

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2015
Executive Session – 5:15 p.m.; Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Washougal School District Office

PRESENT: Ron Dinius, Board Director; Teresa Lees, Board Director; Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Karen Rubino, Board Director; Bruce Westfall, Board Director; and Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Performance of a public employee – RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Ron Dinius called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. He noted that the board would recess immediately to Executive Session to discuss the performance of an employee for approximately 70 minutes. The board returned to regular session at 6:20 p.m. and recessed until the start of the regular meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ron Dinius called the meeting back to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

3. AGENDA REVISIONS (none)

4. COMMENTS—BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Elaine Pfeifer commented that it is nice to have a full board again. She thanked the new board members for stepping up for this service.

Karen Rubino spoke about the upcoming bond election. A rally will be held on the evening of January 29 at Jemtegaard Middle School (JMS) with student speakers and valuable information about the current facilities needs of the district.

Teresa Lees noted that it is fun to see the entire community coming together to learn about the upcoming bond. She added that it is great to see the patrons who are present at tonight's board meeting.

Ron Dinius shared that the state's legislative session began yesterday, and that schools have been listed as the highest priority for the legislature. The board will receive updates from Karen Rubino, Legislative Chair, as the session moves along.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian began with an expression of appreciation for the board. She shared passages from the governor's "School Board Recognition Month" proclamation, and presented each board member with a bound journal, encouraging them to take time to capture their reflections, especially as related to their own leadership thoughts and experiences. Certificates were presented, and the audience applauded the board.

Dawn shared that the board's consent agenda includes a request to accept the resignation/retirement of Hathaway Elementary School (HES) Principal Laura Bolt, who has been with the district since 2003. Laura's teaching career was described, and her exceptional work in supporting instructional improvement was lauded. Dawn spoke of Laura as "a person who cares deeply for the welfare of every child and every staff member. Her caring manifests itself in so many practical ways – from opening hundreds of milk cartons each day to working with a desperate mother to help her find the resources needed so her child can be successful in class the next day." Dawn asked the board and

audience to join her in congratulating Laura on the exceptional contribution she has made to education over the course of her career.

Excelsior High School (EHS) will be hosting a Soup Dinner fundraiser, with all proceeds benefitting community support programs, including Re-Fuel Fridays (weekly free dinners) and HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves, socks/scarves). Supporting local community members in need is a cause close to heart for many EHS students.

Dawn shared a District Capital Bond Fact Sheet with the board and audience, which will be mailed to all district patrons later in the week. She expressed her appreciation to Jodi Thomas, Rene' Carroll and Les Brown for their work in producing this informative document.

Les Brown has been researching improvements to the district's phone system at the Bus Garage to provide better access for parents, staff and patrons, particularly during a weather closure incident or crisis situation that prompts multiple calls to the Bus Garage at the same time. The new system is much more versatile and user-friendly and very affordable. It will be installed in the next 4-5 weeks. Both systems will be in place during a training period with the dispatch staff. The new system will answer each call that comes in, so callers will not receive a busy signal if all staff members are taking calls. Callers sent to voicemail will receive a taped message intended to answer common questions. Parents will be able to leave a message so that a return call can be made.

The January 27 board meeting will be held at JMS for that school's improvement plan presentation. Dawn shared some information that will provide good background for the board prior to this presentation. As part of JMS's work to close the achievement gap, a Latino Family Night was held last week, with over 60 participants. Parents had the opportunity to share information with the principal and to learn more about how to support their children's learning at JMS. Dawn also explained the JMS discipline system and provided the board with data related to the number of discipline incidents. November showed the lowest number of offenses since this tracking began. Staff is seeing that there is better ability to intervene before a student crosses the line that leads to greater discipline.

Dawn closed with information about the very successful Festival of Trees held last month. This Washougal Lions Club-sponsored event made over \$11,000 this year (after expenses), all of which was distributed to the district's schools. She thanked all of the volunteers involved for this incredible event.

6. COMMENTS—CITIZENS

Gail Anderson spoke on behalf of the volunteer bond committee with an update on the campaign's activities. Buttons are being distributed, and the group's Facebook page has more than 500 followers, so the group is able to disseminate information well. Yard signs can be seen around the district. Of the 250 from the original order, very few are left, and most are out in the community. Doorbelling will take place from 10:00 – noon on January 24, and possibly on January 30 too. Sign-waving will happen January 26-30 and February 9-10. She urged anyone with questions or a desire to volunteer to contact a committee member. Contacts can be found at washougal4schools.org. The group will be reminding people to vote, and encourages positive letters to the editor of the local newspaper.

