

## SCHOOL BOARD WORK/STUDY MEETING

February 14, 2011

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CORRECTED

Board Chair Bobby DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Bobby DuBois, Beth Young, Holley Carlson, *Anne Burkart*, Jennifer James-Wilson and student board member Chris Shively. Also present were Superintendent Gene Laes, staff and community members.

Ms. Burkart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following correspondence was received:

- An email from Julie Jablonski regarding the Joint Use Cost Calculator Tool.
- An email from Martha Worthley regarding Mark Decker's leadership.
- An email from Tom Thiersch regarding board succession planning.
- An email from Jessica Winsheimer regarding plans for ongoing farm to school efforts changes to the food service program and school garden.

Ms. James-Wilson stated that it was an interesting packet of correspondence, and inquired whether the joint use cost calculator tool was of use to administrators? Mr. Laes stated that the tool piqued his interest, particularly in regard to the Mountain View lease. Discussion followed. In regard to succession planning, Ms. James-Wilson stated that she doesn't want to see the board circumvent the process of democratically elected board members. However, interested individuals should be encouraged to attend board meetings. Discussion followed.

Public Comments were heard from:

Nik Lance:

- Concerned that there may not be all-day kindergarten next year, and requested assurance from the board that all-day kindergarten will be funded.

Tom Thiersch:

- Congratulated both the boys' and girls' basketball teams for making it to the playoffs, and acknowledged the difficult circumstances under which the girls' team played their game with Chimacum.
- Clarified that he was misquoted in the Peninsula Daily News article about succession planning.
- Stated that iPads do not support flash, and 75% of the video on the Internet uses flash. Also, iPads do not run general-purpose software.
- Agrees with Mr. DuBois' comment at the last meeting that netbooks aren't appropriate for the school board, however PC laptops are available for approximately \$500.00.

Pam Trail:

- Also concerned about all-day kindergarten next year, stating that parents are hearing from Grant Street staff that the program may be cut, and are investigating private school options.

The board and superintendent discussed the successful Educational Programs levy. Ms. Burkart said she was heartened by the community support of the levy. Ms. Carlson said people seem really happy that the levy passed. Mr. Laes reported that school staff met last Thursday on the Safeway corner with signs thanking the community for support of the levy, and they met with good response. He also stated that all 38 levies in the state passed, and that our levy had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest pass rate. Ms. James-Wilson remarked that a lot of hard work went into the levy and it felt good to have a decisive return. Ms. Carlson thanked everyone who worked on the levy.

Mark Sperrazza presented on the educational rights of homeless students and the McKinney-Vento Act. Discussion followed.

The board discussed the next steps for completion of the district's strategic plan. Mr. Laes stated that he has spoken with both Dr. Gene Medina and Dr. John Erickson about facilitating the strategic plan completion. The board discussed the process for interviewing and selecting a facilitator, and decided to schedule a special board meeting on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., depending on the availability of the two candidates. The board also suggested that Drs. Medina and Erickson review the WSSDA 0000 series on

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strategic planning and discuss this in their interview. It was requested that a copy of all the background material sent to Drs. Medina and Erickson be made for each board member.

The board discussed scheduling the next board retreat, which will be used to work on completion of the strategic plan. It was suggested that the retreat be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The final date will be determined by the availability of the selected facilitator. Once that is determined, Rosanne Butler will notify the board and the press. Discussion followed about the intent of the strategic plan, what work has been done to date, and what is left to do.

Board Announcements:

Ms. Young clarified that the eliminated state funding for all-day kindergarten was given only to high poverty districts, and that our district never received those funds.

Mr. DuBois stated that he welcomed the comments on all-day kindergarten, and discussed ways that the community can give input into budget decisions.

Mr. Thiersch questioned whether there is a gap in the district's process, stating elected officials are the interface between the school and the public. The community has provided a prioritized list of what is of importance to them, and he questioned whether the administration is taking that into consideration.

Mr. Thiersch and Mr. Lance both commented that the district needs to allow for community input on the budget, and that the budget committee has not met since last fall.

Ms. James-Wilson announced that the levy committee would have their wrap-up meeting on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Lehani's Deli and Coffee.

Ms. Young and Ms. James-Wilson plan to attend the WSSDA Legislative Conference in Olympia February 27-28, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gene R. Laes, Superintendent

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby DuBois, Board Chair