



Olympia School District

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Draft

Board of Directors

Carolyn Barclift
Russ Lehman
Rich Nafziger
Michelle Parvinen
Bob Shirley
Adam Buchholz,
Student Representative

William V. Lahmann, Superintendent

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOVEMBER 26, 2007

A regular meeting of the Olympia School District Board of Directors was called to order by Vice President Carolyn Barclift at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 26, 2007, at Washington Middle School, 3100 Cain Road SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also present were Directors Russ Lehman and Bob Shirley, Student Representative Adam Buchholz and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. President Rich Nafziger was delayed, but joined the meeting in progress at 7:25pm. Director Michelle Parvinen was unable to be present.

AGENDA

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Barclift.

Vice President Barclift asked for agreement to move Regular Agenda Item 1.1 to follow Regular Agenda Item 8.1. The members concurred.

FOCUS ON WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Joni Wolpert, Principal of Washington Middle School, welcomed the Board and introduced WMS staff members who were present. Principal Wolpert updated the Board on their accomplishments in 2006-07 and what they are working on this year in the major goal areas of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Parent Involvement, Wellness, Technology and ongoing efforts to keep WMS a Safe and Inclusive School.

WEA CHINOOK COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT TO GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kathie Axtell, Council President of WEA Chinook, spoke about the variety of projects the WEA has funded in the Olympia School District and presented a grant award to Garfield Elementary School for transportation of students from their after-school program, MORE (More Opportunities for Recreation and Enrichment). Mike Stine, 4th grade teacher and MORE volunteer, provided additional information on the types of activities the MORE program offers to students, and accepted the award on Garfield's behalf.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2007. DIRECTOR LEHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THREE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

The approval of the November 13, 2007, minutes was delayed until after President Nafziger's arrival (see below).

Audience members who wished to speak about agenda items were identified.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

David Johnston thanked the Board and community members for the work being done on the Strategic Plan, and based on Strategic Plan Goal 5, he asked the Board to take a look at the concerns raised by the Olympia Education Association as stated in a document he handed to the Board.

Mike Snodgrass commended OSD students in grades 2 through 8, noting that he has watched a number of young men and women involved in youth football achieve many successes. He spoke of some unfortunate incidents that have been in recent local news articles, but stated that no OSD parent, coach or student had been involved in any of those incidents. He also thanked Ingersoll Stadium groundskeeper, John Craig, for his continuing help and support, describing him as a credit to the District.

Ellen Rice asked that no additional requirements be added to students' workloads, unless something was taken away, advocating for a focus on Algebra I and Geometry. She also asked the District to recognize and reward its many heroic staff members, while acting much more quickly to address problems.

Linea Comstock spoke to the Board about saving funds by delaying the adoption of a new Science curriculum to await the outcome of the work being done by OSPI.

CONSENT AGENDA

DIRECTOR LEHMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THREE AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am, **Strategic Plan Committee**, Knox Center
- Monday, December 17, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, January 7, 6:30 pm, **Joint Board Meeting-Griffin**, Knox Center
- Monday, January 14, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, January 28, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Centennial ES
- Monday, February 4, 6:30 pm, **Study Session**, Knox Center
- Monday, February 11, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, February 25, 6:30 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, CHS

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved two increases in contract and one new contract:

INCREASES IN CONTRACT – Effective the 2007-08 contract year

Barnhart, Tamara – Autism Specialist at Washington Middle School. Approved a one-year .20 FTE increase in contract (from 1.0 to 1.2), beginning November 7, 2007. (Increase in FTE needed to cover caseload.)

Turcotte, Mary – Infant Toddler Teacher at LP Brown Elementary School and Speech Language Pathologist with Student Support. Approved a one-year .20 FTE increase in contract (from 1.0 to 1.2), beginning November 1, 2007.

NEW CONTRACT

Marstrom, Michael – Lifeskills Teacher at Jefferson Middle School. Approved a one-year 1.0 FTE contract, beginning November 7, 2007. (Position required due to enrollment.)

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated November 26, 2007.

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Instructional Materials Committee

The Board approved the list of recommended materials submitted to the Board at the previous meeting.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved cancellations totaling \$191,562.37, and the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 29908-29956, in the total amount of \$83,863.83; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9603-9633, in the total amount of \$338,211.40; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 140207 through 140362, in the total amount of \$1,066,137.41.

8.2 Financial Reports – October 2007

The Board approved the October 2007 Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the Associated Student Body, Capital Projects, Debt Service, General, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

REGULAR AGENDA

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 *Item moved to follow Item 8.1 below*

1.2 NEWS Litigation

The Board considered whether to join the NEWS (Network for Excellence in Washington Schools) lawsuit regarding educational funding in the state of Washington. Superintendent Lahmann provided a brief background. David Johnston, President of the Olympia Education Association (OEA) addressed the Board regarding the OEA's decision to share the cost of entry (to an amount of \$5,000). He spoke of this decision as a potentially defining moment for the state of Washington: win or lose, the Federal Way lawsuit has begun a change in the educational funding language being used around the state. He noted that this was a special opportunity, with the potential for Olympia to play an important lead role in working toward a solution.

