

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
May 28, 2002**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Olympia School District was called to order by President Parvinen at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 28, 2002, at Lincoln Elementary School, 213 21st Avenue SE, Olympia, Washington. Present were: President Parvinen, Directors Barclift, Keeffe, Lehman and McGee, and Superintendent Lahmann.

Recille Crosby led the flag salute.

**MINUTES**

**DIRECTOR MCGEE MOVED AND DIRECTOR KEEFFE SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2002, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**IDENTIFICATION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS  
WHO WISH TO SPEAK TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Jena Embry-Loes asked to speak to Regular Agenda Item 1.3, Commercialism in Schools.

**PRESENTATION**

Lincoln Elementary School Principal Cheryl Petra welcomed everyone to the school and Board meeting, and introduced staff members present. Ms. Petra commented the Options program is currently focusing on two initiatives: Spanish language and anti-bias, multi-cultural instruction. Students presented skits in Spanish, spoke about the Underground Railroad, sang songs and performed the Samba. Options Site Council President Anne Hirsch spoke about Options core beliefs, explained how the program fit into the Options Design for Learning, and how the school community council works. She also thanked the Board members for visiting the Lincoln wetlands and garden. President Parvinen thanked them and said their presentation was outstanding.

President Parvinen introduced new Olympia High School Principal Matt Grant, and new Capital High School Principal Teri Poff.

**ITEMS BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Director Barclift asked Superintendent Lahmann about his visit with Russian visitors today. Superintendent Lahmann explained that he was a lunch substitute for second grade teacher Anita Ideker at Madison Elementary School. He said he had just started a lesson when Principal Karen Gray asked if she could cover for him so he could speak with visitors from Russia. He asked Principal Gray to have the visitors come to the classroom. He said there were about 15 Russian police officers with an interpreter who said they were here to look at our system of juvenile justice, detention and community police issues. Director Barclift said the Russian visitors went to Capital High School, Reeves Middle School and Madison Elementary School. She noted that the Olympia Police Department has had two groups go to Russia as well. She commented that the Russian officers found it interesting that a police officer could be elected to the School Board.

**ITEMS BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (continued)**

Director Lehman commented that when the Board is meeting at a school, it is an opportunity for people to have dialogue with the Board. He asked if anyone present had any issues they thought the Board needed to hear. Principal Cheryl Petra said one ongoing issue is maintaining the integrity of the philosophy of the school, as reflected in the Options Design for Learning, and balancing the state and district mandates (specifically in the arena of testing). She said the Options philosophy is that testing will be kept at a minimum, which is a challenge in the current climate. Director Lehman asked if there was a substantial percentage of students at Lincoln who do not take the WASL. Ms. Petra commented that, in many ways, the WASL is a better fit for Lincoln than the other tests. She said that she has talked with the state about a waiver for the third grade Iowa Test of Basic Skills of which more parents opt their children out. She said she would like to see the WASL improved because it is too long and taxing for nine year olds. She added that some Lincoln students are studying the WASL format and want to have a dialogue with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction about their findings.

Anne Hirsch commented that there are a lot of anxious parents who are concerned that, as their children get older, there are not enough choices for alternative classes at the middle school, and she felt this needs more attention.

Director McGee said his son did not take the ITBS a few years ago, yet passed the 10th grade WASL. He commented that things are typically done differently at Lincoln. He recognized a former Lincoln student who received an award for community service, one who was on a baseball team, and one who won first place at OHS on stock market competition.

Director Keeffe said it has been fun to come back to Lincoln. He said his youngest child is now 20 years old and is going to Australia to school. Parent volunteer Gretchen Steiger said Lincoln has been a great opportunity and the students are wonderful.

President Parvinen said the Futures Team had its last meeting as a full team, and it was a great experience. Superintendent Lahmann commented that the writing team has passed on the information it compiled to Facilitator Duke Kuehn. He said it was a group with many diverse opinions and ideas, and it was exciting to work with them. He noted that Mr. Kuehn is pulling all the information together in a final report.

