

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
September 27, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President John McGee at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 27, 2004, at Marshall Middle School, 3939 20th Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502. Also attending were Vice President Michelle Parvinen, Directors Carolyn Barclift, Russ Lehman, and Rich Nafziger, Student Representative Joe Anderson, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann.

The salute to the flag was led by President John McGee.

Marshall Middle School Principal Kevin Evoy welcomed the Board and introduced his staff. He informed the Board that Marshall Middle School is now in its tenth year. Staff members Vicki Horton and Colleen Wells, 8th grade interdisciplinary team, gave an overview of their team teaching experience and approach. Kevin Hoonan provided a brief multimedia presentation showing the staff and students at work and play.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DISTRICT STAFF MEMBERS

Rick Wilson, Director of Personnel and Employee Relations, moderated the introduction of new staff members by the principals of each of their schools. Teri Poff, Principal at Capital High School, introduced their new Assistant Principal, Larry Walsh; Bruce Walton, Principal at Garfield Elementary School, introduced Deborah Lutz and Laura Cummings; Assistant Superintendent Ken Benny introduced Sue Gribble, new Principal at McKenny Elementary School, and Sue introduced Amanda Gould; Maria Harrison, Principal at McLane Elementary School, introduced Sheila Hicks and Cindra Dooley.

President McGee called a break at 7:32 pm to allow the Board to welcome the new staff members; the meeting was reconvened at 7:44 pm.

DIRECTOR CAROLYN BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2004. DIRECTOR RICH NAFZIGER SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES, MOTION CARRIED. Vice President Parvinen and Director Lehman abstained due to their absence at that meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2004. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

There was no one in the audience who wished to speak to an agenda item.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Steve McConnell – Old Madison Elementary School’s use by Procession of the Species. Mr. McConnell handed the Board a packet of articles, then addressed the Board about the use of the old Madison Elementary School site by the Procession of the Species group. He expressed concern that the group was being given unusual latitude in their use of the property, including privileges beyond those usually allowed non-profit organizations, when the Procession of the Species was not, in fact, a not-for-profit entity. He also expressed concern that the District was allowing the use of its facilities without determining whether the user was appropriate in its practices of non-discrimination.

Mr. McConnell was also concerned about what he referred to as “a growing trend of anti-Semitism” in the country, including Olympia and our schools.

The Board thanked Mr. McConnell and asked that he communicate with them further (by email) and bring details of specific occurrences within the Olympia School District schools for their further consideration.

Jesse Lee, President of ASB at Capital High School, and **Lissetta Cook**, Vice President – **Prom Location** - addressed the Board jointly about the administrative decision requiring the Prom to be held at a location within Thurston County. The students desire to hold their Prom at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, and are aware of the District’s concerns for student safety. They stated, however, that, historically, many students drive to Tacoma and Seattle for dinner before the Prom anyway, so those students would be making the drive regardless. The ASB had determined one way to mitigate the safety issue by chartering a bus to leave from CHS. Students taking advantage of that option could have dinner in Olympia beforehand, then meet the bus for the drive to Tacoma. They stated they were aware some students weren’t always wise in their decisions, but suggested the District allow them some latitude in making this decision.

Superintendent Lahmann informed the Board that the decision had come from the administration, including the high school principals. The discussion had primarily addressed concerns of economics and safety. If the Prom is out of town, the opportunity is eliminated for some students, as their parents simply will not permit them to leave the area. Student safety is of the utmost concern.

The Board commended the students for their presentation of their case, and determined that more information was needed, requesting the students to call for an extension of their deadline for reserving the proposed site, and asking that they return with a proposal outlining the points they made.

President McGee stated that the Board generally supports the administration, and he wasn’t comfortable overriding them now. He suggested reconsideration at the next Board meeting if the students could gain an extension, or a special meeting if they can’t, in order to get a written presentation from both the students and the administration, including any proposal from Olympia High School students.

Superintendent Lahmann will work with the students on resolving the school bus versus charter bus issue that was raised during the discussion.

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Director Barclift reported that the legislative assembly in Wenatchee passed without discussion the proposal to support a requirement for the collection of school impact fees by all jurisdictions. She also requested that future Friday letters be emailed to ensure prompt delivery.

Director Nafziger stated that he had received a number of emails concerning a large second grade class at Boston Harbor. Superintendent Lahmann and Assistant Superintendent Crawford reported on efforts being made to resolve this matter, stating that the District is working with the school and the teacher to make acceptable adjustments within the shortest possible timeframe.

