

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111  
May 8, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Russ Lehman at 7:01 pm, Monday, May 8, 2006, at the Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Vice President Rich Nafziger, Directors Carolyn Barclift, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Palmer Buchholz, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann were present.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Lehman.

**PRESENTATION**

The Board of Directors presented the 2006 Staff Recognition Awards to the following staff members:

<i>"The Instructor"</i>	<b>Joann Johnston</b> , Reeves MS
<i>"The Innovator"</i>	<b>Tony Gimenez</b> , Washington MS
<i>"The Bridge Builder"</i>	<b>Jodi Borreson</b> , Reeves MS
<i>"The Sparkplug"</i>	<b>Cynthia Freytag</b> , Capital HS
<i>"The Conductor"</i>	<b>Kay O'Sullivan</b> , Roosevelt ES
<i>"The Playmakers"</i>	<b>Arne Ranta, Soc My, Chhum My</b> , Jefferson MS
<i>"The Champion of Differences"</i>	<b>Kathy Latourrette</b> , Reeves MS
<i>"The Unsung Heroes"</i>	<b>Pam Leicht, Ruth Paxton, Pamela Margon</b> , McLane ES
<i>"The Trailblazer"</i>	<b>Barb Crumb</b> , Olympia HS
<i>"The Dream Team"</i>	Olympia HS Math Department: <b>Alice Carpenter, Dan Casler, Karen Carlson, Mike Carlson, Brad Davis, John Grosey, Paul Raw, Mick Ryan, Scott Rutledge, Mike Steen, Jan Stuckey, Amanda Tomlinson, Suzanne Victoria</b>

A brief recess was called at 7:25pm; the meeting reconvened at 7:35pm.

Superintendent Lahmann reported an error in the Certificated Personnel Report dated and approved by the Board on April 17, 2006, in which Nancy Judge - Speech Language Pathologist - was listed as requesting to **resign** at the end of the 2005-06 school year. Nancy's request was actually to **retire** at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

**DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2006, AS AMENDED TO CORRECT THE CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL REPORT. DIRECTOR BARCLIFT SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Audience members who wished to address the Board regarding agenda items were identified.

**COMMUNITY COMMENT**

**Bill Lichty** – parent of two CHS students – pre-IB program at CHS – restated his comments from the previous meeting, particularly pertaining to inclusion of parents in curriculum decisions. Asked the Board to methods for communicating on a broader basis and noted that the CHS Site Council has established communication as a top priority. He asked for assurance that the District would be responding to the concerns previously stated.

**Eileen Thompson** – spoke urging support of budget recommendations for Special Education. She stated that she and her husband, Mark Thompson, have previously addressed the Board regarding the transition difficulties their family faced with their daughter from elementary to middle school. She asked the Board to show their awareness and support of the program needs by adopting the recommendations of Student Support staff for Special Education programming. She provided the Board with further comments in the form of a letter authored by her husband and herself.

**Ellen Rice** – English curriculum at Capital High School – acknowledged CHS staff and their dedication, but sees the new curriculum as a hurdle to be cleared, with one-size-fits-all programs as providing clear challenges for schools in order to meet the needs of all students, with highly-capable students most at risk. She went on to say that the pre-IB course at Capital and honors English at Olympia were established for considered reasons that have not gone away, and whatever program is chosen from this point on must include the means for all students to succeed.

**Paddy O'Brien** – parent of two children at CHS – provided the Board with a letter from the CHS Site Council, which she co-chairs, in support of the curriculum changes at 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She stated that the Council finds the new curriculum to be consistent with the comments received during the community forum to increase the rigor in the classroom for all students. She went on to describe the somewhat elitist or separatist condition that exists, partially created by the need for selection of pre-IB in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, with the perception that the IB program is not available if the selection is not made then, and stated that the curriculum change will help address that issue. She stated that teachers are able to meet the needs of all students in a classroom, and all students, including those below grade level, are capable of thinking creatively and bringing diversity of ideas and experiences to share.