Director Barclift asked about the progress of the Budget Advisory Group. Superintendent Lahmann said the Board will have a Budget Study Session on June 3, and representatives from the Budget Advisory Group will be there. Director Barclift asked if the Board would get any information before that meeting. Director of Special Services Dr. Paula Akerlund commented that the group has completed its work and the Board will receive information on Thursday.

**ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

**DIRECTOR McGEE MOVED AND DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**1. SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**1.1 Board Meeting Schedule**

- Monday, June 3, 2002, 6:00 p.m., Board Study Session on Budget, Rogers Elementary School, 2001 26th Avenue NE, Olympia, Washington.
- Tuesday, June 4, 2002, 7:00 p.m., New Market Vocational Skills Center Recognition Ceremony, St. Martin's Pavilion, Lacey, Washington.
- Wednesday, June 5, 2002, 4:00 p.m., Retirement/Ice Cream Social, Olympia High School, 1302 North Street, Olympia, Washington.
- Monday, June 10, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Rogers Elementary School, 2001 26th Avenue NE, Olympia, Washington.
- Thursday, June 13, 2002, 6:00 p.m., Avanti High School Graduation, Washington State Armory, Olympia, Washington.
- Sunday, June 16, 2002, 6:00 p.m., Capital High School Graduation, St. Martin's Pavilion, Lacey, Washington.
- Monday, June 17, 2002, 7:30 p.m., Olympia High School Graduation, St. Martin's Pavilion, Lacey, Washington.
- Tuesday, June 25, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Rogers Elementary School, 2001 26th Avenue NE, Olympia, Washington.
- Monday, July 15, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Rogers Elementary School, 2001 26th Avenue NE, Olympia, Washington.

**2. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**2.1 Certificated Personnel Report**

**Retirement**

**Judith Shannon** - English at Capital High School, effective November 30, 2002.

**Resignations**

**Holly Berchet-Hall** - Computer Technology and Art at Reeves Middle School, effective the end of the 2001-02 school year.

**Marie Nelson** - Choral Music at Jefferson Middle, Garfield Elementary, L.P. Brown Elementary and Hansen Elementary Schools, effective the end of the 2001-02 school year.

**Leaves of Absence**

**Sharyn Kerr** - Seventh Grade Humanities at Marshall Middle School, a one-year-only .40 FTE leave of absence (from 1.0 to .60) effective the 2002-03 school year.

**Julie McDougall** - Multiage Science at Marshall Middle School, a one-year-only .40 FTE leave of absence (from 1.0 to .60) effective the 2002-03 school year.

**Reduction in Contract**

**Donna Dannenmiller** - Currently Grade Two at Lincoln Elementary School, a continuing .20 FTE reduction in contract (from 1.0 to .80) effective the 2002-03 school year.

**New Contracts**

**Craig Baker** - Science/Chemistry at Capital High School, a continuing 1.0 FTE contracted issued effective the 2002-03 school year.

**2.2 Executive Session**

An Executive Session was held for personnel, legal and real estate matters.

**3. CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

**3.1 Classified Personnel Report**

**6. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS — NEW CONSTRUCTION**

**6.1 Award of Bid**

The Board approved award of Bid No. 567 to Specialized Landscape, Inc., of Tacoma in the amount of \$241,758, base bid plus alternate bids, to construct the improvements to the east playfield at Washington Middle School.

**8. FINANCES**

**8.1 Approval of Vouchers**

The Board approved General Fund Vouchers 116056 through 116419 in the amount of \$337,426.02, General Fund Vouchers 116420 through 116421 in the amount of \$17.28, Capital Projects Fund Vouchers 6601 through 6622 in the amount of \$156,236.09, and ASB Fund Vouchers 22215 through 22303 in the amount of \$45,505.83, dated May 28, 2002, and warrants were issued in their payment.

