

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
August 9, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President John McGee at 7:03 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2004, at the Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also present were Vice President Michelle Parvinen, Directors Carolyn Barclift, Russ Lehman and Rich Nafziger, Student Representative Joe Anderson, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President McGee.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF JULY 12, 2004. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES, ONE ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED. Vice President Parvinen abstained, as she was not in attendance at the meeting.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 12, 2004. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED. Vice President Parvinen abstained, as she was not in attendance at the meeting.

DIRECTOR NAFZIGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 19, 2004. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES, ONE ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED. Director Barclift abstained, as she was not in attendance at the meeting.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 29, 2004, AS AMENDED. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

IDENTIFICATION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SPEAK TO AGENDA ITEMS

None were identified.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Katie Woodland – **Special Services** – Her daughter, Teri, is one of many who need intensive help to learn to interact; she is sick of being special, different. If all kids don't get appropriate help before leaving school, we have turned our back on our responsibilities. Later is no longer acceptable...later is now. Whatever you cut, whatever we choose to do tomorrow, will make the difference. It is time to do what is hard.

Todd Fulton – **School Resource Officers** – This is a very important resource every day, and the program should remain as it is. The reality is that there are drugs, knives, etc, in the school; things are very fluid; things happen every day. Without the SRO program, I will have a very hard time doing my job with at-risk kids.

Heidi Beattie – **School Resource Officers** – We work hand in hand with Officer McKillip—we are a team. This item was not recommended by the Budget Advisory Group, and we had no chance to voice our opinion. I would very much like you to reconsider eliminating the program.

Sarah Pintello – **School Resource Officers** – With 775 students on campus, our school resource officer is a serious deterrent to crime. How quickly we have forgotten why we put the officers in the schools to begin with. If you take a uniformed officer out of a small city, the community would have the right to hold the Board accountable. It is our priority to keep a safe environment for the kids and the staff. I encourage you to find a way to retain the program.

Donna Obermeyer – **Special Services** – My son's options were reduced when we were told that summer school was not for him. We were told to go to another district for sports, which we did—another option eliminated by our own district. We have had difficulty all year getting him registered for general education classes, and we are now looking to another district to provide those classes. He was given an informal writing assessment at the ESD, and he did very well, while we weren't successful in obtaining any writing instruction until May of this year. We can't seem to get to square one for him, and we're reluctantly turning outside the District for our answers.

Ed Dawson – **School Resource Officers** – as the resource officer at Capital High School, I know that safety is our most important concern; additionally, I'm a mentor, a father, a guidance counselor, someone the kids come to know and trust. CHS is a small city with 1600 kids plus staff. We deal with domestic violence, gangs, violence, drugs, etc. Taking the SRO out of the schools simply doesn't make sense. The neighborhood officers can have no where near the level of interaction that I have on campus. At what cost to our children do we make these cuts. Our society dictates that we keep our children safe; by removing the program you are seriously jeopardizing that safety.

Pete Mattich – **PATS** – Having been around PATS programs for years, we have seen that the two-day programs work well. Our son, Steven, had the reasoning ability of an adult trapped in the body of a 12 year old; the PATS program was vital for him. After speaking with other districts, I am not convinced that a one-day program will work as well. Our family and other families now have raised \$16,100. You must agree to come up with the balance. I'm here to help, but I'm not going to do all the work for you.

President McGee raised a point of order, asking if the District could accept such a donation; Superintendent Lahmann assured him that it could.

Betsy Faro – **School Resource Officers** – I find it inconceivable that this program may be cut. I am in touch with the officers daily, calling upon them literally countless times. In view of national concerns for student safety and all the comments earlier shared, this is not a time when we should be considering eliminating this important program. The personal safety of both students and staff are at risk.

Alice Cappell – **Special Services** – My son is on an IEP. This picture was taken the week before school started last year, at a time when we were full of hope; but it has turned into a year of total frustration. We were advised to put him into Technology classes, but a class size of 33 makes it impossible for him to concentrate. He's demonstrated amazing leadership skills in other activities, accompanied by high levels of praise. Why do we never get any positive feedback from his school? I am deeply concerned that the mainstream classes will have even more students – please think about my son and the other IEP students when you make these decisions.

John Wilmoth – **School Resource Officers** – Having been in this community since 1965, I realize that we no longer have a “leave it to Beaver” type of environment. The types of discipline issues that exist today have changed dramatically, just as our community has changed dramatically.

Bev Kooi – **School Resource Officers** – I am here to request that you reconsider the decision to eliminate this program. Without the SROs we will have some very real safety issues, moving us from proactive to reactive. This is not the time to take steps backward. Elimination of the SROs will be disruptive to all the programs.

Lillie Karelja and Tommy Kooi, seniors at Olympia High School – **School Resource Officers** – We believe our SRO’s are a very important part of our school. Because he has been there from the beginning, he is someone who understands us and someone we can trust. Those relationships are not measurable. Kids who get into trouble would much rather deal with their issues through the SRO than any other options. We feel safe with him, we know him, and we trust him. There is no way to measure the number of potentially difficult situations that have been avoided by virtue of our SRO’s involvement. The SROs are a pivotal part of our school.

