

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 21, 2007

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The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Port Townsend School District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Chair John Eissinger at the Lincoln Building, 450 Fir Street, Port Townsend, WA. Present were Board members John Eissinger, Beth Young and Rita E. Beebe. Also present were Superintendent Tom Opstad and Business Manager Steve McIntire. The group discussed the proposed budget for the 2007-08 school year. There was no Executive Session. The regular meeting convened at 7:32 p.m. Also present were staff and community members.

Board members shared "What's Good in the District." Beth Young commented on a great Rhody weekend, saying she enjoyed seeing the number of students who participated in Rhody events. Tom Opstad agreed, stating that all the bands were involved in at least one parade. He also commented on the outstanding spring musical at the high school. Mr. Opstad also stated that many 10th grade students took extra care to complete their WASLs, even staying beyond the allotted test period. Steve McIntire said he enjoyed doing Mock Interviews with 9th graders. John Eissinger stated that he is looking for part-time help at the Blue Gull Inn, and was impressed Ms. Haskins work, as the students were well prepared for their interview. Mr. Eissinger also stated that he enjoyed seeing the new Grant Street banner in the parade, proclaiming "Public Schools Rock!"

There was no correspondence.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 7, 2007, regular board meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rita E. Beebe and seconded by Beth Young. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board reviewed the Agenda and the Consent Agenda. Mr. Opstad requested that the Board table the Affirmative Action Update under Reports of the Superintendent. He stated that this report would be ready for the June 11th Board meeting. Mr. Eissinger commented that Tracy Reinhart reviewed Accounts Payable earlier, and reported they were fine. Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Beth Young and seconded by Rita E. Beebe. Motion carried 3-0.

Included in the Consent Agenda were: 1) Accounts Payable as of May 21, 2007; 2) Recommend the employment of full time and part-time teachers and certificated support personnel for the 2007-08 school year as per attached certificated staff list; 3) Recommend the reassignment and transfer of certificated staff for the 2007-08 school year as per the attached personnel action list; 4) Recommend change for Sheri Shaw from .50 FTE continuing contract/.50 FTE leave replacement contract to 1.0 FTE continuing contract First Grade teacher at Grant Street Elementary School for the 2007-08 school year; 5) Recommend change for Deb Rich from .05 FTE continuing contract/.50 FTE leave replacement contract to 1.0 FTE continuing contract Preschool Special Education teacher at Grant Street Elementary School for the 2007-08 school year; 6) Recommend the employment of Jennifer Manning for the .50 FTE 7th Grade Math Teacher position at Blue Heron Middle School for the 2007-08 school year; 7) Recommend the employment of Karmen Meier for the 1.0 FTE OPEPO Literacy Specialist position for the 2007-08 school year; 8) Recommend the employment of Scott Lundh for the 1.0 FTE 4th Grade leave replacement position at Mt. View Elementary School for the 2007-08 school year; 9) Accept the resignation of Ryan West as Girls' Soccer Coach effective the end of the 2006-07 school year; Approved request from Mt. View Elementary School to surplus one Toshiba 4560 Copier, serial number XG920384 and one Risograph 1610 which are not repairable and of no value to the district.

During Public Comments Sheila Murphy spoke about Policy 5610: Substitute Employment, asking how the district determines when to hire substitutes. She also spoke about Procedure 3419: Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications, asking who is trained to provide assistance in the buildings. Ms. Murphy also commented that the 2008 graduation date should be set before February, as is listed on the 07-08 school calendar.

Board Member Comments: Mr. Eissinger directed the Superintendent to answer Ms. Murphy's questions in writing and copy his response to the Board. Beth Young noted that Mt. View staff visited Nooksack Elementary to observe teaching methods there, as they have very high 4th grade WASL scores in comparison to our district.

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Ms. Young questioned how we plan to analyze 4th grade WASL scores against 10th grade WASL scores, as there are so many students leaving this district, and transferring in from other schools between those grades. She stated a concern that the results could be skewed due to the small sample size.

Steve Finch presented a report on the Grant Street School Improvement Plan. The school made substantial progress this year, and has a plan in place for additional improvement next year.

