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**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
August 22, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Michelle Parvinen at 7:07 pm, Monday, August 22, 2005, at the Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also attending were Vice President Russ Lehman, Director Carolyn Barclift, Student Representative Palmer Buchholz and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Parvinen.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2005, AS AMENDED TO REFLECT THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF \$22,000 TO FUND THE BUS ROUTE FOR THE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR 2005-06. VICE PRESIDENT LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Audience members who wished to address the Board during its consideration of Agenda items were identified.

There was no community comment.

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Director Barclift asked the Board to get in touch with her regarding any thoughts they might have for the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Legislative Assembly, meeting September 16-17, 2005.

Superintendent Lahmann called the Board's attention to the WSSDA District 5 Regional meeting in Montesano on September 29th. President Parvinen stated she would attend.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VICE PRESIDENT LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Friday, September 9, 2005, **Board Retreat**, Association of Washington School Principals, 1021 8th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, September 12, 2005, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, September 26, 2005, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Pioneer Elementary School, 1655 Carlyon Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, October 10, 2005, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, October 17, 2005, 6:30 pm, **Study Session**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Monday, October 24, 2005, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, McKenny Elementary School, 3250 Morse-Merryman Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved two releases from contract, two amendments to leaves of absence, one leave of absence, four increases in contract and seven new contracts:

RELEASES FROM CONTRACT

Bell, Amber – Primary grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. Requests release from her 2005-06 contract effective immediately.

Johnson, Julie – Social Service Coordinator at Garfield and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. Requests release from her 2005-06 contract effective immediately.

AMENDMENTS TO LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Campbell, Tricia – Kindergarten at McKenny Elementary School. Requests her previously approved .50 child-care leave of absence amended to a 1.0 FTE child-care leave of absence effective the 2005-06 school year.

Spencer, Tara – Elementary PE Specialist with K-12 Teaching and Learning. Requests her previously approved child-care leave of absence (effective September 1 through December 31, 2005) be amended to be effective October 24 through November 30, 2005.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Simmons, Lisa – Grade Two at McKenny Elementary School. Requests a .50 FTE one-year child-care leave of absence effective the 2005-06 school year.

INCREASES IN CONTRACT

Semega, Lynn – Kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary School. Requests a .25 FTE one-year increase in contract (from .50 to .75) effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling FTE vacated by Marcela Abadi's leave of absence.)

Specht, Naomi – Foreign Language at Olympia High School. Requests a .20 FTE continuing increase in contract (from .80 to 1.0) effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling a preserved summer school allocation and the culminating projects FTE filled last year on a one-year basis.)

Tolystga-McGibbon, Claire – Special Education at Capital High School. Requests a .40 FTE continuing increase in contract (from .60 to 1.0) effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling new special ed. allocation.)

Victoria, Suzanne – Drafting and Applied Math at Olympia High School. Requests a .20 FTE continuing increase in contract (from .80 to 1.0) effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling new CTE allocation.)

NEW CONTRACTS

Carlson, Mike – Special Education at Olympia High School. Requests a 1.0 FTE one-year retire/rehire contract be issued effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling FTE vacated by Mr. Carlson's retirement.)

Lawrence, Steve – Social Service Coordinator at Pioneer Elementary School. Request a .50 FTE one-year retire/rehire contract be issued effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling portion of FTE vacated by Mr. Lawrence's retirement.)

Soderberg, Kristen – Social Studies and Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) at Olympia High School. Requests a 1.0 FTE provisional contract effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling FTE vacated by Brian Greenough's release from contract (.80) and new allocation for TOSA position.)

Stemwell, John – Grade Five at McKenny Elementary School. Requests a 1.0 FTE provisional contract effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling FTE vacated by Jan Murray's transfer to Roosevelt Elementary School.)

Terry, Jill – Grades Two and Three at Madison Elementary School. Requests a 1.0 FTE provisional effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling FTE vacated by Nancy Rascon's transfer to Centennial Elementary School.)

Tomlinson, Amanda – Social Studies at Olympia High School. Requests a .60 FTE provisional effective the 2005-06 school year. (Filling remainder of the 1.0 FTE vacated by Bill Curtis' retirement.)

ALL OFFERS FOR NEW CONTRACTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ALL BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW AND DISTRICT POLICY.

