

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
September 25, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President Russ Lehman at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 25, 2006, at Madison Elementary School, 1225 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also present were Directors Carolyn Barclift, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Rachel Reclam, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. Vice President Rich Nafziger was unable to attend.

President Lehman led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION OF NEW STAFF

Beth Scouller, Human Resources Director, coordinated an introduction of new 2006-07 certificated staff by their building administrators or other supervisors.

President Lehman announced a "community conversation" on school funding currently taking place at Olympia High School, the result of an effort underway around the state about the very critical issue of school funding and known as "*Take the Lead*".

FOCUS ON MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gayle Mar-Chun, principal of Madison Elementary School, welcomed the Board, introduced Madison staff and provided an overview of their work toward continuous improvement. She reviewed their School Improvement Plan, including achievement data, with a focus on math. A video presentation followed, featuring Madison students at work and play: "*We Succeed with Pride*."

A ten minute break was called at 8:18 pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:35 pm.

DIRECTOR PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2006. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Audience members who wished to speak about agenda items were identified. Although several people indicated an interest in speaking during both community comment and during an agenda item, President Lehman asked that they individually chose only one segment for addressing the Board.

Maribeth Duffy expressed her concern about the quality of education in the District, and her disappointment that they [the group known at OlyPARM, or Olympia Parent Advocates for Real Math] were not allowed to be placed on the agenda. She said she was also concerned that a great deal of money was being put into administration and curriculum and not into lowering the teacher:child ratio. That interest led to concerns about the curriculum adoption process in particular, and the emphasis on adopting CMP2 as the middle school math curriculum.

Mike Snodgrass said he had been through three curriculum adoption processes and researched others, and has found that larger districts generally established longer time frames for curriculum adoption and, as Olympia's was initially very short, he was glad to see it extended. He noted some confusion between the task force and the adoption committee, and hoped the new committee would see that the process was a little more standardized.

Frank McCormick said he came to speak as a parent and a professional scientist who uses math in his work every day. He spoke of an analysis he had performed, and reviewed it with the Board.

Jeff Nejedly continued Frank McCormick's presentation, and said that although he didn't know statistics, it was pretty clear that the dip in scores was primarily about one school, with no significant 6th grade dip that would indicate a need for a new middle school math curriculum. He said a thorough evaluation of more than the one curriculum is what is needed.

Kay Lee Evans asked in June for texts to be available for teacher onsite review and for public display of text, noting that she had contacted five publishers, all of whom were more than happy to send multiple copies of texts.

Kris Paeth, a parent of two students at Washington Middle School, spoke of her research of California, where constructivist math resulted in declining math scores in the 1990s, but in 1998 they returned to traditional math standards, and today have some of the best math standards. She noted cases in Massachusetts, where a constructivist approach was rejected, and in Texas, where parents sued the district to get rid of "Connected Math."

Desmond McGahem asked for an open, fair and comprehensive process to serve as a model for future curriculum, including a re-evaluation of the adoption committee composition. He also asked for a place on a future Board agenda. He said he believes constructivist math is a poor choice for all students, emphasizing all.

Rashi Gupta spoke to the issue of public process, noting that all levels of government follow a process of decision making, including presentation of preferred alternatives in a manner that allows stakeholders an opportunity to provide input. She also said there is currently no conclusive evidence that this [CMP2] is the best choice for all students in the District.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, October 9, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, October 16, 6:30 pm, **Study Session**, Knox Center
- Monday, October 23, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Lincoln ES
- Monday, November 13, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, November 20, 6:30 pm, **Study Session**, Knox Center
- Monday, November 27, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Jefferson MS

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved one change in contract status, one leave of absence, six increases in contract and four new contracts.

CHANGE IN CONTRACT STATUS

McKay, Carol – Math and Science at Capital High School. Approved a change in her contract status from 1.0 FTE one-year-only to 1.0 FTE provisional.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Abadi, Marcela – Primary Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. Approved a one-year .1 FTE leave of absence (from 1.0 to .90) effective the 2006-07 school year.

INCREASES IN CONTRACT

Bloomdahl, Kay – Counselor and Teacher on Special Assignment at Avanti High School. Approved a one-year .20 FTE increase (for TOSA position) in contract (from .60 to .80) effective the 2006-07 school year.

