

Work/Study Meeting

June 8, 2015

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Board Vice-Chair Pam Daly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Pam Daly, Nathanael O'Hara, Keith White, Jennifer James-Wilson. Also present were Superintendent Engle, staff, and community members.

Keith White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval

Jennifer James-Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Keith White seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Recognition

Board

Board members expressed how grateful they all were to have been part of graduation on June 5, and all thought the ceremony was wonderful.

Superintendent

Superintendent Engle presented Shining Star Awards to the following people:

- Matt Tyler for his work with the Mountain Bike Team
- Chris Pierson, Brandi Hageman, Ben Dow, Hope Borsato,, and Todd Gubler for their assistance with senior presentations at Fort Worden on May 19, 2015 at Fort Worden.

Public Comments:

Nancy Papasodora, Katie Grace, and Carol Gallup spoke in support of keeping Frontier House open. Ms. Gallup requested follow-up information.

The following people spoke in support of Holley Carlson and asked the board to reconsider accepting Ms. Carlson's resignation: Pam Trail, Kathy Stevenson, Carrie, Rell and Quinn Lennox, Jim Emery, and Noah Harrison, Mia Frederickson read a letter from Rebecca Brignoli regarding Ms. Carlson's resignation.

Board Correspondence: The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- Letter from Jefferson Mental Health Services regarding Frontier House
- Response to email from Lisa Crosby regarding math curriculum

Reports

Annual Review of Policy 4130, Title I

Jason Lynch, Title I Director, explained that board review of this policy is an annual requirement, and reported there are no changes to the policy this year. Ms. James-Wilson asked how many children are served with Title I funds. Mr. Lynch explained that both Grant Street Elementary and Blue Heron School are school-wide Title buildings, which means all students in that school can benefit from programs, if needed. He also explained some things Title I funds can be used for include summer programs, communications that are sent to parents, and this school year, hiring a math coach who works at Grant Street and Blue Heron.

Summer Maintenance Programs – Brad Taylor

Mr. Taylor spoke about some projects planned in the District during the summer, including security upgrades (keys and lighting throughout the district), replacing backboards in the High School gym, and coating all the gym floors.

Frontier House Report – Patrick Kane, Learning Support Services Director

Mr. Kane explained some of the reasons Frontier House is being closed, including concerns with students' lack of academic progress and limited social interaction with peers. He stressed that the District wishes to maintain a partnership with Jefferson Mental Health to continue to support the needs of the students. Mr. O'Hara asked how many students are served at Frontier House, and Mr. Kane replied that 6 students from Port Townsend were served there. Superintendent Engle explained this program was originally a partnership with two other districts, who have since withdrawn from the program.

Action Items

Approval of Amended School Calendar 2015-16

Mr. White moved to approve the amended school calendar. Mr. O'Hara seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Student Fees for 2015-16

Ms. James-Wilson moved to approve student fees for 2015-16 as presented. Mr. O'Hara seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Accept Resignation of Holley Carlson, Director District I

Pam Daly read Policy 1114, which states that if a board member chooses to resign, the board's task is simply to "discuss, acknowledge and announce the resignation." Ms. Carlson submitted her resignation on June 5, and was effective immediately. Mr. O'Hara said he appreciated that the incident was handled truthfully, but expressed regret at the loss of Ms. Carlson as a board member. Mr. White, Ms. James-Wilson, and Ms. Daly also expressed their sadness at the resignation and thanked Ms. Carlson for her service on the Board. Ms. Daly spoke about District policies and rules for events conducted on school grounds. Discussion followed. Mr. O'Hara moved to table this item. There was no second to the motion, and the motion died. Ms. James-Wilson moved to acknowledge Ms. Carlson's resignation as received by the board. There was no second to the motion, and the motion died.

New Business - None

Board Member Announcements/Suggestions for Future Meetings

Ms. James-Wilson said the Wellness Committee should have a draft revised Policy 6700 on the agenda for the June 22, 2015 board meeting.

Mr. O'Hara will not be able to attend June 22, 2015 board meeting. Ms. James-Wilson and Mr. White agreed to review Accounts Payable.

Executive Session

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. to an executive session for approximately 15 minutes to review performance of a public employee. Ms. Daly explained that the executive session was not being held to discuss Ms. Carlson's resignation, but another matter.

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The executive session was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Adjournment

The work/study meeting was reconvened at 8:16 and adjourned by consensus at 8:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting, June 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m., 1610 Blaine St., Room S-11

Respectfully submitted,

David Engle, Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Pam Daly, Vice-Chair

June 5, 2015

To: The Superintendent and School Board of Port Townsend, Washington

I had the pleasure last month of spending two days at Frontier School, Jefferson Mental Health in Port Townsend. I would like to take a moment to encourage you to do everything possible to keep this school open. I was able to observe the compassionate and skilled staff work with students who have failed in our public school system due to behavioral and intellectual limitations. This small and caring facility is making a huge difference in these damaged children. For the first time, parents have seen behavioral and intellectual growth in their child and have experienced a positive experience with the school environment. Lives are being touched and learning is happening. This nurturing environment can not be replicated in a public school setting. These children will not be successful if put back into the larger system with less support. If this facility closes, I would guess that the schools who receive these children back will be frustrated and these children will once again face failure and discouragement.

Thank you for caring about children.

Sincerely,

Claudia Rengstorf
SPU School of Education