

Olympia School District

Cabinet Notes

February 14, 2013

Study Session February 19 at Knox Administrative Offices: Special Education budget and budget survey.

Board Agenda February 25 at Washington Middle School: Focus on Washington MS by Paul and Condee, ASAP Program at CHS by Jeff Broome, Budget update from Jennifer P., Kindergarten Tuition/Scholarship Planning from Jennifer P.

Board Agenda March 11 at Knox: HR Recruiting from Joe B., extension of Montessori Middle School discussion, Transportation/Bell Schedule Change Budget Impact from Jennifer P., Enrollment Policies and Procedures review from Jennifer P. and Dick C., Comprehensive Program Review results from Nancy F.

Hiring Black Out Dates: Joe B. presented the challenge of ensuring timely health benefits with the change in the WEA health benefits enrollment system. The new process on hiring and benefits is troublesome for all school districts. Please note that no employee should report to work until they report to HR for prior approval.

Again, no employee should begin work until they have met with HR. Failure to follow the practice may result in missed benefit options for the new employee. Please note this change is being driven by the new statewide process. Principals and department leaders will need to be mindful of the above. Joe will provide the black out dates.

ORLA Montessori Extension: Parents of students enrolled in the Montessori program at ORLA have expressed an interest in extending the program into the sixth grade. It will be a discussion item at the March 11 board meeting.

Bandwidth Issues: Dick updated Cabinet on the interruption of instruction due to excessive bandwidth usage for YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, etc. This appears to be a student driven issue with implications for the instructional staff. There is more discussion to come as the district tries to sort through the issue of maintaining instructional/operational integrity while making bandwidth available for all.

Strategic Plan: Rebecca J. and Dick reviewed the Strategic Plan process. This week they met with two groups of PTA representatives in one day meeting and one evening meeting. The feedback has been very good so far. There are many more meetings ahead with staff and citizens.

Budget Survey: Jennifer P. presented a draft of a budget survey she will send to staff for input. The input is valued, but it should be recognized that the Board will make final decisions.

Software and Utility Operation: With the advent of many new applications, Debbi H. raised the issue of how the district will determine the educational soundness of each app. Currently staff download many apps for classroom use. Are they of value educationally? What is the research regarding their effectiveness? Should there be a district protocol?