**8.2 Financial Reports**

Board members received the April 2002 revenue and Expenditure Reports for the General, Debt Service, Capital Projects, ASB and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**1.1 Policy No. 6161, Instructional Materials**

**DIRECTOR McGEE MOVED AND DIRECTOR KEEFFE SECONDED APPROVAL OF POLICY NO. 6161, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **1.2 Legislative Proposals**

Director Barclift presented legislative proposals submitted by the Director Area 5 Group of the Washington State School Directors Association. The proposals included full funding of Initiative 728, Initiative 732, Running Start—Standards, Career Pathways, and Vocational Education Funding. After discussion, the Board agreed to support the proposals for I-728, I-732, Career Pathways and Vocational Education Funding. Board members indicated they were not comfortable supporting the Running Start—Standards proposal. Board members felt that Running Start has successfully served more students, though it can be complicated to administer. However, they did not want to reduce options for students or limit student choices.

### **1.3 Commercialism in Schools**

Superintendent Lahmann commented that the district policy on commercialism in schools is in need of updating. He said he would propose a revised policy to reflect what the district currently does, reinforcing that schools have options when looking at the issue of commercialism or advertising (including a plan to opt out). He said he would like the Board to adopt a revised policy at the August 26 Board meeting in order to have it ready for the next school year. He said the district minimizes commercialism in the schools, but students read newspapers in class and use the Internet where advertising is prevalent. He felt staff could use those options as learning opportunities especially related to media literacy. He noted the district has partnerships with the business community and they expect very little in return. He also commented that the pop machine companies have said it would not be a problem to take the logos off their machines.

Jena Embry-Loes thanked the Board for looking at the issue of commercialism in schools. She commented that she had presented some of her concerns to Superintendent Lahmann. She said the issue of corporations in education promotes an unequal playing field. She asked the Board to think about what the district goals are and what corporate goals are. She said the Board would find parents have different goals for their children. She said children from poverty are impacted the most. She commented that the idea of using media literacy does not maintain an even playing field if the district does not eliminate advertising in schools.

Director McGee said he had introduced the idea of media literacy instruction. He thought that one of the district's technology goals has been to encourage media literacy. Director Lehman said he did not feel comfortable, at this point, with only the suggested policy changes. He felt there are other things that should be done in the interim, such as the walk-throughs being done by a group of parents. He said the group has two more scheduled, and he would be curious about what they report. He said there has already been a walk-through at Lincoln. President Parvinen asked how the group contracted Lincoln to make these arrangements. Principal Cheryl Petra said that parent volunteer Gretchen Steiger set it up. Director Barclift asked if the same group of parents will be at each of the schools. Ms. Petra said yes. President Parvinen asked at what point the parents would come to the Board with the results. Ms. Steiger said they are trying to get everything done before the end of the school year, but that she was not sure when the results will be presented to the Board. Director Barclift asked if the questionnaire being used was unbiased, and that it was not an anti-corporation questionnaire. She said she was concerned that the walk-through group does not send a message that the district does not trust businesses. Ms. Petra said that is a non-issue, that the group identifies itself and is sensitive to the issues. Director Barclift said she would like to see a copy of the questionnaire.