Angela Hancock, also from the bond committee, added that the group is holding a rally on January 29, 6:30 p.m. at JMS. They would like to have as many people attend as possible, to show the community's support for the bond. This short event will include speakers, student entertainment, and the showing of an informational video.

Elaine Pfeifer thanked the volunteers for their work in support of the bond.

Frank Zahn, Washougal Association of Educators (WAE) president, also thanked the bond

committee. It is wonderful to see that the board is planning for increased safety as well as for future growth. Frank welcomed the two new board members, thanking them for taking on this responsibility. He noted that he was officially attending the meeting in honor of Board Appreciation month, and added that he left a card from WAE at each board member's placard.

Keith Brown, Washougal resident, former educator and former firefighter, shared that he knows first hand the importance of providing a safe learning environment for students. He is concerned about the ever-increasing number of oil trains coming through the community carrying Bakken crude. If no action is taken and the proposed export terminal is built, this traffic will increase to 19 Bakken oil trains per day. While the school board does not have decision-making authority in this issue, it does have the ability to influence. Stevenson passed a strong resolution asking for protection. Keith urged the Board to take as strong an action as possible. The governor is poised to take action, but he needs significant push from communities that would be impacted. Keith thanked the board for bringing this issue up for discussion.

Larry Keister, a Washougal resident, spoke about the unique situation here in Washougal with oil trains sitting right outside the front door of the district's offices and schools. A resolution from the Board should indicate that this is unique to this particular area, with potential risk to students and staff due to the proximity of the rail line to Washougal's schools. As a citizen, he is not comfortable with this safety risk to students. Larry commended the Board for writing the resolution, which will make a strong statement. He urged the Board to write to the governor to explain Washougal's unique circumstances.

Ryan Rittenhouse, with Friends of the Columbia Gorge (Friends), voiced his concerns about both oil and coal trains. A wide range of communities and organizations have passed strong resolutions. He asked the Board to include in the resolution a request to the governor to deny permits for any new terminals that would result in an increase in this type of rail traffic. He thanked the Board for its support of this issue.

Tom Gordon, of Washougal, spoke about the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) hearing held in Washougal in November. He took issue with the BNSF representative who expressed that the oil tankers carry crude that is "no more volatile than gasoline", since gasoline is often used to make explosions. If there is a spark in the vicinity of an accident, there is the potential for something horrible to happen. The explosion in Canada resulted in flames spreading in a wave front over a very large area.

Ernie Suggs, Washougal Schools Foundation (WSF) representative, thanked board members for their time and valuable volunteer work. Ernie was able to attend the Latino event at JMS recently, and stated that it was very interesting. WSF will meet at District Office at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow (1-14-2015). The group would very much like to have a Board member representative at their monthly meetings, which are held the second Wednesday of every month for one hour.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Board members received and reviewed these documents in advance of the meeting.

A. Meeting Minutes (December 9, 2014)

B. Accounts Payable

General Fund

Warrant numbers 205478 – 205481 totaling \$16,238.13 (Pay date: Dec. 23, 2014)

Warrant numbers 205370 – 205458 totaling \$249,630.92 (Pay date: Dec. 26, 2014)

Warrant numbers 205514 – 205588 totaling \$202,866.93 (Pay date: Jan. 16, 2015)

ASB Fund

Warrant number 20364 totaling \$899.85 (Pay date: Dec. 23, 2014)

Warrant numbers 20347 – 20363 totaling \$17,567.99 (Pay date: Dec. 26, 2014)

Warrant numbers 20365 – 20376 totaling \$8,712.91 (Pay date: Jan. 16, 2015)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant number 3879 totaling \$14, 040.00 (Pay date: Jan. 16, 2015)

ACH

ACH numbers 141500180 – 141500210 totaling \$40,414.31 (Pay date: Dec. 26, 2014)

ACH numbers 141500215 – 141500241 totaling \$12,944.88 (Pay date: Jan. 16, 2015)

C. Payroll (December 2014)

Warrant numbers 205459 – 205477 totaling \$1,976,477.69 (Pay date: Dec. 31, 2014)

D. Personnel Report

Administrative Resignations: Gordon Washburn, Associate Principal (WHS); Laura Bolt, Principal (HES).

