

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 24, 2010

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The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bobby DuBois at 6:00 p.m. Present: Bobby DuBois, Anne Burkart, Holley Carlson, Beth Young, Jennifer James-Wilson and Tom Opstad. Also present were staff, community and a member of the press.

The board recessed to Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss collective bargaining contracts. The meeting reconvened at 6:16 p.m.

The board shared "What's Good in the District:"

- Beth Young appreciated the time and effort that staff and community members put into the superintendent search.
- Anne Burkart agreed with Beth. She also stated that she is reviewing scholarship applications from high school seniors for the Soroptimists, and she is impressed with our graduating class.
- Holley Carlson reported that lots of things are happening to wrap up the school year.
- Jennifer James-Wilson agreed that she is impressed with the level of participation and seriousness the community put into the search process. She also commented that when touring the candidates through the schools she was impressed with the level of engagement of students, commenting particularly on the high school art portable and Mar Vista, and the ICE portable at Grant Street.
- Bobby DuBois stated that the superintendent search process brought him into more contact with students, staff, parents and the community, and that he is grateful for that.
- Tom Opstad said that he attended and outstanding performance of Oliver! He also participated in senior presentations on Tuesday, May 18th. He noted that the district is on the Evergreen Freedom Foundations Honor Roll as one of eight districts in the state that provide transparency to their community in regard to school finances. Finally, he noted that the high school golf team took first in the league, and the district's team won first place in several categories at the Pacific Challenge last weekend.

Correspondence was received from the following:

- Holly Seidel of OSPI wrote to congratulate Port Townsend High School for receiving the 2009 Washington Achievement Award. Ms. Carrie Ehrhardt clarified that the award was for improving the extended graduation rate at the high school over the last five years.
- Mark Decker wrote an email updating the board on Blue Heron football for the fall, as well as the Blue Heron athletic program for the 2010-11 school year.

Public Comments:

- Dennis Daneau spoke as the co-chair of Slow Food of the North Olympic Peninsula in support of the board's taking a positive interest in what's happening in school cafeterias. He encouraged the board to allow adequate time for a pilot project in the fall to be successful.
- Julie Jablonski spoke of the importance of planning for curriculum in the upcoming budget.
- Mark Decker reviewed the steps taken at the middle school to field a football team for next year, and why they were unsuccessful. He also updated the board on the schedule changes for Blue Heron next year.
- Jef Waibel suggested that the board look outside the "normal flow" for candidates for superintendent.

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- Tom Thiersch asked for clarification regarding the way board announcements were reported in the Peninsula Daily News, stating that as written it looks like the board violated the Open Public Meetings Act.
- Bill LeMaster commended the board for a meaningful, thoughtful process during the superintendent search, and was pleased with the board's decision to choose an interim. He suggested the board hire two retired superintendents, allowing one to focus on academics and the other on buildings. He recommended being innovative.

The board reviewed the minutes of the following meetings: May 3, 2010, Special Board Meeting; May 8, 2010, Special Board Meeting; May 10, 2010, Regular Board Meeting; and May 18, 2010, Special Board Meeting. There were no corrections noted. Motions to approve were as follows: May 3, 2010 made by Anne Burkart, seconded by Beth Young. Carried 5-0. May 8, 2010 made by Anne Burkart, seconded by Holley Carlson. Carried 5-0. May 10, 2010 made by Beth Young, seconded by Holley Carlson. Carried 5-0. May 18, 2010 made by Beth Young, seconded by Anne Burkart. Carried 5-0.

The agenda was revised to include the following: Add new item IX: "Discuss Hiring of Interim Superintendent." Jennifer James-Wilson reported that AP were reviewed and in order. Motion to approve the revised agenda and consent agenda was made by Anne Burkart and seconded by Beth Young. Motion carried 5-0.

Included in the consent agenda were: 1) Accounts Payable as of May 24, 2010; 2) Recommend the employment of certificated administrators for the 2010-11 school year; 3) Recommend the employment of classified administrators for the 2010-11 school year; 4) Recommend the employment of full-time and part-time teachers and certificated support personnel for the 2010-11 school year; 5) Recommend the reassignment and transfer of certificated staff for the 2010-11 school year; 6) Recommend the employment of non-represented classified District Office staff for the 2010-11 school year; 7) Approve Jennifer Nielsen, 20 students and 4 chaperones to attend the High School Musical Awards Ceremony June 7-8, 2010, in Seattle, WA; 8) Approve the agreement between Puget Sound ESD and Port Townsend School District for Puget Sound ESD to host Follett Destiny Library and Resource Management services for the 2010-11 SY.

