

**Minutes of the Budget Extension Hearing
and of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
May 24, 2004**

Minutes of the Budget Extension Hearing

The Olympic School District Board of Directors held a Budget Extension Hearing for the purpose of reviewing the 2003-2004 Budget, at Jefferson Middle School, 2200 Conger Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502. The hearing was convened by President John McGee at 6:36 p.m. Also attending were Vice President Michelle Parvinen, Director Carolyn Barclift, Director Russ Lehman, Director Rich Nafziger, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services, introduced a resolution which would allow increased revenues and expenditures to the General Fund segment of the 2003-04 Budget. The resolution will be presented for adoption at the next regular meeting of the Board, June 7, 2004. The hearing was concluded at 6:47 p.m.

PRESENTATION

The Jefferson Jazz Band, led by teacher Keith Holder, played several numbers immediately following the budget hearing.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President John McGee at 7:02 p.m., Monday, May 24, 2004, at Jefferson Middle School, 2200 Conger Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502. Also attending were Vice President Michelle Parvinen, Director Carolyn Barclift, Director Russ Lehman, Director Rich Nafziger, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

The salute to the flag was led by President McGee.

Michael Cimino, Principal of Jefferson Middle School, welcomed the Board and the community. He spoke of the dedication of the members of the jazz band, who are instructed in a "zero hour" class, arriving at 7:00 a.m. to study and rehearse, thanks to the efforts of their parents and of teacher Keith Holder, who donates his time to the class.

VICE PRESIDENT MICHELLE PARVINEN MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 10, 2004. DIRECTOR NAFZIGER SECONDED. FIVE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

IDENTIFICATION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SPEAK TO AGENDA ITEMS

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Madison Iyall, a first grader from Lincoln Elementary School presented a petition signed by many of her Lincoln classmates, urging the Board to retain the alternative program and staff at her school.

Kim Shorten spoke to the impact the proposed budget cuts would have on the "average" child in the District, suggesting that far greater benefit to all children would result from retaining staff and looking at cuts to programs that are geared to fewer numbers of students, rather than increasing class sizes and cutting teachers.

Matia Rankin, a student at Jefferson Middle School, presented the Board with a student petition requesting that the Board retain the current staff at their school. She stated that Jefferson's staff cuts were at a higher level than cuts at other schools.

Joe Anderson and Liliana Karelja, student Board representative candidates from Capital High School and Olympia High School, urged the Board to consider allowing two student representatives, one from each of their high schools, in order to adequately represent the views and issues of each of the two major schools, as well as provide the diverse points of view of two individuals. It was stated that Board policy called for only one student representative, but that the concept could certainly be given consideration for the future.

Cindy Weitekamp spoke regarding the District's programs for highly-capable students, offering the opinion that the program doesn't serve as well as it could, and volunteering to form a group to look to an optional program that would better serve more students. She asked that the Board consider utilizing only State funding for PATS, releasing District funds to be used for general education. She further asked that the Board, in its budget deliberations, consider the success Jefferson Middle School has had with its Principal/Vice Principal team, making a plea for the retention of that team in 2004-05.

Bob Shirley spoke to the value of an open and fair process, and his concerns with the difficult decision the Board has faced regarding a volunteer policy. He discussed his own disappointment in the process utilized in the consideration of this policy, believing that inadequate regard was given by the administration and the Board to the research and suggestions offered by himself and others in the community. Additionally, he spoke of information he provided to the Board well in advance, while information generated by the administration, specifically a letter written by attorney Val Hughes, was not made available to him.

Ruth Musgrave, a parent at Boston Harbor, spoke of her concerns that proposed staff cuts, along with the retirement of their principal, would have severe impacts on their school, resulting in dramatic changes. She urged the Board to keep student/teacher ratios at 20:1, and asked they look at some of the suggestions they had offered, such as raising lunch and transportation fees.

Thurman Rankin, father of Jefferson student Matia, spoke regarding the efforts of his daughter and her friends, stating that they had been very concerned, and had gathered over 400 signatures during lunch times and breaks. He said he had encouraged her to act on her concerns, telling her he was sure the Board would give every consideration to their input.

Annie McManus asked for clarification on proposed staff reductions. Superintendent Lahmann explained that the number of notices that had to be sent out is significantly above the number of actual reductions in staff that will be required, that there are three categories, elementary, secondary and specialists. Teachers might have several endorsements, and could potentially bump a teacher in another category as a result of seniority. It was a massive effort, he said, but we had to guarantee the rights of each teacher whose position might be eliminated.