**1.3 Commercialism in Schools (continued)**

Director Lehman said he thinks there is more learning that has to be done, but he does not believe that teachers in the district are using curriculum developed by corporations. He said that another area that needs to be explored more is other alternative and creative forms of fundraising. Director McGee said he is in favor of revising the policy. He said he thought that there is minimum penetration of commercialism in district curriculum. He said if he is wrong, he would want to address the issue. Director Keeffe said a policy can be built to deal with the issues by August. He said that policy can be changed at any given time in the future. He said it is important to realize that much of what has been discussed is not just aimed at large corporations, but small, local businesses. He said the district needs these people. They support schools. They are also parents of students in the district, They do not get much in return and the district receives a huge benefit from them. He said the district needs to be careful and not say that we do not want businesses in our schools. He said the members of the Vocational Education Committee contribute a considerable amount of time and resources, the Chamber of Commerce supports levies and bonds, and the community votes for levies and bonds. He said he does not want biased instructional materials incorporated into the curriculum. He said if schools wish to restrict distribution of specific materials, that should be decided by the principals, staff, parents and the school community. Director Barclift said she is not convinced that there are any significant problems in our schools. She said the district needs to memorialize what is happening now with the understanding that each building can restrict its activities more if they choose to. She said that, if there is a problem, the issue can be revisited later. President Parvinen said she did not think commercialism is a problem in the district either. She said her level of awareness has been raised as a result of current discussions. She said there has been some anxiety on the part of the district's business partners. She said the Board needs to move forward and take action on a policy to help reduce that anxiety and let the business partners know they are valued. She said the district needs to rebuilt trust with the community. Director Lehman said he never heard anyone limiting small business partnerships in the schools, that no one has vilified small businesses or corporations. He said the district needs to determine a way to recognize them appropriately but not at the expense of indoctrinating children. He said the district needs to develop relationships under our terms, not their terms. He said we cannot codify all that is being done now. For example, the district needs to look at existing contracts. Director Barclift said she has frequently heard about the anxiety in the business community, and it has truly caused apprehension. An example is the water situation. Superintendent Lahmann commented that the district had a supplier providing water during the WASL examinations, but they said they cannot do it for free any more because they do not want to cause problems with the Board. Director Lehman said their fear needs to be assuaged. Superintendent Lahmann said he does not know how to respond because the Board has not set a direction. He said that until the Board members come to some kind of decision, he cannot speak for them. He said the community wants to support schools, but they do not want to cross the Board. Director Lehman said it would be beneficial for the district to talk with the business partners and suggest some ways to recognize their contributions. President Parvinen commented that this is an ongoing dialogue. Director Keeffe said the problem in the community is that they have not had a framework or dialogue with the Board. He said they are more angry and frustrated than anxious. He said the district has worked hard to bring them in, and the appearance now is that the district does not want them. He said it is important to have a policy in place even if it has to be amended later. Cheryl Petra

**1.3 Commercialism in Schools (continued)**

said the commercial curriculum issue needs to be addressed in the policy. She said she has actually started getting junk food in the mail. Director McGee said the Board discussed the nutrition piece and felt it was not part of commercialism. He said that the Board needs, at some point, to come back to this. President Parvinen said she heard the majority of the Board is ready to build a policy to codify what is now being done, to raise the level of awareness and to look at existing contracts. The Board agreed.

**8. FINANCES**

**8.1 Impact Fees**

Director Lehman commented that, at the last meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of sending the Thurston County Commissioners a resolution from the Board regarding the collection of impact fees. He said he did an ordinance for the Commissioners and draft letters to the cities of Olympia and Tumwater asking for their support. Superintendent Lahmann asked Director of Facilities and Operations to draft a resolution. He said he felt the Board needed to make the County Commissioners understand that the impact fees are for schools. Director Keeffe said the City of Olympia collects impact fees for Olympia schools. He said the County collects mitigation fees from developments of five homes or more in unincorporated Thurston County and developments of ten or more homes located in the urban growth boundary. He said that means that many people are not paying anything. Mr. Wolpert said the exception is under SEPA, and the only way to cover that gap is impact fees. Director Keeffe commented that he wants the County Commissioners to understand that not everyone in the county is paying impact fees. Director Lehman said the philosophy is consistency in that all those who build within the Olympia School District should help defray the costs of the facilities which result from that growth. He said that taxpayers within the city are subsidizing those in the county. Director Barclift said none of the Board members think the county should not be collecting impact fees for the district. She said the question is how to deal with the County Commissioners. She commented that Kevin O'Sullivan sent a letter offering to sit down with Director Lehman and the County Assessor regarding impact fees. She said she felt Director Lehman needs to have that meeting. She said this is the first time she has seen willingness to discuss the situation. She said she would like Director Lehman to take up Mr. O'Sullivan up on that offer and come back to the Board to re-discuss the issue. Director Lehman said Mr. O'Sullivan said in his letter that Director Lehman had stated that impact fees lower property taxes. He believes that this is not true. He said the Assessor can explain it and show why in detail. Director Lehman said of course it raises property taxes, and he felt this is a way for the Commissioners to postpone making a decision. Director Barclift said she felt it is important for Director Lehman to work with the Assessor. Director Lehman said he did not feel there is anything else more to do. He felt it was appropriate to put everything in writing and let the Commissioners decide what they are going to do. Director Barclift commented that the Commissioners are seeking more information from the district and she felt the Board needs to go through the process. Director Lehman said he felt the Board has already gone through the process. Director Barclift said she agrees that the district needs impact fees throughout the entire district, and she is not in favor of sending the letters, resolution and ordinance forward until there has been an opportunity to work further with the County Commissioners. President Parvinen asked if there has been any discussion with North Thurston and Tumwater School

