

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 25, 2010

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Board Chair Bobby DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Bobby DuBois, Anne Burkart, Beth Young and Jennifer James-Wilson. Also present were Superintendent Gene Laes, staff, community members and members of the press.

Mr. DuBois led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Burkart. Motion carried 4-0.

Ben Dow and Marcus Sather reported on Virtual High School. Discussion followed.

The following correspondence was received:

- An email from Candice Cosler regarding the creation of two project coordinator positions for “Fresh Food in Schools Project.”
- An email from Tom Thiersch regarding his objections to ordering iPads for use by board members.

Public Comments:

- Tom Thiersch spoke about the review of Policy 3245: Students and Telecommunication Devices, and his continued concerns about the possibility that the policy would violate students’ and parents’ constitutional rights and invites litigation.
- Paul Richmond spoke about proposed review of Policy 3245: Students and Telecommunication Devices, and shared a copy of the letter that the ACLU sent to Oak Harbor School District in regard to their adoption of the policy.

Holley Carlson arrived at 6:25 p.m.

The board reviewed the minutes of the October 11, 2010, regular board meeting. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkart and seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion carried 5-0.

The board reviewed the consent agenda. Ms. James-Wilson stated that the Accounts Payable were in order. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Burkart. Motion carried 5-0.

Included in the consent agenda were: 1) Accounts Payable as of October 25, 2010; 2) Recommend Darlene Marmol for the 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Blue Heron for the remainder of the 2010-11 SY; 3) Recommend Vickie Lowrie for the position of Business Office Secretary for the remainder of the 2010-2011 SY; 4) Request to surplus 17 accounting textbooks, 2 teacher’s editions and 35 accounting workbooks that are out of date and have been replaced with the current edition; 5) Accept the donation to Blue Heron from Barbara Jo Blair of multiple copies of non-fiction books for grades 4-8, published by National Geographic and Hampton Brown and valued at \$7,000.

Mr. Laes presented the Basic Education Compliance Report and recommended approval. After a brief discussion Ms. Burkart made a motion to approve the Basic Education Compliance Report. Ms. James-Wilson seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Mr. DuBois stated that he gave his Technology Committee update at the last board meeting, and had no new information.

Ms. Young reported on the Wellness Committee, stating that the committee is meeting about once a month and is currently reviewing Policy 6700: Nutrition and Physical Fitness. She stated that the committee requested that the board articulate their goals for the committee, and distributed draft goals for the board’s review. Ms. Young reported on the progress of the trial breakfast program at Grant Street, stating that the

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trial is doing baseline data collection now, and the trial will begin in January. Grant Street is also participating in "Harvest of the Month," with the October focus being on spinach.

Policy 2409/2409P: Credit for Competency/Proficiency was brought for first review. This is a new policy recommended by the State Board of Education. Discussion followed. This policy will be brought back for second review at the next work/study session.

Policy 5407: Military Leave was brought for first review. There was a minor change to the policy, clarifying that military leave for spouses is unpaid leave. This policy will be brought back for second review at the next work/study session.

Policy 3245/3245P: Students and Telecommunications Devices was brought for first review. Mr. DuBois said that he takes the concerns expressed in tonight's Public Comments seriously. He stated that the policy being reviewed was written by WSSDA after they consulted with the ACLU. He also stated that the board depends on WSSDA's legal expertise. Discussion followed. This policy will be brought back for second review at the next work/study session, along with the October *Policy News*, which clarifies WSSDA's position on the policy.

Mr. Laes gave an update on the following:

- He and Ms. Khile met with Jack Westerman today to discuss the upcoming levy, and received information on the projected assessed value over the four years of the levy. Mr. Laes recommended changing the title of the levy from "M&O Levy" to "Educational Programs Levy," as that more clearly describes the purpose of the levy. Mr. Laes will bring more information on the levy to the next work/study session. Discussion followed about whether to lift the levy lid from 24% to 28%, and the need for a capital levy after the Blue Heron bond is paid off.
- Mr. Laes reported on issues in the pre-school portable at Grant Street. Maintenance staff discovered a leak in the portable, and students were moved out of the building. The district contracted for a mold inspection, and mold was found to be present in half of the building. Maintenance staff also noted a breach in the siding of the portable. Parents were notified, and the preschool was closed October 25-26. The students will be moved into another classroom and the district is working with the Jefferson County Health Department on mold mitigation. Mr. Laes requested that the other portables on the Grant Street campus also be tested.

Mr. Laes presented the Calendar of Events.

Amy Khile gave the September budget status report. She also reported on closing the books for the 09-10 school year, stating the year-end deadline is November 15th.

Kathryne Kent introduced a parent, Penny James, who is a member of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Ms. Kent stated that the SEPAC has decided to invite parents of special needs students from Chimacum, Quilcene and Brinnon to attend quarterly meetings. The group will also invite service providers to attend. The next SEPAC meeting will be held at the Jefferson County Library.

Principals gave their monthly reports, focusing on the core principle "Access to Knowledge:"

- Steve Finch focused on literacy. He described the program developed at Grant Street over a period of years, which has culminated in the Eagle Reading Room, the library and the bookroom. The intention of instruction is to create rich, deep, fluent readers. Dr. Finch showed examples of books from the bookroom, and described ways the staff use the bookroom to differentiate reading instruction for students.
- Mark Decker presented the board a handout focusing on the positive things happening at Blue Heron. He reported on the bullying survey "pre-test" given to students electronically, as well as the ongoing work with Alex Bryan of the 3rd Ear Project. There will be a follow-up survey in the spring. Mr. Decker also discussed formative common assessments, and stated that the average daily

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attendance at Blue Heron this fall is 99%, which may be attributed to the later school start time. Discussion followed about how the staff is adjusting to the new master schedule.

- Carrie Ehrhardt introduced high school counselor Jennifer Stankus, who described alternative programs at the high school, and how the high school communicates opportunities to students and families through the website, postcards, newsletters, the daily bulletin and targeted classroom presentations.

Board Announcements:

- Ms. Young announced that she would not be at the November 8th board meeting.
- Ms. James-Wilson announced that the next Quality Community Schools meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at her home.

At 8:10 p.m., the board recessed for 15 minutes for Executive Session to discuss the qualifications for public employment.

The meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m. and was adjourned by consensus at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene R. Laes, Superintendent

ATTEST: _____
Bobby DuBois, Board Chair