

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
November 22, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by President John McGee at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 22, 2004, at L. P. Brown Elementary School, 2000 26th Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502. 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 L. P. Brown 5th graders Jessica Cooper and Walker Weigand.

Maureen Spacciante, Principal of L. P. Brown Elementary School, welcomed the Board and introduced teachers who were present in the audience. L. P. Brown students offered a welcome, as well, and with members of the school staff, provided: a slide presentation on Brown's GenY and Gen Did programs; a song highlighting their Social Skills activities; interactive Art (with exercises taught to the Board); and a yoga demonstration representative of their Physical Education program.

Following the presentation, President McGee called a five minute break; the meeting was reconvened at 7:30 pm.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2004. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2004. DIRECTOR BARCLIFT SECONDED. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2004. DIRECTOR BARCLIFT SECONDED. SIX AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Audience members who wish to speak to agenda items were identified.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Diane Gaile addressed her concern that background checks are no longer a requirement for every volunteer. She stated her strong opposition and suggested that the District revisit their decision. Superintendent Lahmann stated that current policy was established in order to achieve consistency in all schools in the district, with everyone required to fill out the same paperwork, and random background checks being done. Vice President Parvinen added that many volunteers were on a one-time only basis, and Director Barclift noted that there were many people who were completely opposed to any background checks, believing that it was intrusive to parent volunteers.

It was suggested that the administration contact Mrs. Gaile for further discussion.

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

Consent Agenda

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, December 6, 2004, 6:00 pm, **Joint Meeting with Griffin School District Board**, 6530 33rd Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502.
- Monday, December 13, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, January 10, 2005, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.
- Monday, January 24, 2004, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Capital High School, 2707 Conger Avenue NW, Olympia, Washington 98502.

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved one change in assignment.

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

2.2 Executive Session

An executive session was requested.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated November 22, 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 Committee Report

The Board approved the list of instructional materials previously presented for review.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 26335 through 26388, in the total amount of \$61,441.19; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 7764 through 7787, in the total amount of \$286,037.32; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 131220 through 131389, in the total amount of \$450,986.61.

8.2 Financial Reports – September 2004 & October 2004

The Board approved the September 2004 and October 2004 Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the General, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Associated Student Body, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

Regular Agenda

8 FINANCES

8.1 Outdoor School

In accordance with Board Policy 1430 on public comment, Jill Lynch, representing the organization known as the Cispus Committee, or Olykids4Cispus, presented an overview of their efforts to date and future plans to obtain funding which would allow for the restoration of the 5th grade outdoor school program previously held at CISPUS in Randle, Washington. Mrs. Lynch made the following requests on behalf of Olykids4Cispus: an extension of time to raise the necessary funds; an increase in the cost for each family; a commitment of the \$33,000 currently budgeted; and, that the Board commit to outdoor school at Cispus for the future.

Alex Lynch, a 5th grader spoke on behalf of himself and his friends, stating that they really want to go to Cispus.

Ben Postman, a student at Capital High School, talked about his experiences at Cispus both as a 5th grader and last year as a counselor, stating that it provides both a valuable education experience and a valuable life experience, as well as providing occupation credit for the high school counselors.

The Board discussed the requests made, including the use of budgeted funds to provide alternative outdoor programs if the fundraising effort does not achieve its goal.

President McGee requested an update prior to the next Board meeting on how the fundraising is going, Cispus' position on delaying the decision, additional information on occupational credit, and a position statement from the district's outdoor school organizers.

DIRECTOR NAFZIGER MOVED TO EXTEND THE CISPUS COMMITMENT DEADLINE DECISION TO THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2005, TO ALLOW THE PARENT GROUP TO CONTINUE THEIR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT AN EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING COULD BE CALLED IF CISPUS REQUIRES A DECISION PRIOR TO THAT DATE. DIRECTOR BARCLIFT SECONDED THE MOTION. FOUR AYES, TWO NAYS; MOTION CARRIED.

President McGee called for a short recess at 8:40 pm; the meeting was reconvened at 8:52 pm.

8.2 Resolution No. 423, 2005-2010 Capital Facilities Plan

Bob Wolpert, Director of Facilities and Operations, reviewed the points of the Resolution and reminded the Board that the administration was to return with timelines, and with information on an exemption for low-income housing. He stated that both the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater City Councils will meet on December 7th to adopt their comprehensive plans and their budgets for the coming year, which answers the question of timeline. He went on to present the methodology in the calculation of fees, and of anticipated constructions costs based on comparable real projects. He also stated that the district may choose to exempt low income housing,

Mr. Doug DeForest stated that it was unfortunate that while Olympia School District enrollment is in a declining spiral, the cost of housing in Olympia is higher than anywhere else in the County.

Director Lehman pointed out that the average housing cost in Thurston County is now \$202,000, an increase of \$32,000 since 1999. We have not changed our impact fees since 1999, which calls into question the position that higher impact fees are a direct cause of higher housing costs. Mr. DeForest responded that increases in construction costs are also factors.