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Director Barclift reminded the Board of the legislative proposal form they each received in April, offering an opportunity to propose legislation to be supported by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA); none came back, and the deadline of June 4th was near. After discussion, it was concluded that the Board would support the creation of language that would require all jurisdictions to collect the impact fees imposed by the District on residential developers.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, June 7, 2004, 7:00 p.m., **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington, 98501.
- Thursday, June 10, 2004, 6:00 p.m., **Avanti High School Graduation**, Knox Auditorium, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, June 14, 2004, 7:30 p.m., **Olympia High School Graduation**, St. Martin's Pavilion, 5300 Pacific Avenue SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Tuesday, June 15, 2004, 7:00 p.m., **Capital High School Graduation**, St. Martin's Pavilion, 5300 Pacific Avenue, SE, Olympia, Washington 98501
- Tuesday, June 29, 2004, 7:00 p.m., **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board accepted two retirements and one resignation, and approved three leaves of absence.

2.2 Executive Session

An Executive Session is requested for personnel and/or legal matters.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated May 24, 2004.

4 PUPILS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS

4.1 Overnight Field Trip Requests

The Board approved the following student overnight field trips:

- Lincoln Elementary School – Martha Manley's 4th/5th grade class; conclusion to studies on human migration; Rainbow Falls State Park, Cape Disappointment State Park, Ilwaco, Washington; 23 students; 14 to 16 parent chaperones; one teacher chaperone; June 8-11, 2004.
- Lincoln Elementary School – Roxanne McPherson's 4th/5th grade class; learning about the Washington environment and about cultures of native tribes.; Neah Bay, Washington; 19 students, 10 parent chaperones; one teacher chaperone; June 9-11, 2004.
- Lincoln Elementary School – Rich Sikorski's 5th grade class; astronomy, energy production, meet migrant workers (migration study), and learn about first peoples; Coulee Corridor, Ephrata, Washington; 23 students, 14 parent chaperones, one teacher chaperone; June 13-16, 2004.
- Capital High School – Trebuchet Club (a "trebuchet" is a device similar to a catapult); to compete in a trebuchet contest using the trebuchet the students have engineered and built; Moses Lake, Washington; four students, one parent chaperone, one teacher chaperone; May 7-8, 2004.
- Olympia High School – Band; performance and team building; Seaside, Oregon; 40 students, 7 teacher/adult chaperones; June 4-6, 2004.

6. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-NEW CONSTRUCTION

6.1 Call for Bids – Fiber Optic Wide Area Network System

The administration approved a call for bids to install a new fiber optic wide area network system to all district facilities.

8. FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 25672 through 25729, in the total amount of \$27,757.52; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 7505 through 7524, in the total amount of \$823,830.64; and General Fund Voucher Nos. 128999 through 129304, in the total amount of \$387,676.99.

8.2 Financial

The Board approved the April 2004 Revenue and Expenditure Report for the General, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Associated Student Body, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

Regular Agenda

1 DIRECTORS

1.1 New Policy 3405, *Students – Nutrition*

Paul Flock, Director of Child Nutrition Services, recommends approval of new Policy 3405, establishing District standards for distribution of food and beverage at the middle school level. tonight we have a second reading. RN moved /CB RN impressed with the work that's been done. carries

1.2 New Policy 5630, *Personnel – Volunteers*

New Policy 5630, *Personnel – Volunteers*, is considered for second reading and adoption. President McGee reminded that Board that the policy and a proposed amendment offered at the last meeting my Director Lehman had been tabled until tonight, as the Board felt they had not had time to give the amendment adequate consideration.

Director Lehman stated that this issue has been before the Board for a number of months, and he thanked the parents and community members who had taken such an interest in it, and stating that we all want our children to be safe and we want to welcome parents into the schools. He questioned whether the proposed policy protected our students and whether it encouraged parental participation in the classroom, expressing concern that in fact it would discourage parent volunteerism. He stated his concern that the policy proposes to treat every parent as though they would be with children in an unsupervised capacity. He went on to state that the law is "miserably written" as it applies to the District; that one must read it many times before reaching an understanding of it, and that it was not written for schools as all, although it applies.