Jerry Painter, general counsel for the Washington Education Association (WEA), provided a brief overview of the purpose and current status of the lawsuit and responded to questions from the Board. He asked the District to join their coalition and partner with those organizations and districts already committed to the lawsuit. In response to a question from President Nafziger, Mr. Painter stated that in terms of time commitment required by staff, the District would be committing to quarterly meetings. He added that certain districts would be selected to become involved based on the uniqueness of their demographics, whether or not they joined the lawsuit, noted that there are some districts that are simply not interested in becoming involved.

On the basis that the District's monetary commitment would be limited to \$5,000 as a result of the OEA's commitment to provide the balance of \$5,000:

PRESIDENT NAFZIGER MADE A MOTION TO JOIN THE NEWS LAWSUIT. VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT SECONDED. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2007. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED. THREE AYES, ONE ABSTENTION; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was briefly recessed, reconvening at 8:05 p.m.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Resolution 439, Maintenance & Operations Levy

Jim Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal and Operations, presented Resolution 439 to place a replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy on the February 19, 2008, general election ballot. He reviewed the four options previously presented. The administration recommended a four-year levy to continue at 24.34 percent of the District's levy base (the maximum M&O levy authorized under state law). If approved by the voters, the levy request will replace the current voter-approved Maintenance and Operations Levy which expires at the end of 2008. President Nafziger noted that the community committee which will be supporting the levy has requested a decision tonight so they can begin promoting it.

Mr. Crawford reviewed the current levy and the options previously presented to the Board. Director Lehman asked which option the administration recommended. Superintendent Lahmann noted that there were many factors to be considered, not the least of which was the uncertainty of the base being raised legislatively, which can result in not collecting all the funds the legislature authorizes. A four-year levy increases the risk of leaving funds uncollected if the base is set too conservatively, Director Lehman noted that the District has always had a strong desire to avoid overwhelming voters and avoid a large rollback situation, while other districts assure they will hit the mark by going over, even if it necessitates a rollback.

Considerable discussion ensued about the options and the most appropriate percentage level to set. Vice President Barclift said she would favor the flat rate, but felt 10% is overly aggressive and would push for Option 2. President Nafziger said he favored Option 4. He noted that the pressure has been building for increased state funding in 2009, which would increase the levy base. He went on to emphasize the importance of communicating to the voters that we aren't raising the lid, but are ensuring a cushion in our forecast so we don't leave money on the table and are able to provide for a levy that is no less than the legislature provides. Director Shirley noted that the important number in all this is 24.34%, the maximum we are allowed by the state to collect.

PRESIDENT NAFZIGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 439. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY MOVED TO AMEND THE COLLECTION AMOUNTS ESTABLISHED IN RESOLUTION 439: FOR COLLECTION YEAR 2009, APPROXIMATELY \$2.27, A LEVY AMOUNT OF \$19,000,000; FOR COLLECTION YEAR 2010, APPROXIMATELY \$2.27, A LEVY AMOUNT OF \$20,140,000; FOR COLLECTION YEAR 2011, APPROXIMATELY \$2.27, A LEVY AMOUNT OF \$21,348,400; AND, FOR COLLECTION YEAR 2012, APPROXIMATELY \$2.27, A LEVY AMOUNT OF \$22,629,304. PRESIDENT NAFZIGER SECONDED THE MOTION. THREE AYES, ONE NAY; MOTION CARRIED.

As to Resolution 439: **FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Policy Series 1000 – 1st Reading

Superintendent Bill Lahmann presented Policy Series 1000 – Board of Directors, for first reading and discussion. President Nafziger proposed that the Board stay within the set 30-minute time frame in order to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Director Shirley dissented, saying that the policies are laws, and each one deserves full consideration of all recommendations.

Superintendent Lahmann began with the Board's Operating Protocol and moved to Policy 1000. Director Shirley discussed his proposed revisions to the recommendation. Student Representative Adam Buchholz said he was concerned about the inequity experienced in the choosing of the student representative and proposed to change the election system, recommending that the office rotate year to year from school to school. Director Lehman asked if Avanti would be included in the rotation, and Adam agreed to create proposed language and send it to Superintendent Lahmann.

Discussion ensued regarding capitalization, superfluous language, brevity, simplification and examining the process. Director Lehman said he didn't think broad policy statements belonged within the policies, and he endorsed striking out of a lot of language that may serve no purpose or that is redundant. Superintendent Lahmann noted the importance of providing a full information base to the average community member who might be looking up a particular policy. Director Shirley advocated for citing the appropriate legal reference and leaving it to the community member to look up the reference, with the District not attempting to incorporate summarizations. Director Barclift stated that the Revised Code of Washington can be complicated and time consuming to understand.

President Nafziger reminded the Board that the District contracted with WSSDA (Washington State School Directors Association) for the policy review, and the Board should decide if they want a detailed re-write to WSSDA's recommendations or to look only at substantive changes. The Board agreed to give consideration to how they want to proceed, and to continue their discussion at the next regular Board meeting. They continued a discussion of policies in numerical order, and agreed to continue reviewing at the next meeting, beginning with Policy 1230.

Mike Snodgrass, said he had questions or concerns about two policies. First, with Policy 1430, he suggested that provisions for audience participation should be consistent from meeting to meeting and not vary the timing (3 minutes, 5 minutes, etc.) for public testimony from one meeting to the next. Of more significance, he said, is the Board's Operating Protocol and suggested the Board be careful of trying to control the impossible, and it should not attempt to stifle vigorous and healthy debate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lahmann, Secretary to the Board

Rich Nafziger, President