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Board

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of
OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
December 11, 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, December 11, 2006, at the Knox Administrative Center, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington 98501. Also attending were Vice President Rich Nafziger, Directors Carolyn Barclift, Michelle Parvinen and Bob Shirley, and Superintendent Bill Lahmann. Student Representative Rachel Reclam was unable to be present.

President Lehman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTOR BARCLIFT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 27, 2006. DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. FIVE AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

President Lehman called for nominations for President to serve in 2007; Director Parvinen nominated Director Rich Nafziger. Director Shirley seconded the nomination. Five ayes; motion carried.

President Nafziger called for nominations for Vice President to serve in 2007; Director Parvinen nominated Director Carolyn Barclift. Director Shirley seconded the motion. Four ayes; one nay; motion carried.

Director Parvinen nominated Director Bob Shirley to serve as Board representative on the Board of the Olympia School District Education Foundation. Vice President Barclift seconded the motion. Five ayes; motion carried.

Vice President Barclift nominated Director Parvinen to serve as Board representative to the Thurston Regional Planning Commission. Director Shirley seconded the motion. Five ayes; motion carried.

No audience members were identified as desiring to speak to agenda items.

No audience members were identified as desiring to speak under Community Comment.

VICE PRESIDENT BARCLIFT MOVED APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Consent Agenda Item No. 4.1 was withdrawn at the request of Director Shirley, who questioned the appropriateness. It was noted that the agenda item states it is submitted for review; request for approval of the Instructional Materials Committee request will follow at the next Board meeting.

DIRECTOR SHIRLEY SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ITEM 4.1 SIGNIFIES REVIEW ONLY. FOUR AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

1 SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, January 8, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, January 22, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, McLane ES
- Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm, **Study Session (Drop Out Committee Report)**, Knox Center
- Monday, February 12, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, February 26, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Marshall MS
- Monday, March 12, 6:30 pm, **I-728 Public Hearing**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 19, 6:30 pm, **Study Session (2007-08 Budget)**, Knox Center
- Monday, March 26, 7:00 pm, **Regular Board Meeting**, LP Brown ES

2 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

2.1 Certificated Personnel Report

The Board approved one new contract.

3 CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

3.1 Classified Personnel Report

The Board approved the Classified Personnel Report dated December 11, 2006.

4 PUPILS & PROGRAMS

4.1 Approval of Instructional Materials

The Board acknowledged the Instructional Materials Committee request for review of instructional materials.

4.2 Overnight Field Trips

The Board approved the following overnight field trip:

- ◆ **CHS** – Capital High School Orchestra; Waikiki, Hawaii; PERFORMANCE, MOTIVATION, CULTURAL EXPERIENCE, HISTORY; 40 students, 5 teacher chaperones, 5 parent chaperones; April 8-12, 2007.

8 FINANCES

8 Approval of Vouchers

The Board approved cancelled warrants totaling \$257,060.76, and approved the following expenditures: Associated Student Body Fund Voucher Nos. 28813 through 28887, in the total amount of \$132,150.39; Capital Projects Voucher Nos. 9005 through 9036, in the total amount of \$1,369,096.50; and, General Fund Voucher Nos. 137450 through 137563, in the total amount of \$452,679.98.

8.1 Financial Report – October 2006

The Board approved the October 2006 Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the Associated Student Body, Capital Projects, Debt Service, General, and Transportation Vehicle Funds.

8.3 Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement – North Thurston Public Schools

The Board approved an agreement with North Thurston Public Schools for provision of educational services to a hearing-impaired student from the Olympia School District.

REGULAR AGENDA

4 K-12 TEACHING & LEARNING

4.1 The Latino Family Group

The Latino Family Group presented to the Board with information on some of the issues and concerns they have identified. Eunice Santiago opened with an introduction of their group and their focus. She also discussed the top four concerns they have identified, summarized as: 1) culturally-sensitive, bilingually-communicated policies, to include methods of communicating with parents with limited language proficiencies, 2) strengthened diversity and cross-cultural trainings for all staff, 3) development of a strategic plan to ensure Latino students can pass the WASL, and, 4) recruit bilingual professionals and establish a language bank staffed by qualified professionals.

Daniel Arevalo spoke of the difficulties his family encountered when his son entered McKenny Elementary School. He was one of the first Hispanic students to come into the school, and it appeared the school was unprepared. The school focused on the student's language skills, even though the parents continued to ask the school to pursue other courses. The staff continued to assume he was progressing, even though the parents knew he was not learning to his potential. Five years of frustration ensued, during which the student lost valuable time in all skill areas, and attention was focused on remedial language skills. Finally, in 5th grade,

tests were done to determine their son was dyslexic and had difficulty tracking. In the meantime, the student is further behind, frustrated by being out of class and away from his friends. It is this kind of lack of understanding that could lead to a student dropping out at high school level.