Director Nafziger agreed that the statute is fuzzy, but that there is risk to be considered as there are occasions when volunteers spend unsupervised time with students. He stated that while we don't have data as to whether a volunteer policy will negatively impact volunteer hours, he himself had filled out disclosure forms for working with children in other capacities, and had not objected to doing so. He further stated his concern that the proposed amendment would put an undue burden on the school and the teachers.

Vice President Parvinen also expressed concern about the amendment shifting the burden to the principals and teachers, and that she, too, having spent many volunteer hours in the schools, recognized the risk of volunteers having opportunities to spend unsupervised time with students. She stated that she did like the idea of having volunteers go through a training course.

Mr. Daniel Kadden suggested that, if the Board approves the proposed policy, that it demonstrate its concern about the impact on volunteers by engaging with the public at the end of the first year for a review.

President McGee stated his position that this is strictly a liability question, and that his dilemma was in deciding between the amendment and the policy prepared by staff and our legal counsel with particular concern for the potential shift in burden to the school staff. He stated that he was not fully comfortable with either the proposed policy or the amendment.

President McGee stated his position that this is strictly a liability question, and that his dilemma was in deciding between the amendment and the policy prepared by staff and our legal counsel with particular concern for the potential shift in burden to the school staff. He stated that he was not fully comfortable with either the proposed policy or the amendment.

Mr. Bob Shirley pointed out that the proposed background check can be made only at the time of volunteering, that you cannot order a background check on someone who has already been a volunteer.

Director Lehman reiterated his concern that the proposed policy was a solution in search of a problem, that we have had many thousands of hours volunteered in the District with no known problem; known data shows that our volunteer process is already working.

PRESIDENT MCGEE CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE PROPOSED LEHMAN AMENDMENT. ONE AYE, FOUR NAYS. MOTION FAILED ADOPTION.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE NEW POLICY 3405. DIRECTOR NAFZIGER SECONDED. PRESIDENT MCGEE CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

Director Lehman stated that the District's proposal allows for a mid-course change on a volunteer; that once an individual has been accepted as a volunteer you cannot step back and request a background check or a child abuse report; that once they are engaged, under the law you cannot later subject that individual to scrutiny; that to do so would subject the District to civil liability.

During further discussion it was stated that the policy does not state how or when background checks should be done; that the procedures would set forth those guidelines. It was also agreed that the administration would review the policy in a year and report back to the Board at that time.

PRESIDENT MCGEE CALLED FOR THE VOTE ON THE MOTION. FOUR AYES, ONE NAY. MOTION CARRIED.

8 FINANCE

8.1 Budget Update

Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services, presented the monthly update on the status of the 2003-04 budget, and updated projections for the 2004-05 budget. He stated that the numbers are about the same as previously presented. In response to a question from Director Nafziger, he responded that a technology levy would be a capital levy, and could provide an option for funding technology-related programs.

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP BY PERSONS PRESENT

Annie McManus addressed the Board, asking if the public had access to the full budget, as she had seen only parts of recommendations. She was informed that the full budget could be made available upon request, but that it was a very large document. She suggested that there are much deeper cuts that could be made that do not involve personnel, stating her belief that our staff is our greatest asset and of the most benefit for our kids.

President McGee responded that a community forum would be held on Thursday, June 3rd, at Madison Elementary School. It was also stated that a preliminary budget would be complete by July 10th.

A teacher from the Science Department at Olympia High School stated that he recognized all the hard work that was being done and appreciated the efforts that were being made to keep cuts away from staff. He also stated that they had gone to a lot of effort to create a good Science Department and hoped ways could be found to keep it intact.

TC Rikin, a Lincoln parent, asked if there were other effective ways of communicating with the Board about their concerns. It was suggested that emails were a good means of conveying information to the Board. Vice President Parvinen stated that she read all emails sent to her, but regretted that she was not able to respond to each one.

Kim Shorten asked about the timing of the budget with negotiations on the teachers contract, encouraging the union to consider some temporary concessions that would result in savings to the District over the next couple of years.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Lehman suggested that a presentation on the Public Service Academy be put on the Board agenda in the near future.

Vice President Parvinen reminded the Board of their agreement to hold another retreat before the start of the school year and requested that they get potential dates to her so she can set it up.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Swearing-in of Student Board Representative
- Staff Recognition – June 7
- Community Recognition – June 29
- Budget Updates
- Policy Updates

At 9:23 p.m., President McGee recessed the Board to Executive Session; he reconvened the Board at 11:14 p.m., and immediately adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President