**8.1 Impact Fees (continued)**

District on this issue. Superintendent Lahmann said no, not since the meeting prior to the Board meeting with the Commissioners. He said he could make it a formal item. Director Lehman said it is important not to get caught in a trap of consistency between districts, that that is not this district's job. Superintendent Lahmann said he would not mind talking with the other districts. Director Barclift asked Director Lehman if he could agree to meet with Kevin O'Sullivan and the Assessor. Director Lehman said he did not want to sound unreasonable, but he felt he has spent a lot of time and energy on this, that he does not have the time or energy to meet with them, and he did not think it would be productive.

**DIRECTOR McGEE MOVED AND DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED MOVED\* TO SEND THE RESOLUTION TO THE THURSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS WRITTEN.** \*Amended per 6/10/02 minutes.

Director Keeffe asked to include his additional "whereas" on collecting impact fees from developments of five homes in unincorporated county and developments of ten homes in the urban growth boundary in the resolution.

**DIRECTOR KEEFFE MOVED AND DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED INCLUDING THE ABOVE IN THE RESOLUTION TO SEND TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED WITH DIRECTOR BARCLIFT AND DIRECTOR McGEE VOTING NO.**

The Board voted on the original motion with the new language included. **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH DIRECTOR BARCLIFT VOTING NO.** Director Barclift explained that she was not voting against the resolution, that she was voting against sending it now.

Director McGee said he felt the letters being sent to the cities of Olympia and Tumwater should reference the resolution but not the ordinance. Director Lehman agreed and asked that Superintendent Lahmann do so. Director Lehman said, regarding the ordinance, that he would go to a County Commissioners meeting and he would be happy to deliver it on behalf of the Board. President Parvinen and Director Lehman will coordinate this.

**DIRECTOR McGEE MOVED AND DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL TO DELIVER THE ORDINANCE, ALONG WITH THE RESOLUTION, TO THE THURSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND TO ALSO SEND THE LETTERS TO THE CITIES OF OLYMPIA AND TUMWATER ASKING FOR THEIR SUPPORT. MOTION CARRIED WITH DIRECTOR BARCLIFT VOTING NO.** Director Barclift again explained that she was not voting against the resolution, that she was voting against sending it now.

**10. Board Member Comments**

Director Keeffe thanked Principal Cheryl Petra for hosting the Board meeting.

11. **Future Agenda Items**

- Plagiarism 9/23/02
  
- Student Representative on the Board  
Superintendent Lahmann commented that the Thurston County Auditor said she was excited about students using the voting machines for getting a student representative on the Board.
  
- Director Keeffe asked that nutrition be on a future agenda.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 10:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:45 p.m.

12. **Action as a Result of Executive Session**

**DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED AND DIRECTOR KEEFFE SECONDED APPOINTMENT OF MARIA HARRISON AS PRINCIPAL OF McLANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. MOTION CARRIED.**

The Board adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President