TAPE 1, SIDE B

Mr. Eissinger expressed his appreciation to Dr. Finch for his hard work and enthusiasm.

Superintendent Opstad presented a Community Relations Update. He stated that originally the district planned to reserve two June dates with Fort Worden for the 2008 graduation, and choose between them on February 1. After communication with Ft. Worden, Mr. Opstad learned that McCurdy pavilion is already booked June 6-9, 2008. Mr. Opstad spoke to Park Manager Kate Burke about "booking rights" for use of the pavilion, and was told that the district benefits from an agreement between Fort Worden and the county and city government. This agreement (which sunsets in 2009) allows the district to rent the pavilion at a substantial discount. Under this agreement the district can book no more than one year in advance. Mr. Opstad reported that the date for the 2008 graduation has been set for June 12, 2008. He plans to continue discussion with Ms. Burke about graduation planning for 2009.

Superintendent Opstad stated that he recently taped a segment for PTTV, which will be broadcasted on Tuesday, May 22. In this program he reviewed the information he presented at the May 3rd community meeting.

Mr. Opstad also reported that the district had to close the pool at Mt. View on Wednesday, May 16, as the Mt. View boiler room flooded. Maintenance staff was able to pump out the room, and switch to the second boiler. The first boiler will need a new pump.

Steve McIntire presented the April Budget Status report. He stated that the Blue Bird bus ordered for spring delivery has not yet arrived. Discussion followed.

TAPE 2, SIDE A

Superintendent Opstad presented the Calendar of Events. Rita E. Beebe stated she will not be available for graduation on June 8th.

Mr. Opstad reviewed the information from an OSPI email regarding graduation requirements. The Board discussed a need to clarify which math classes meet OSPI's criteria of "increasing student's proficiency towards passing the WASL."

The following policies were brought for second review:

- Policy 3144/3144P: Release of Information Concerning Student Sexual and Kidnapping Offenders. It was recommended that under the paragraph "A principal receiving notice must disclose...", items A and B, the words "in the judgment of the principal" be deleted. It was also recommended that removing this language does not conflict with state law. The Board also questioned whether the procedure for this policy was too lengthy. This policy will be brought back for third review at the next meeting.
- Policy 3419/3419P: Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications. The Board questions whether this is a required policy, and requested that Hilary Metzger review the policy to clarify that the language describes what we actually do and doesn't presume a school nurse is always in attendance. This policy will be brought back for third review at a future meeting, after being reviewed by Ms. Metzger.
- Policy 5407/5407P: Military Leave. No changes recommended.
- Policy 5520/5520P: Staff Development. The Board discussed the meaning of "develop and adopt a professional growth program."

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- Policy 5610/5610P: Substitute Employment. The Board recommended this policy and procedure be reviewed by Kathy Nelson, Manager of Personnel/Payroll, to be certain that it matches what we really do. The Board also suggested that the language in the “retire/rehire” paragraph be reviewed and verified. Mr. Opstad suggested that after the close of the Legislative session there might be more changes to come for this policy.

TAPE 2, SIDE B

- Policy 5630/5630P: Volunteers. No changes recommended.
- Policy 5641/5641P: Student Teachers. No changes recommended.

Rita E. Beebe stated that there was no new information to give in a Legislative Update.

Mr. Eissingler reminded the Board that the next Joint work/study session with the City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall on Lawrence and Harrison.

The Board reviewed the schedule of proposed meeting dates for the 2007-08 school year. Mr. Opstad noted that there are two occasions (in November and May) where a Monday holiday required moving the Board meeting to Tuesday. Also noted was an error in July 2008. The first meeting in July will be July 14, not July 7. Discussion followed. Beth Young made a motion to approve the dates for Board meetings for the 2007-2008 school year as corrected. John Eissingler seconded the motion. Rita E. Beebe expressed concern over the 2007-2008 school year calendar as adopted at the May 22nd Board meeting, and stated that the way snow make up days are added at the end of the year is unclear. After discussion, the motion was approved 2-1.

Beth Young discussed the Crossroads meeting she attended in May, and requested that a Crossroads report be placed on the June 11th Board agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Opstad, Superintendent

ATTEST: _____
John Eissingler, Board Chairman