**Sue Anderson** – parent of CHS IB graduate, a current IB student, and a 6<sup>th</sup> grader on his way. She applauded the increased permeability CHS staff is proposing for the IB program; it will allow students to make different decisions at different times and allow more students to take advantage of IB. She also applauded the decision to de-track 9<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts. She noted that CHS has a strong commitment by faculty—they feel this is the correct choice and are making decisions accordingly. She added that this is not a case of making “one size fit all”, and used an example of a teacher with a very diverse class dictating the same sentence to all students, but looking for different elements within the sentence from different students. She added that teachers have developed lots of clever, innovative, effective means of differentiating within their classrooms, without segmenting the class. She noted her belief that this will be an important and unifying step for CHS to make.

Director Barclift addressed the Board regarding the comments from the community on the IB curriculum, noting that it is not a matter before the Board and that the decision is the responsibility of the administration, not the Board. She noted her concern that an impression may exist that the Board would take action, and encouraged the community to go through the Superintendent's office with further questions.

**Forrest Rice and Jordan Peckler** stated they are both juniors at CHS and candidates for student representative to the Board, and as such, requested that the Board allow them to run jointly. Forrest added that between them they are involved in nearly every group and club at Capital, and would be able to represent a very large segment of the student body.

Directors Barclift and Parvinen recalled the Board's anticipation of such an eventuality during its deliberation into the student representative process and noted that the Board was very clear in its decision to provide a single student representative.

Superintendent Lahmann noted that the Certificated Personnel Report, and the addendum thereto, included two individuals being recommended for elementary school principal: Robert Hodges, for principal of Garfield Elementary School, and Domenico Spatola-Knoll for principal of Roosevelt Elementary School. He provided background information on each recommended principal.

**DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

#### 1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- 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

#### 1.2 Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Enrollment & Delegation of Authority

The Board approved the renewal of enrollment of our middle and high schools with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.

### 2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

#### 2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board accepted two retirements and two resignations, and approved four leaves of absence and two new contracts.

##### RETIREMENTS

**Bigelow, Darcie** – Principal, Centennial Elementary. Effective end of 2005-06 school year.

**Carlson, Karen** – Math Teacher, Olympia High School. Effective end of 2005-06 school year.

##### RESIGNATIONS

**Bury, Sommer** – LEAP Teacher, Centennial Elementary. Effective end of 2005-06 school year.

**Womer, Felicity** – Infant/Toddler Teacher. Effective end of 2005-06 school year.

##### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

**Barnes, Tamara** – Social Service Coordinator, Washington Middle School. A .3 FTE leave of absence effective 2006-07 school year. (A continuation of Ms. Barnes 2005-06 contract status.)

**Bigelow, Darcie** – Principal, Centennial Elementary. Medical leave of absence effective April 17, 2006 through the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

**Connor, Eileen** – Librarian, Garfield Elementary. A 33 day leave of absence for 2006-07 school year beginning January 5, 2007 through February 16, 2007.

**Fettig, Kathe** – Kindergarten Teacher, McKenny Elementary. One year reduction in contract from 1.0 FTE to .50 FTE effective 2006-07 school year.

##### NEW CONTRACTS

**Hodges, Robert** – Principal at Garfield Elementary School. Requests a continuing 1.0 FTE contract effective the 2006-07 school year, beginning July 1, 2006.

**Spatola-Knoll, Domenico** – Principal at Roosevelt Elementary School. A continuing 10. FTE contract effective the 2006-07 school year, beginning July 1, 2006.

### **3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

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

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated May 8, 2006.

#### **3.2 OSD/OPA Contract Approval**

The Board ratified the contract between the Olympia School District and the Olympia Para-educators Association for the contract years September 1, 2005, through August 31, 2008.

### **5 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

#### **5.1 Use of Facilities & Equipment – District Summer Sports Camps, CHS and OHS**

The Board approved use of District facilities and equipment for the following:

##### **CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**

Girls Volleyball	June 21-24, 2006	at CHS
Girls Basketball	June 26-29, 2006	at CHS
Boys & Girls Soccer	July 8-9 & 15-16, 2006	at JMS
Boys Basketball	July 10-12 & 17-20, 2006	at CHS
Boys Football	July 24-28, 2006	at CHS

##### **OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**

Girls Soccer	June 12-14, 2006	at OHS
Girls Basketball	June 26-30, 2006	at OHS
Girls Volleyball	July 5-7, 2006	at OHS
Boys Basketball	July 10-13, 2006	at OHS
Boys Football	July 24-28, 2006	at OHS

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

#### **6.1 Award of Bid – Reeves Middle School Field Reconstruction**

The Board accepted a bid from Harlow Construction in the amount of \$433,000 to construct the Reeves Middle School field improvements.