Patty West – **School Resource Officers** – With one son, a special education student who just graduated, and a 4.0 son who came from the PATS program, I know that one program took care of both these boys—the SROs. My son hated school because of a bullying problem, but one reference to our SRO solved the problem. Safety is a number one concern. The problems at OHS are not exaggerated for both students and staff. If we are putting money in front of safety, I suggested that you consider the potential for future lawsuits. Please, for all our kids sake, consider the SRO program one more time.

Joan Mackay – **PATS** – I want to thank you for the wonderful opportunities my sons have had in our school district. The Olympian recently ran an article about our son, and the award he received of a Fulbright scholarship to Sweden. The article briefly described the birth of his success to his participation in PATS. The higher level thinking skills and the other opportunities afforded our sons were directly responsible for the successes they are achieving today. I am very proud of their accomplishments, and the District can be proud as well. Many of their classmates are equally accomplished. Please nurture this program.

Kellene Richards – **School Resource Officers** - Being in the Olympia School District adds 10% to the value of a lot. I’ve heard that your emergency preparedness program was among the first of its kind in the state. The SRO creates a relationship between borderline children and the police; they are able to carry that forward to the community, where they are able to make a friend with an officer and carry that forward as a positive experience. The SROs are a visible presence in the school and a deterrent to crime. During a lockdown the parents have the security of knowing that the SRO is already there—not a responding patrol car on its way. Children will talk to someone they trust, when they would be reluctant to speak with an unknown officer on the phone or in person. Our SROs have a heart for the kids, and at forty cents on the dollar, I don’t know how you could find a better situation.

Donna Brezicha, the Olympia High School Site Council President – **School Resource Officer** – 40% is just too good a bargain to pass up. Please reconsider retaining this program.

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Director Nafziger asked where the City Council currently was on the School Resource Officer program. It was stated that their budget was not being considered at this time.

Director Barclift stated that she had spoken to Chief Michael at length about it and he believes it is likely to be on a recommendation list. She stated that the City of Olympia had produced a list of the City's programs and asked respondents to rank them in order of retention, noting that the SRO program was consistently on the very bottom of the list. She added that it was not a reflection on the program not being a good program.

Director Nafziger stated that the budget cuts we are facing are very difficult, but noted that I-884 could make a big difference, as it would provide \$600 million more for our schools; the sad fact is that the governor and the legislature have not provided the funds.

Superintendent Lahmann requested that Consent Agenda items 2.1 and 3.1 be delayed for consideration until after Executive Session.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, WITH ITEMS 2.1 AND 3.1 REMOVED FOR CONSIDERATION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, August 23, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, September 13, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, September 27, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Marshall Middle School, 3939 20th Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502.
- Monday, October 11, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved three releases from contract, two leaves of absence, one change in assignment, two increases in contract, and ten new contracts.

2.2 Executive Session

An Executive Session was held for personnel and legal matters.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated August 9, 2004.

5 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

5.1 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Thurston County Region

The Board approved the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 26009 through 26022, in the total amount of \$4,717.84; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 7605 through 7624, in the total amount of \$851,365.76; General Fund Warrant Nos. 14947 through 15041, in the total amount of \$1,128,571.73; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 130087 through 130221, in the total amount of \$285,603.87.

Regular Agenda

8 FINANCE

8.1 Resolution 420, 2004-05 Budget

Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Support Services, presented the 2004-05 Budget, providing explanation of the various funds

DIRECTOR NAFZIGER MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 420, AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. President McGee called for discussion.

Director Barclift requested that the Board accept the offer of \$16,100 to be donated to fund the PATS mid-day transportation, by adding \$9,900 back into the budget from the ending fund balance.

Director Lehman proposed an amendment, although with great reluctance, stating that he found the testimony tonight and from staff previously, regarding the SROs, to be compelling. The amendment would move \$40,000 from the outdoor school line item to the SRO program, in order to avoid impacting the Ending Fund Balance.

In response to a question from President McGee, Mr. Crawford stated that items within the budget can be adjusted, provided the appropriation levels remain the same.

After further discussion:

HAVING BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED, A MOTION IS BEFORE THE BOARD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 420, THE 2004-05 BUDGET. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Director Barclift moved to direct that \$9,900 be combined with the generous gift from the community of \$16,100, to fund the PATS mid-day transportation. There was no second.

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATION TO REALLOCATE \$40,000 FROM THE OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAM LINE ITEM TO THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM LINE ITEM FOR 2004-05. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED

Director Nafziger reminded the Board that they had agreed to schedule some study meetings, as Director Barclift suggested at the last meeting, to begin to set budget goals and develop the plans to meet the goals.

Director Barclift stated that future agenda items should include a look at the cuts that had been made and prioritize an order of restoration in the event any additional funding is realized. It was further agreed that a year-long budget process should be considered, that we are committed to a quality education, and that we need to consider what we see as essential to meet the criteria of a quality education while respecting state requirements.

There were no other items brought up by persons present.

Vice President Parvinen stated that she would be sending a request for availability in order to schedule a Board retreat.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Policy Updates
- Board Email Communications
- Student Achievement Data

President McGee recessed the Board to Executive Session at 9:08 p.m.

Following Executive Session:

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CERTIFICATED AND CLASSIFIED REPORTS, ITEMS 2.1 AND 3.1 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President