Cope, Dawn – Science and Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) at Capital High School. Approved a continuing .20 FTE increase (for TOSA position) in contract (from .60 to .80) effective 2006-07 school year.

Dickerson, Ilene - Grade Two at Roosevelt Elementary School. Approved a continuing .50 FTE increase in contract (from .50 to 1.0) effective the 2006-07 school year.

Pierson, Rodney "Scott" – Music and Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) at Olympia High School. Approved a one-year .20 FTE increase in contract (from 1.0 to 1.2) effective the 2006-07 school year.

Semega, Lynn - Primary Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. Approved a one-year .10 FTE increase in contract (from .50 to .60) effective the 2006-07 school year, contingent upon approval of Marcela Abadi's request for a .10 FTE leave of absence.

Urevig, Karla – Math Intervention Specialist and LAP at Capital High School. Approved a one-year .20 FTE increase in contract (from .40 to .60) effective the 2006-07 school year.

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

Kardokus, Carmen – Math and Science at Reeves Middle School. Approved a provisional .80 FTE contract effective the 2006-07 school year, beginning September 11, 2006.

McKee, Karin – Special Education/Title One at Hansen Elementary School. Approved a provisional 1.0 FTE contract effective the 2006-07 school year.

O'Neal, Susan – K-8 Teacher at Olympia Regional Learning Academy. Approved a continuing .50 FTE contract effective the 2006-07 school year, beginning September 19, 2006.

Wells, Christine – Hearing Impaired Teacher at Jefferson Middle School. Approved a one-year .60 FTE contract effective the 2006-07 school year.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated September 25, 2006.

4 PUPIL & PROGRAMS

4.1 Appointment of Instructional Materials Committee Parent Members

The Board approved the appointments of Beth Farrar, new parent member, and Judy Pitchford and Mariel Plaeger-Brockway, returning parent members, to the Instructional Materials Committee.

4.2 Overnight Field Trip Requests

The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

- **Reeves MS** – ALKI Grades 6-8, ALKI Community Team; Camp Panhandle, Shelton, WA; ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, COMMUNITY BUILDING, TEAM BUILDING FOR MULTI-AGE PROGRAM; 54 students, 2 teachers, 10-12 parent chaperones; October 16-17, 2006.
- **OHS** – *NOT IN OUR TOWN* NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Student Diversity Group; Springfield, Illinois; 3 students, one teacher (principal); October 6-8, 2006.
- **CHS** – Drill Team; National Dance Competition; Orlando, Florida; 12 students, one coach, 8 parents; February 1-5, 2007.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: cancelled warrants and electronic transfers in the total amount of \$233,028.26; Associated Student Body Voucher Nos. 28523 through 28580, in the total amount of \$60,842.25; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 8856 through 8881, in the total amount of \$365,860.45; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 136704 through 136836, in the total amount of \$1,126,131.51.

8.2 Mitigation Agreement – Wood Trails Development

The Board approved a mitigation agreement for the Wood Trails Development, consisting of forty-three single-family homes, located in the Hansen Elementary School, Marshall Middle School and Capital High School service areas.

REGULAR AGENDA

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Math Curriculum Adoption Update

Matt McCauley, Executive Director of K-12 Teaching & Learning, provided an update on the progress of the math curriculum adoption, and the activity currently being seen at both state and national levels. He noted that the goal is for all students to understand math and meet state standards, the EALRs (Essential Academic Learning Requirements) and the GLEs, (Grade Level Expectations) and noted that there is a gap, particularly for students in low income categories. He said the K-12 staff has been gathering data from other states, and appreciates the research OlyPARM has done, as well.

In speaking with the Olympia High School math department about their letter of last spring, Mr. McCauley said they had clarified that they neither support nor oppose the CMP2 recommendation; rather, they look forward to an evaluation process of their own. He noted that the lines of communication are open with parents; although earlier attempts to meet had not been successful, a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd. The review committee, consisting of about 30 people (parents and teachers), has established five dates to meet and are open to more meetings, if needed.