2.3 Executive Session

An Executive Session was held for a bargaining update.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated August 22, 2005.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 27285 through 27295, in the total amount of \$6,923.33; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 8156 through 8173, in the total amount of \$2,298,689.20; General Fund Voucher Nos. 133604 through 133669, in the total amount of \$523,544.42.

8.2 Financial Report – July 2005

The Board approved the July 2005 report of revenue and expenditures.

Regular Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Request for Exception to Board Policy 3110

Superintendent Bill Lahmann presented an overview of a request from Mr. Kenton Brine to make an exception to the provisions of Board Policy 3110, Qualifications of Attendance and Placement, in order to provide early placement of his daughter in the first grade at Pioneer Elementary School. Although Mr. Brine's daughter attended a private school kindergarten program last year, the program was not with a state-approved school, as required by policy, and that the child's birthday is October 22, more than a month and a half beyond the cutoff date for placement in the first grade. Superintendent Lahmann noted that in the experience and judgment of staff, children have more difficulty the further removed from the birthday cutoff they are.

Vice President Lehman asked why the distinction was made between state-approved and non-approved kindergarten programs in terms of the level of preparation they provided. Superintendent Lahmann said state-approved programs follow curriculum guidelines established by the state, eliminating the need to assess the merits of each program.

In response to a question from Director Barclift, Superintendent Lahmann noted that Serendipity Pre-School, as a result of their belief that advance placement is not preferable, may alter their policy to preclude parents from using Serendipity as the basis of an appeal to the Olympia School District's early placement policy.

Kenton Brine – He noted that his daughter is already accelerated, as she has been advanced since the age of two in the programs she has attended at Serendipity. Mr. Brine referred to sources that concluded there was no evidence showing detriment to students who have been in accelerated programs. Based on an assessment by an educator from a district that does provide early assessment for first grade readiness, he emphasized his position that his daughter has demonstrated her readiness.

He stated that the September 1 date is an arbitrary one, not consistent with the dates of other districts in other states. He said he believes there is an anti-advancement bias in the District.

Christina Hermach, as the mother of the child, wanted the Board to know there is little more important to her and the children's father than the education of their children. She asked the Board to look at it from the point of the individual child and the wishes of the child's parents. She stated that they wanted to make public school work, and they wanted the Board's help.

Discussion of the request ensued among the members of the Board. Vice President Lehman noted the challenges inherent in the standards needed to be established by an institution and the needs of the individual. He added that evaluating the child from the perspective of a full-day kindergarten program, with the option of advancing her to the first grade if she is found to be ready, seemed to be a good option. President Parvinen shared that opinion, adding that the interest level of the parents will assure she is not overlooked. Director Barclift added that age is a factor to be considered, as well as maturity, and starting from kindergarten and moving to first grade would be a much more positive experience than starting from first grade and possibly finding it necessary to move back to kindergarten. Student Representative Buchholz noted that these parents had been deeply involved in the placement process, as well as in their daughter's education. She stated that the parents obviously know their daughter and encouraged the Board to give that consideration.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO UPHOLD THE DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND DENY THE REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 3110. VICE PRESIDENT LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

President Parvinen called for discussion and recognized Mr. Brine, who asked how an evaluation of a kindergarten student might occur, as different students will exhibit different indicators. Superintendent Lahmann said that will be an important element, and he encouraged the parents to have that conversation with the principal and the teacher. Mr. Brine said he believed an examination of Policy 3110 would still be useful, that it creates hurdles for certain students and doesn't provide for a determination of his daughter's readiness for first grade.

President Parvinen called for the vote: **THREE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

8 FINANCES

8.1 2004-05 Budget Status Report

Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal & Operations, updated the Board on the status of the current year budget and expenditures. Projections have remained consistent throughout the year. There is still likely to be fluctuation in an amount that could vary substantially as the books are closed on the year.

There were no additional items brought up by anyone present.

Superintendent Lahmann introduced to the Board, Jenny LaFrenier, new Special Education Director, and Matt McCauley, new Executive Director, K-12 Teaching & Learning.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- High School Drop Out Rates
- PATS Program Update
- Portfolio Options
- Outdoor School Options

President Parvinen recessed the meeting to Executive Session at 8:07 pm, reconvened the meeting at 8:37 pm and immediately adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President