

Olympia School District

Cabinet Notes

January 30, 2014

Board Agenda Review for Feb. 10 at Knox: Entertainment Explosion presentation by Dick C.; National Board Certifications by Rebecca J. (Rebecca will introduce Teresa Bond, who will help present the awards while Rebecca takes photos); Math Adoption Update by Debbi H. and Math Adoption Committee members; Kindergarten Updates by Jennifer P. and Nancy F. The meeting will then adjourn and the board will begin a study session on the Highly Capable Program led by Linda Heade.

Board Agenda Review for Feb. 24 at Olympia H.S.: Focus on Olympia High School by Matt Grant; Highly Capable Recommendations by Linda Heade; Budget Update by Jennifer P.; Levy Report by Jennifer P. and others involved with the levy.

Upcoming Study Sessions and events: Study sessions ahead are: Intervention Programs at elementary schools on March 3; Optional Programs on March 17. The annual TOGETHER! Have a Heart for Kids Breakfast is coming up on Feb. 28. The TOGETHER! Champions for Kids Dinner will take place March 24. Our district's Champions for Kids 2014 nominee is Donna McPeak from Capital High School. Dick C., Chris Woods and others will be present at the dinner to support Donna.

Joint meeting with City Council: Each year the OSD holds a joint meeting with the Olympia City Council. The date for this year's meeting is TBA. When we do meet, likely topics will include school resource officers, the growth around Centennial Elementary and a construction outlook.

Strategic Plan Review: Dick C. asked Cabinet members to identify areas where their teams have made progress on the Strategic Plans. Cabinet provided him with that information.

House Bill 2605: The Legislature is considering a bill that would make changes to the new Restraint and Isolation law. Among other changes, the measure would allow notification of district policy, if a district has one, on the district's website and by request. Joni W. will keep the group updated on the bill's progress.

Tuition Reimbursement: Cabinet discussed the idea of providing tuition reimbursement for staff who will make a commitment to accepting hard-to-fill positions. Joni W. and Joe B. will look at how other districts are handling this issue. Joni will also explore ways we may partner with local colleges to provide some of that training.

Meeting with Montessori Teachers: Dick C. and Debbi H. recently met with Montessori teachers to discuss our new math curriculum. Debbi provided them with information about training opportunities.

Letter from Student: Dick C. shared a letter the district recently received from a student who's now in college. The student was thanking his prior OHS teachers for their contribution to his success.

Out-of-State Travel: Dick C. led the group in a discussion around out-of-state staff travel. Such travel would be rare and should always align with district priorities and goals. The goal is to maximize the district's resources by seeking local and regional options first. For staff who aren't aligned with a particular school, such travel requests will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Avanti Classroom: Avanti is now using the former Avanti break room on Knox's second floor as a classroom. Cabinet is exploring additional options for a new staff break/lunch room.