#### **6.2 Award of Bid – Washington Middle School, Cafeteria Table Purchase**

The Board granted an award to Orion Systems of Olympia for the purchase of cafeteria tables for Washington Middle School in the amount of \$31,360.

#### **6.3 Award of Bid – Washington Middle School, Library Shelving Purchase**

The Board granted an award to Space Savers Northwest for the purchase of library shelving for Washington Middle School in the amount of \$28,608.24.

#### **6.4 Construction Change Order – Washington Middle School Modernization & Additions**

The Board approved a construction change order for the removal of unsuitable soil materials and replacement with structural fill per the contract specifications.

### **8 FINANCES**

#### **8.1 Approval of Vouchers**

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 28138 through 28194, in the total amount of \$58,802.97; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 8601 through 8631, in the total amount of \$2,165,801.36; General Fund Voucher Nos. 135552 through 135713; and, Transportation Vehicle Fund Voucher Nos. 57 through 58, in the total amount of \$145,593.32.

#### **8.2 Financial Report – March 2006**

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

#### **8.2 Approval of Donation for Play Equipment – Boston Harbor Elementary School**

The Board accepted an anonymous donation of \$50,000 to Boston Harbor Elementary School for the design and installation of new playground equipment.

**8.4 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement – Clover Park Technical College**

The Board approved the 2006-07 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Educational Services with Clover Park Technical College.

**8.5 Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement – New Market Skills Center**

The Board approved the 2006-07 Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement for Educational Services with New Market Skills Center for 2006-07.

REGULAR AGENDA

**1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**1.1 Evaluation Proposal – Third Way Consulting Group**

The Board discussed contracting with Third Way Consulting Group LLC, in order to obtain professional assistance in completing a 360° evaluation process for the Superintendent's annual performance review.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAFZIGER MOVED TO APPROVE CONTRACTING WITH THIRD WAY CONSULTING GROUP FOR THEIR SERVICES IN CONDUCTING A 360° PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Discussion ensued with Director Barclift asserting that the Board had intended to establish parameters and explore the options available to it prior to a decision, and that such was to have been a subject of the next day's Board retreat. Director Shirley suggested that the Board move forward by accepting Third Way's proposal up to a maximum of \$3,000. Director Barclift restated her objection to moving forward, as the Superintendent's evaluation is properly the responsibility of the Board, and the Board should determine what the evaluation will look like and what it entails. Director Shirley pointed out that the charge to the consulting group would be to collect information, while the Board would utilize the data collected to fulfill their responsibility of performing the evaluation.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAFZIGER AMENDED HIS MOTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$3,000. FIVE AYES; ONE NAY; MOTION CARRIED.**

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

The Board discussed the authorization of a retreat to follow up on their February retreat, in order to finish their earlier discussions and establish parameters for moving forward and either affirming or modifying their Operating Protocols.

After discussion, the Board agreed to meet in a retreat the following day, as planned.

**4 PUPILS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**4.1 Middle School Math Materials Recommendation**

Matt McCauley, Executive Director, K-12 Teaching & Learning, and members of the Middle School Math Material Review Team, Monica West from Capital High School, Eli Normoyle from Jefferson Middle School, and Jennifer Anders, a District parent, presented their recommendation for the adoption of Connected Math Project (CMP) as the new middle school math curriculum. It was noted that a key factor repeatedly seen in their research was increased student engagement. Following a review of the team's process and the basis for their recommendation, and noting that the team was not unanimous in its recommendation, community members were invited to comment.

**Marta Gomez-Buckley** – noted that she was a member of the review team and had concerns about the thoroughness of the process. She stated that the Discovery approach does not hold the attention of accelerated students, and cost of implementation would be high for highly capable students, suggesting that alternative methods should be offered at all levels. She provided the Board with data supporting her concerns, including a DVD of a presentation made at a conference conducted by the Washington State PTA, and asked the Board to study these materials before making a decision.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. McCauley reviewed the budget implications of approval of the recommendation.