Mr. McCauley stated that, in hindsight he saw that the earlier process could have been more in-depth, but believes the process was not at fault, and the recommendation brought forth last spring was based on a substantial majority of the committee. He said the decision to reconvene the committee is seen as a healthy one and will allow a review of additional information. He said he will be suggesting to the committee that some additional people be brought onboard the committee to share their thoughts, information and data.

In response to a question from Director Shirley, Mr. McCauley said materials from the seven curricula reviewed in the spring were available in the K-12 Teaching & Learning office, had been checked out from time to time by interested parents, and could and would be made available to the middle schools for easier access.

Beth Flynn said she was very concerned about the selection process, but was just as concerned about CMP2. She said she hasn't found that it works for any kids, and was hoping to hear tonight the results of last year's pilot. She read off 7th grade math rates for 33 districts known to be using CMP for at least five years, and added that there are no statistics to prove CMP2 is better.

Charles Norman said he attended tonight because he heard there was some thought of going to a math program aligned with Trailblazers. He said although as an aerospace engineer he is good at math, it hasn't always been so, and three of his four daughters have been in Trailblazers in different school districts in California, New Jersey and now here in Washington. He said he was so glad when his oldest daughter moved into 6th grade and was no longer in it. Trailblazers doesn't address the basics, he went on, the foundation for all higher math. He asked the Board to take the time to make the right choice.

Sou Chiam asked what criteria was used in selecting students for the pilot program, and did the parent have the final say, to which Mr. McCauley replied that he believed students were placed in classes using a balanced approach, not on the basis of the curriculum being used. Superintendent Lahmann indicated that parent notification should have been done, and if it wasn't, that would be corrected in the future.

Jodi Hansen said several students at Washington Middle School were put into a pilot program and subsequently asked for other classes, although not everyone was allowed to move to another class. She asked that the review texts be placed in the high schools, as well as the middle schools. She suggested that another goal of the District and the math program might be to get back to the basics and mastering math skills.

Peter Epperson identified himself as formerly on the Pioneer site council and currently vice president of the PTA, responsible for programs. He said his interests are in emotional intelligence and dual language learning, and suggested that the District has solutions in communication tools that are not being used: website, news media and middle school newsletters. He said as parents we want to know: what's the timeline, what's the agenda, what's the criteria, what are the standards you've adopted as a District to evaluate curriculum material. He suggested the focus be on determining the best blended method to increase learning. He asked the Board to communicate its desired outcomes.

Sandy Michael said she is the parent of a student in an advanced math program at Reeves Middle School. She reviewed the advanced classes her child had taken in elementary school and her assumption that her 6th grader would be in 7th grade math, only learning after school had begun that her child was actually going to be in 6th grade connected math. Parents were not informed about schedules and options; students were simply placed.

President Lehman noted the great opportunity that exists as a result of all the work being done across the country on math curriculum.

In response to a question from Director Shirley, Mr. McCauley said the current proposed timeline would lead to a first reading in February, with adoption in March. Director Shirley asked if the curriculum committee would review the amount of time needed to teach in the middle schools or will they just pick a book. Mr. McCauley said additional time, over the 55 minutes per day, might be beneficial, but would also create problems in middle school master scheduling.

Alan Evans spoke of the North Thurston Public Schools pilot schedule, with teachers filling out surveys and students being assessed. He said he hadn't seen a lot of information being given out to the public in the Olympia School District, and he still doesn't understand the process. He said he hoped the process would open up a little bit more, that is, provide more specifics, more substance.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Second Reading, Proposed Revision to Policy 2255, Alternative Learning Experience Programs

Joy Walton, Administrator of the District's new online academy, presented a revision and expansion of Policy 2255 to establish appropriate guidelines for the creation and operation of the Olympia Regional Learning Academy. Superintendent Lahmann opened with comments regarding the proposed revision.

During the ensuing discussion, the Board reviewed alternative wording of the policy, monitoring a student's lack of progress from a long distance by implementation of a student improvement plan when necessary, and concerns regarding teacher contracts. It was noted that there will be issues to work out as the program gets underway, but the administration is confident the needed provisions can be put in to place to succeed.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY 2255 AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

President Lehman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President