a part-time counseling position, and that if there was no part-time counseling position open, her plan is to resign. There are no part-time counseling positions open. The deadline for contracts to be signed and returned for staff intending to continue their employment with the District for the 2006-07 school year was April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Judge, Nancy – Speech Language Pathologist. Approved resignation effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

Lubas, Debra – Middle School Teacher, Jefferson. Approved resignation effective the end of 2005-06 school year. (Ms. Lubas was on a leave of absence 2005-06 school year.)

Newenschwander, Donald – Foreign Language at Capital High School. Approved resignation effective at the end of 2005-06 school year. (Mr. Newenschwander was on a leave of absence 2005-06 school year.)

#### **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Alonso, Joe - Foreign Language at Capital. Approved a 1.0 FTE leave of absence from April 17, 2006 to May 26, 2006 for paternity leave.

Chandler, Samantha – Grade six at Washington Middle School. Approved a .4 FTE leave of absence effective the 2006-07 school year.

Lee, Jennifer – Elementary School Teacher, Displaced (last assignment at Boston Harbor Elementary). Approved a 1.0 FTE leave of absence effective 2006-07 school year.

Olsen, Amy – Kindergarten at Roosevelt. Approved 1.0 FTE leave of absence effective the 2006-07 school year.

Tallman, Janet - Elementary School Teacher, Displaced. Approved a 1.0 FTE leave of absence effective 2006-07 school year.

Taylor, Rick – Social Studies and Yearbook Teacher at Capital. Approved a 1.0 leave of absence effective 2006-07 school year.

Woods, Dana – Elementary School Teacher. Approved a 1.0 FTE leave of absence effective the 2006-07 school year.

#### **REDUCTION IN CONTRACT**

Campbell, Tricia – Elementary Teacher, displaced. Approved reduction in contract from 1.0 FTE to .50 FTE effective 2006-07 school year. (Ms. Campbell has been on 1.0 FTE leave, 2005-06 school year. Assignment, location determined at a later date.)

#### **CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT**

Anders, Paul – Assistant Principal, Washington. Approved promotion from .50 FTE Assistant Principal/.50 FTE Dean of Students at Jefferson to 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal at Washington. (Filling FTE vacated by Kevin Miller's retirement.)

#### **NEW CONTRACTS**

Robertson, Yolanda – Counselor at Capital. Approved 1 year Retire/Rehire 1.0 FTE contract effective 2006-07 school year.

Chertok, Brendon – Principal at McKenny Elementary School. Approved a continuing 1.0 FTE contract effective the 2006-2007 school year, beginning July 1, 2006.

### **3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

#### **3.1 Classified Personnel Report**

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated April 17, 2006.

### **4 PUPILS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

#### **4.1 Overnight Field Trip Requests**

The Board approved the following overnight field trip requests:

- **OHS** – Los Angeles, CA; Western Regional Economics Challenge; **ECONOMICS COMPETITION**; 8 students, one teacher; April 21-24, 2006.
- **OHS** – San Antonio, Texas; **ACADEMIC DECATHLON**; 9 students, one parent, one teacher; April 26-30, 2006.
- **CHS** – Roslyn, WA; State **INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**; 5 students, 1 teacher; May 1-2, 2006.

### **6 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – NEW CONSTRUCTION**

#### **6.1 Change Order – Washington Middle School Additions & Modernization**

The Board approved a construction change order to install white boards and tack boards in the classrooms for the WMS project in the amount of \$37,628.89.

## **8 FINANCES**

### **8.1 Approval of Vouchers**

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 28063 through 28137, in the total amount of \$84,259.56; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 8571 through 8600, in the total amount of \$2,243,027.04; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 135367 through 135551, in the total amount of \$576,778.62.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### **1.1 West Side Elementary School Boundary Revisions**

The Ad Hoc Citizens' Advisory Committee for West Side Boundaries presented two options for their final report and recommendations to the Board. Bob Wolpert, Director of Facilities & Operations, walked the Board through the materials provided, and the process the committee used to arrive at their recommendations. Marianne Wieland provided an introduction to the presentation, including an introduction of all committee members. Michelle Underwood provided further details on the process and reviewed the Board's original charge to the committee, as well as two items added by the committee during their deliberations.

Dawn Erdelbrock presented a detailed report on the Option 1 majority report, and Maria Spivak followed with the Option 2 minority report. Superintendent Lahmann explained a new transition program being introduced at Garfield ES next year to pull all English Language Learner (ELL) students into one school on the west side and one on the east side (likely Madison ES). Marianne returned to explain the committee's recommendations for "grandfathering" as related to both options.

President Lehman echoed thanks to staff for being good resources for the committee, and offered special thanks to the committee, recognizing that they spent a lot of time and devoted much energy to the process.