The board discussed the process for hiring an interim superintendent. Bobby DuBois stated that Dennis Ray, the principal partner of Northwest Leadership Associates will take over the search in John Fotheringham's absence. Mr. DuBois will follow up with Dr. Ray on the phone Tuesday. The board listened to some options from community and staff. Carrie Ehrhardt reported that in a previous district where she worked the board selected three to four candidates, and had them meet with the board and the administration team. Discussion followed.

TAPE 1, SIDE B

Mark Sperrazza presented a Food Service Update. He also reported that the food service program recently finished its comprehensive review by OSPI, and stated that the menu impressed the reviewer. His only area of concern is that the meals are above the guidelines for sodium. He also commented that commodity foods provided by the federal government tend to be high in sodium. Mr. Sperrazza then reviewed his goals for next year. Discussion followed.

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TAPE 2, SIDE A

Dr. Opstad commented that he met with Mark Sperrazza and the reviewer from OSPI, and noted that she told them it was one of the best food service programs in the state. Dr. Opstad also commended Mark Sperrazza taking on the role of the district's Homeless Liaison, stating that he can get homeless students quickly enrolled in the system for free meals.

Dr. Opstad presented the recommendation that meal prices for the 2010-2011 school year for approval. He noted that they will remain the same as this year. Beth Young made a motion to approve the meal prices for the 2010-2011 school year. Anne Burkart seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Dr. Opstad presented the student fees for the 2010-2011 school year. Changes in fees were noted. A motion was made by Anne Burkart and seconded by Beth young to approve student fees for the 2010-2011 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

Nik Lance presented an update from the Strategic Planning Task Force and asked the board for further direction. After discussion it was determined that the strategic plan should be placed on the June 14th board agenda as an action item.

Dr. Opstad presented a draft copy of the district's Tech Plan for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. He has sent the plan to Jeff Allan at ESD 114 for review. He reported that the decision on the local grant request to string fiber optic cables should be made by July 1st. He noted that Governor Gregoire stated it is the #1 priority for the state of Washington for use of Federal funds. Mark Welch has agreed to coordinate the plan for the district. The plan will be brought back for approval at the next meeting for approval. Discussion followed.

Dr. Opstad presented the Calendar of Events. He noted that the handicap lift in the Lincoln Building failed its annual inspection. The board discussed moving future board meetings to another location that is handicap accessible. There was agreement that the June 14, 2010, board meeting will be held in the band room at the high school. The June 28, 2010, board meeting will be held in the Blue Heron Commons. A decision about a permanent change of location will happen later in the summer. It was noted that at the June 14th board meeting is a public hearing on the budget, however the adoption will not happen until the June 28th meeting.

The following policy was brought for second review:

- Policy 2024/2024P: Online Learning

This policy will be brought back for approval at the next meeting.

Board Announcements:

- Beth Young noted that WSSDA is asking members for feedback on legislative issues for WSSDA to bring to the next legislative session.
- Jennifer James-Wilson announced she will be out of town from May 25th to June 1st. She will be reachable by phone.
- Holley Carlson requested that the board model positive language when discussing the past bond attempts, and the decision to hire an interim superintendent.

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At 8:15 p.m. Mr. DuBois called for a five-minute break. The work/study session was convened at 8:23 p.m., where the board discussed the 2010-2011 budget.

The board began a work/study session on the 2010-2011 budget. Amy Khile reported that the revenues are close to being finished. She is working on an analysis of salary and benefits vs. NERCS (non-employee related costs). Based on the current planning, there would be a \$250,000 shortfall next year. Ms. Khile stated that 84% of the district's budget is salary and benefits. The board discussed the employer contribution to retirement rates rising. Next year the increase is 6.15%; followed by an addition 11% the following year and another 15% increase the year after that. Discussion followed.

TAPE 3, SIDE A

Dr. Opstad will bring information to the next board meeting on the M&O levy and a capital levy or bond.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Opstad, Superintendent

ATTEST: _____
Bobby DuBois, Chairman