Director Nafziger requested an update on the classroom/teacher ratio across the District.

Director Barclift renewed her request for a discussion of items cut from the budget, a prioritization for future funds that might come available, along with a process for budget development in the future.

A discussion ensued to establish a date for the Board's retreat, with October 26th to be confirmed. Superintendent Lahmann will confirm a facilitator and location. Included on the agenda will be the establishment of priorities for the year.

Director Barclift stated that she appreciated the comments from Mr. McConnell, but wondered if he hadn't touched on topics of a political nature and not germane to business of the District and the Board of Directors, and, further, if the Board had a policy for occasions when a community member might stray away from appropriate topics. Superintendent Lahmann responded that the Board is guided to restrict commentary to "educational issues", those relating to our District.

President McGee stated that he had not seen an abuse of the floor in his years on the Board, but that the Board could pursue the establishment of such a policy at any time in the future.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA, SUBJECT TO THE REMOVAL OF OCTOBER 3RD AS THE DATE FOR THE BOARD RETREAT. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, October 11, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, October 18, 2004, 6:30 pm, **Board Study Session**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, October 25, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Lincoln Elementary School, 213 21st Avenue SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, November 8, 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 one correction to contract, two leaves of absence, three increases in contract, and six new contracts. *ALL OFFERS FOR NEW CONTRACTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ALL BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW AND DISTRICT POLICY.*

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated September 27, 2004. *ALL OFFERS FOR EMPLOYMENT ARE CONTINGENT UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ALL BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW AND DISTRICT POLICY.*

4 PUPILS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS

4.1 Instructional Materials

The Board acknowledged receipt of a list of instructional materials for study.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 26085 through 26141, in the total amount of \$59,530.05; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 7673 through 7694, in the total amount of \$343,566.12; General Fund Voucher Nos. 130511 through 130681, in the total amount of \$815,107.27; and, Transportation Vehicle Fund Voucher Nos. 42 through 47, in the total amount of \$440,851.66.

8.2 Facility Use Agreement – South Sound Vineyard Christian Fellowship

The Board approved a one-year facility use agreement with South Sound Vineyard Christian Fellowship for use of Pioneer Elementary School for Sunday worship services.

Regular Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Resolution No. 421 – Initiative 884

The Board considered Resolution No. 421, which would set forth the Board's support of Initiative Measure No. 884, concerning dedicating funds designated for educational purposes. At the request of Director Nafziger, Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Support Services, provided an overview of the initiative, including the benefits to the Olympic School District.

A discussion ensued regarding the contents of the measure and the implications to the District.

DIRECTOR NAFZIGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 421 SUPPORTING INITIATIVE 884. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Director Barclift stated that the legislative committee for the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) had a long discussion about the initiative, bringing forth many concerns about the unintended consequences that it would bring, including a concern that the public would view it as a reason not to support future levies and bonds. She reminded that Board that the funds would be split, with 50% going to K-12 education, but that the public would likely recall it only in terms of K-12, and not be clear about the 40% going to the colleges. She also pointed out that K-12 will have many hoops to jump through; many more than the other recipients. She was clear that she was not advocating opposition to the measure; rather, that the Board elect not to endorse it.

Director Nafziger urged the Board to support the measure, based on the very difficult decisions the Board has had to make this year with the budget, resulting in increased class sizes and overworked staff. He went to remind the Board that our teachers didn't get a pay increase this year, and they likely won't get one next year. He observed that with this measure it is possible to do more than curse the darkness; we can also shed some light. He added that this year the state was not able to fund any new enrollment at college level; it should matter to us how we fund higher education.

PRESIDENT McGEE CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE MOTION: FIVE AYES, ONE NAY; MOTION CARRIED.

5 BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

5.1 Resolution No. 422 – Declaration of Surplus Property

The administration recommended adoption of Resolution No. 422, designating District property located at 10th Avenue and Decatur Street SW as surplus real property. Bob Wolpert, Director of Facilities and Operations, was present to respond to questions.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 422, DECLARING DISTRICT PROPERTY AT 10TH AVENUE AND DECATUR STREET SW AS SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY. DIRECTOR NAFZIGER SECONDED THE MOTION. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

There were no items brought up by persons present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

It was commented that the new field is looking great and people are catching the excitement. Superintendent Lahmann noted that the track is not yet completed and the combination of weather and events is a challenge, but that it is coming along.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Policy Updates
- Board Email Communications

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, PRESIDENT MCGEE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President