**Chris Cunningham**, is a teacher at Capital High School who lives in the LP Brown ES service area, but has two children who attend Hansen ES. He indicated his philosophy that every decision be looked at with a view to whether it is best decision for students. He noted that school size is important to student success, and that in this proposal are two larger schools and two smaller schools. He provided his view that the two smaller schools already offer an advantage just by being small, as more kids in a given space becomes detrimental. He questioned the advisability of Option 1, which he sees as sacrificing next year's students with a six to eight year growth plan that is based on subjective growth figures and is unfair. Option 2 clearly looks at capacity and makes adjustments for those factors.

Secondly, he looked at the make up of the committee and found it to be improperly focused, and not working on the best solution for the west side as a whole. He also objected to the assumption that out-of-district students could be eliminated at Garfield, but the same measurement was not being used at the other three schools. In reviewing the two options, he questioned whether they focus on what is best for the entire west side, or whether other agendas were taking priority.

**Mary Wilkes** - noted that Option 1 would change her daughter's middle school and would isolate her from her neighborhood community. She requested the Board give serious consideration to Option 2.

After discussion it was noted that the item, in the form of a policy revision, would be on the agenda for the May 8th Board meeting for purposes of further discussion and consideration, with a decision planned for the May 22<sup>nd</sup> regular Board meeting in order to have transportation and staffing allocations determined by the end of the school year.

The Board requested additional information regarding several items: accounting for ELL changes, an analysis of any strictly educational implications, the potential for phasing the revisions based on how the numbers actually fall into place or become more solid, an analysis of the financial impacts of moving Title I students, and how will inter-district students be impacted.

President Lehman agreed to a break at 9:40 pm; the meeting reconvened at 9:50 pm.

The Board agreed to table regular agenda items 1.2 and 1.3 to the May 8<sup>th</sup> regular Board meeting.

**1.2 First Reading – Proposed Revision to “Weapons & Dangerous Objects” Section, Policy 3200**

Removed from the agenda for consideration at the May 8, 2006, regular Board meeting.

**5 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

**5.1 Field Improvements – Capital High School Baseball Alumni Association**

Jim Jesernig spoke on behalf of the Capital High School Baseball Alumni Association, and provided the Board with an overview of their proposal for a fundraising effort that would enable them to donate the labor and materials to create a completely renovated and improved Waits' Field to Capital High School and the Olympia School District. He reported on the work that has already taken place and the phasing that would provide a storage building behind the third base dugout, new home bullpens, grandstands with restrooms, a concession stand with ticket booth, new batting cages, and eventually, expanded parking. Also attending for the Alumni Association were Doug Tallman and Don Westfall. The Board was assured that the field would continue to belong to Capital High School, and that their use would always takes precedence over use by any other group or entity. Doug Tallman stated that there were no conditions to be imposed by the Association; their purpose was to raise funds to create and donate a beautiful facility the school would be proud of.

The Board asked the administration and the Association to return with plans, a scope work and a specific recommendation for a motion to approve, at its next meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**1.3 Review of Board Retreat & Strategic Planning**

Removed from the agenda for consideration at the May 8, 2006, regular Board meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / HOT TOPICS**

A mock car crash assembly will be held at OHS/Ingersoll Stadium in conjunction with prom night. Emergency equipment will be dispatched to the site, and the performing arts classes will be involved in acting out the emergency situation. Staff at Pioneer Elementary School and the North Street campus of Washington Middle School will be given advance notification in order to assure no impact on those students.

The principal selection process continues, with the administration currently conducting a final review of the candidate for Garfield Elementary School. Posting for the Roosevelt Elementary School position closes tomorrow, and the Centennial process is just beginning.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Highly-Capable Program Update**
- **Outdoor School Options**
- **Review Inter-district Transfers, Policy 3141**
- ***Boardocs.com* – Schedule Vendors to Present to Board**
- ***Parent Access* – Schedule Presentation to Board**
- **Schedule Discussion of Open vs. Closed High School Campuses**

Director Barclift informed the Board that the WSSDA Director Area 5 legislative proposal meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 6:30 pm, noting she will be taking a proposal regarding impact fees, and asking the Board for input on any other topics. She also noted several workshops she attended at the National School Board's Association annual conference in Chicago that she would like to share with the Board, possibly at the coming Board retreat, and asked for an update on our district-wide safety measures and on the Student Resource Officer program.

Director Parvinen said she had spent some time at the conference looking into software programs for paperless board meetings, and would like to present her findings at a future Board meeting. She also reported on conversations regarding IB program she had had with representatives of other schools, and they made it clear theirs were junior/senior programs, although she did hear of some middle school advanced programs. She went on to say she came back with a lot of good ideas she would like to share.

Director Shirley suggested preparation for the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting at Boston Harbor Elementary School, to address some of the parent concerns about class sizes and provide information on how staffing decisions are made at our schools. President Lehman suggested perhaps the Board could meet half an hour ahead of the regular Board meeting for that discussion.

President Lehman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary

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President