**Linnea Comstock** – stated that she was here because of her commitment to the future, and related this process to the reading debate of ten year ago, when the choices were whole language versus back to basics. During that time her own children suffered from a lack of the basic skills, and studies showed that in reading both basics and experientials are needed, and the best results are achieved when the basic skills are established first. She noted that she is tired of the back and forth debate, and she urged the Board to hold off until they can be assured the research can be validated.

**Kim Shorten** – noted that her son's math class doesn't have enough books for each student to have their own to take home for study, and that while a new program is needed, she has concerns about the recommended curriculum. She commented that not every student works well in a group, and many students do not deal well with "discovery" methods.

**Keith Barber** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Boston Harbor – stated that he taught traditional math for 28 years and loved it; his first year teaching CMP was a little bumpy, and he did not have the benefit of training, but in a very short time he saw such tremendous involvement by students that he would not choose to go back. He spoke to the issue of those students who do not work well in groups and found that by initially placing them in "groups" of one and two, and giving them time to become accustomed to the curriculum, the groups began to expand into larger, more traditional sizes. He said he saw better scores, and found that going from CMP back to a more traditional program was more difficult than the transition from traditional to CMP had been. He offered his recommendation for adoption of the CMP curriculum.

A ten minute break was called at 9:46p; the meeting reconvened at 10:00p.

## **1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **1.3 West Side Elementary School Boundaries**

Bob Wolpert, Director of Facilities & Operations, presented a thorough overview of the two options offered by the Ad Hoc Citizens' Advisory Committee and commented on information requested by the Board regarding their consideration of boundary modifications. He noted that both options would keep neighborhoods together and achieve obvious boundary division lines.

The ensuing discussion included an explanation by Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal & Operations, of how class sizes are determined, as compared with staffing and physical capacity. Also discussed were the impact of transfer students on class sizes and building capacities, and a review of the recommendations for grandfathering.

Vice President Nafziger asked about a potential compromise between the two recommendations for revising the options so that the students from the Courthouse Hill area were not moved from Garfield, thereby impacting fewer students. Director Barclift offered a further exploration of that concept, and Mr. Wolpert stated he would review the suggestion, and return with a final recommendation at the next Board meeting.

**Paul Grudis**, committee member, spoke of his conclusion that Option 1 would be in the best interest of the greatest number of at risk students, and impact the least students throughout the west side. He also discussed grandfathering, pointing out that not providing transportation will have the effect of denying grandfathering rights to the same at risk students, those whose families don't have the resources to provide their transportation not only to and from school on a daily basis, but also in terms of family involvement in school activities.

**Dawn Erdelbrook**, committee member – noted that out of district students at Garfield are there for reasons that are important to them and their families, and further noted that at least 18 Courthouse Hill families have attended Hansen since day one.

**Michelle Underwood**, committee member – suggested consideration of a phased-in plan.

**Marianne Wieland** – a Hansen parent, member of the committee. The committee's research showed that students at Courtside Apartments were very stable and very likely to succeed, and that each school needs to educate to the needs of their community. She went on to address the issue of future growth, noting that all four schools will be over capacity if the proposed growth comes to fruition. She also urged the Board to consider providing transportation for families who chose to remain in their current schools.

Further discussion by the Board ensued, concluding that the matter would return for decision at the next Board meeting.

## **8 FINANCES**

### **8.1 Donation of Field Improvements – Capital High School Baseball Alumni Association**

Bob Wolpert, Director, Facilities & Operations, recommended approval of facility improvement donations from the Capital High School Baseball Alumni Association for the construction of a grandstand, concession booth and restrooms, to replace facilities demolished in 2005 at Waits Field, and for the construction of new, covered batting cages for both Waits Field and the girls' varsity fast pitch field at Jefferson Middle School. He called the Board's attention to the Letter of Understanding that was included in their packet, designed to provide structure and formalize the agreements of the parties.

The Board requested the letter of understanding be modified to include language that would provide for the simultaneous completion of the batting cages at the two fields, to coincide with the start of their respective seasons.

**DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS BY THE CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR BARCLIFT SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

## **1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

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

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Board agreed to table this item to the May 22, 2006, meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary

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President