Fannie Cordero spoke as a parent of one child who has graduated from the Olympia School District and one student who is in middle school. As an example of Eunice's point number four, she stated parents have called her to request she accompany them to the school to interpret. Often it is a result of the parent not being able to navigate the voice mail system. In one instance, the parent was worried because she suspected her daughter was not attending school, and the student was actually calling in to the attendance number to have herself excused without the parent's knowledge. The student could function within the voice mail system, but the parent could not.

Vice President Barclift noted that this was not a new problem, and cited an example several year back when a resourceful Vietnamese boy at Garfield would leave on Fridays, telling his parents he was going on camping trips with his school class. Superintendent Lahmann stated this is clearly an issue of concern, particularly related to the ELL changes we've made this year. He stated it was his goal to increase the diversity within our staff to enrich our culture, and to provide identity models for our students and greater assistance for parents, as well. The goal of centralizing the ELL program this year was to improve the connection with students, but with the growing number of languages it is difficult to get to the level we would like to achieve.

Ms. Cordero noted there are many parents who are illiterate, so translating everything is not necessarily the answer. We need to be thinking out of the box for those who are illiterate or semi-literate. Along with interpreters, community liaison is important, that is, community liaison--someone who is trained in the norms and culture of the school, to build the trust and foster the engagement of parents of all cultures.

Superintendent Lahmann noted that our recently-established Diversity Committee is looking at what we can do short term and long term to increase the ethnic, cultural understanding in many categories of diversity. Marcela Abadi, a teacher at Lincoln Elementary and a member of The Latino Family Group, stated that language acquisition is a very important component of how people learn to communicate.

President Nafziger suggested a group be formed to determine what would be essential to be translated and into what languages or categories. He thanked The Latino Family Group for their presentation and for their specific recommendations.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1.1 Strategic Planning Process

The Board continued its discussion of a strategic planning process for the District. It was noted that this is essentially a second reading of the plan discussed at the last Board meeting.

Director Parvinen suggested that the deadline for the process be moved up to the first meeting in November, and that the Board reach out to the community for input, including higher education. Vice President Barclift noted, with regard to the five ex officio members, that substantial numbers of the community population are not connected to our District, asking how their input might be received. Director Lehman noted that the proposal specifically refers to community members, that is, members of the larger community, and asked for ideas for locating such individuals. President Nafziger suggested the selection of people who would

take it upon themselves to motivate others to participate in the process; someone who is interested in building community involvement in our schools.

Superintendent Lahmann suggested the engagement of our friends in the media to get the word out, and/or perhaps reach out to the presidents of the neighborhood associations, service clubs, etc. Director Parvinen agreed that a fresh perspective could be helpful. Vice President Barclift suggested a mini campaign to seek volunteers to be brought back to the Board.

It was determined that names be submitted by the January 22nd Regular Board Meeting. Senior groups should be solicited, and a student representative might be desirable, as well, but outreach to students is essential. It was also suggested that The Latino Family Group be included, certainly representing a group that is already highly motivated.

It was agreed that the District would hire a facilitator for the strategic planning process, with Director Lehman as the lead Board representative on the committee. The Board agreed to meet for 1.5 hours on January 16, 2007, to identify four or five key areas of Board focus for the year, with individual Board members taking the lead on each area.

The administration will also look at the primary areas of focus for the year, and the notes from the last Board retreat will be provided for review. It was noted that a separation of short term goals from broader, long range planning should be made.

Director Shirley summarized three areas to look at: 1) the notes from the last Board retreat and the goals defined there, 2) items Bill will identify as things that will require Board decision, and, 3) possibly one or two other things the Board will bring to the table. He suggested these would be the items the Board would look at on January 16th.

A short discussion on policy governance considered that it should go hand-in-hand with the strategic planning process, but resulted in agreement that policy governance would be revisited following the strategic planning process.

President Nafziger asked that all parties prepare materials by the January 8th Regular Board Meeting, so a review is possible in advance of the January 16th meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / HOT TOPICS

Superintendent Lahmann reported that the University of Washington study of the District's autism program has been received. A review will be given at the January 8, 2007, regular Board meeting, but he noted that the administration is pleased with the report and its recommendations.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ***Boardocs.com* presentation January 8, 2007, Regular Board Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lahmann, Secretary

Rich Nafziger, President