Certificated Leave of Absence: Amy Keller, Teacher – Kindergarten PE & Music (GES).

Classified Appointment: Jennifer Donovan, Para-educator – Special Education (CH-S).

Coaching Resignation: Todd Watts, Boys' Basketball Coach & Equipment (CCMS); John McLaughlin, Boys' Basketball Coach & Equipment (JMS); Nicole Anderson, Volleyball Coach (JMS).

Winter Sports Coach Assignments: Adam Utehs, Boys' Basketball Coach (JMS); James Vaughan, Boys' Basketball Coach (CCMS).

E. Contracts

F. Travel

G. Field Trips

H. Donations

Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Teresa Lees seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Smarter Balanced Assessment

David Tudor opened with special thanks to the Camas School District, for their assistance with this presentation. He shared with the Board the three main components to the new assessment system: Digital Library, Interim Assessments and Summative Assessments, and highlighted important components of each. David shared assessment window dates and expectations for the Summative Assessment results, noting that 2015 will set a new baseline of student performance in the state. The Board thanked David for the information.

B. Review of 2014-2015 ESD 112 Contracted Services

Dawn Tarzian shared with the Board a summary of contracts that the district currently holds with ESD 112. Contracts of monetary value above the threshold for administrator approval will be coming to the Board for approval later in the year.

9. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Responsibilities 7 – Budget

Brian Wallace overviewed the budget process timeline. Currently, information is being gathered from administrators and building principals to begin the process for creating the district's 2015-16 budget. District administration will be communicating this information with the board to ensure that the work produces a budget that supports board and community priorities and goals. Enrollment projections will determine the basics of the budget. Brian will continue to work toward making the budgeting information more understandable to the board and the community. The board thanked Brian for this information. Ron Dinius collected the monitoring report response forms from all board members, noting the approval of Executive Responsibilities (ER) 7.

B. Executive Responsibilities 4 – Treatment of Staff, Volunteers and Parents

Dawn Tarzian noted that she and Marian Young worked on ER 4 together. They overviewed sections of the ER that address the system that has been created to ensure that all teachers are Highly Qualified. Dawn also spoke to the student discipline referral process in the district, and the new tracking systems that have been implemented to protect students from harassment and bullying. Ron Dinius collected the monitoring report response forms from all board members, noting the approval of ER 4.

10. WORK SESSION

A. Washougal School District Board of Directors Oil Train Traffic Resolution Discussion and First Draft

Board members discussed possible revisions to the first draft of the proposed resolution addressing oil train traffic. Topics included more specificity as to the proximity of schools to the tracks, inclusion of information about the community’s homes along the tracks and the fact that students sometimes cross the tracks to get to school. They would like to see the fact that the district is divided by the tracks included in the language. Concerns about additional tracks being added in Washougal were voiced, since this creates a potential for increased danger. Terminology about potential explosions was brought up, and a discussion about the difference in risks related to increased traffic versus oil tankers specifically ensued. The board will review a second draft of the resolution at the next regular meeting.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dawn Tarzian highlighted agenda items for the next regular board meeting.

12. BOARD EVALUATION

Ron Dinius collected the board’s self-evaluation forms. The results are attached.

13. ADJOURN

Elaine Pfeifer moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Teresa Lees seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 27th day of January 2015

President

Secretary to the Board

BOARD MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: **January 13, 2015**

Instructions for 1: S = Satisfactory I = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory

S I U

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. I was prepared for the meeting. | 3 |
| | <u>YES</u> <u>NO</u> |
| 2. Our agenda was designed to meet our obligations and objectives (district governance, future planning, board goals) | 4 |
| 3. Meeting Elements: | |
| a. The Board President facilitated management of the meeting time and agenda | 4 |
| b. Ample time was given to discuss agenda topics | 4 |
| c. Each board member was given the opportunity to speak | 4 |
| d. Directors, presenters and the public were treated in a dignified and respectful manner | 4 |
| e. Adherence to policy leadership vs administrative detail | 4 |
| 4. The board demonstrated a sense of responsibility for excellence in governing the district. | 4 |

Comments (If you answered “no” to any of the above, please provide comments):

(Only four evaluations received for this meeting.)