Mr. Jerry Parker complimented Bob Wolpert on the work he does for the district, but went on to say that he remains totally befuddled by policy decisions. He said that he has studied impact fees and what it costs the public not to collect the fees, an average of \$1,412,532 per year over a six year period from 1993 to 1998, shifted from new housing development to existing taxpayers. He added that the two issues should be the rate of the discount and the low income exemption. He stated that houses are not sold on a cost plus basis, but on what the market will bear, and that people move to Olympia because of its schools. The discount subsidizes the wealthy and penalizes those who purchased their homes years ago when housing values were much lower, sometimes forcing them out of their homes because they can no longer afford the taxes imposed.

Director Barclift reminded the Board and the audience that the Washington State School Directors Association Legislative Committee has taken a position that would require jurisdictions to collect impact fees on behalf of school districts statewide.

Mr. Walt Jorgensen, stated that arguments against full impact fees address three groups: 1) lower income, 2) people who have lived here all their lives, and 3) kids. Those who are purchasing new homes do not fall into any of those three categories. So the group that is really benefiting from lower fees are those who are building the new houses. The system is both inefficient and ineffective; price of a Thurston County home is market-driven: it's what people are willing to pay, not what it costs to build. The question becomes how does not collecting these funds benefit students or taxpayers?

In response to a question from the Board, Superintendent Lahmann stated that we bring forth our administrative recommendations at a time of the year which coincides with the decision-making timetable of the jurisdictions. We anticipated discussion about the discount fee rate, but opted to bring forward the current recommendation, based on our relationship with the City of Olympia, and with Thurston County, past discussions of previous Boards, current housing costs and trends, etc.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO MAINTAIN THE DISCOUNT FEE AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS AND AS PRESENTED. VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Director Barclift stated that our voters continue to overwhelmingly approve our bonds, which should indicate that they do not disapprove of our current methodology. Director Nafziger indicated his agreement that the impact of the development should not be passed on through bonds and levies. It makes sense to impose a fee that pays for the cost of development, but only if we mitigate the effect on low income housing. Director Lehman stated his position that the impact fee is completely indefensible to the average taxpayer. We've made a decision to forgo over \$8 million in recent years. He further stated that this is the most regressive tax we have, and we're making it more regressive.

President McGee called for the question, which would retain the existing discount rate.

VOTE: TWO AYES, FOUR NAYS; MOTION DEFEATED.

**DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED TO ELIMINATE THE DISCOUNT ON THE IMPACT FEE.
DIRECTOR NAGZIGER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

After discussion of options from eliminating the impact fee discount to incremental changes, Director Nafziger called the question for the elimination of all discounts:

VOTE: TWO AYES, FOUR NAYS; MOTION DEFEATED.

VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 423, BASED ON THE FEE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, TO INCLUDE AN EXEMPTION FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING AND DECREASING THE DISCOUNT FROM 70 PERCENT TO 60 PERCENT ON MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING AND FROM 50 PERCENT TO 40 PERCENT ON SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING, AND TO CONTINUE WITH NO DISCOUNT WITHIN DOWNTOWN. DIRECTOR NAFZIGER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Representative Anderson suggested future consideration of a slightly lower discount, moving gradually toward a much lower discount; perhaps 10% is too small a step, total elimination of the discount would be too large a step, with somewhere in between being optimal.

VOTE: THREE AYES, TWO NAYS; MOTION CARRIED

8.3 Sale of Surplus Property

The administration recommends Board approval of the sale of two surplus properties: 1) the "Old Madison Elementary School Site," Thurston County tax parcel 3270-15-0002, located at 812 Central Street in Olympia, and 2) the "9th Avenue SW and Fern Street Site," Thurston County tax parcels 1282-22-20800 and 1282-22-21000, located southwest from the intersection of 9th Avenue SW and Fern Street in Olympia. Mr. Wolpert stated that the administration is seeking permission to dispose of the two properties, through a sale process, and that we would begin right away to bring the City into the upper site, they have agreed to pay the appraised value.

John Donahue, representing the Southwest Olympia Neighborhood Association, asking if public use of the property, including use as future school sites, had been fully explored. President McGee suggested that Mr. Donahue contact Mr. Wolpert to get the background, history, and the alternative use potential of the property.

**VICE PRESIDENT PARVINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SALE OF THE TWO SURPLUS PROPERTIES AND AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROCEED AS OUTLINED.
DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

There were no items brought up by persons present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice President Parvinen requested that the administration establish an annual review of the strategic plan, including reports from the administration and the Board, and set up an open public forum meeting. In addition, she requested that the Board receive, in their pre-meeting packets, the learning improvement plan for the hosting school where the Board will meet, along with a charting of their progress. She asked that specific feedback be offered to the Board from the hosting school, making their presentation more relevant to the strategic plan when the Board meets at their site.

After discussion, it was determined that the administration would meet to discuss scheduling in general for study sessions, Board retreats, Board goals, Superintendent's evaluation, etc. President McGee and Superintendent Lahmann agreed to meet to put together a plan for these reviews.

Director Lehman said he attended a paperless meeting breakout session at WSSDA that was quite good. He spoke of a district that has been utilizing the program for three years and their Board and staff were extremely favorable; under no circumstances would they go back.

Superintendent Lahmann said that the next Board study session would address graduation requirements. The administration recognizes a high need on the part of parents to get additional information.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Board Email Communications
- Budget Update/Year End Report, 2003-04
- Paperless Board Meetings

President McGee recessed the Board to Executive Session at 10:55 pm; the meeting reconvened and immediately adjourned at 11:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President