

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Washougal School District Office

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

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ron Dinius called the meeting to order at 6:34 and Karen Rubino led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVISIONS (none)

3. CONSIDER PATRON(S) LETTER OF INTEREST FOR DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR POSITION

Ron Dinius introduced Teresa Lees, who recently submitted a letter of interest for the District 1 position. Teresa spoke about why she is interested in the position, provided some background information about herself and her family, and shared about her community involvement. She introduced her husband, Randy, and her children, who were all present.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR POSITION

Elaine Pfeifer moved to appoint Teresa Less to the District 1 Director position. Karen Rubino seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Teresa repeated the Oath of Office after Superintendent Dawn Tarzian. The Board and audience congratulated Teresa on her appointment, and Teresa joined the board at the front table.

5. COMMENTS—BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Karen Rubino thanked all who attended the recent School Safety and Facilities Planning meeting at Washougal High School (WHS). The board relies on the kind of input provided by the community at these events to be able to make good decisions. Meetings will be held at the district's other schools over the coming weeks. Karen also thanked Vaughn Lein and Casey Wyckoff for their dedication to these meetings.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD REPORT

Sam Barnes, WHS student representative to the board, shared that there is an immense amount of school pride being shown by the student body, which is especially evident by the great sportsmanship displayed at athletic competitions. There is a great emphasis on using Panther Time more effectively this year. Leadership class is going well, with all elected officers able to participate in the class this year. Homecoming is coming up soon. WHS student Paige Moore will be the student representative to the Washougal City Council this year. The WHS Volunteer Fair was held recently. This event is mandatory for all students and provided great information about student opportunities. The school's new tardy policy seems to be working well. Students are working toward solutions to the problems with garbage around campus, most noticeably around the stadium. Off-campus lunches are being monitored more closely, with only juniors and seniors able to leave campus. WHS recently received a \$7,000 donation from Daimler for the school's career and technical education (CTE) program, which is exciting. Student sets of chrome books may be purchased with the donation.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian shared that October is Disability History Month. One of the goals of this observance is to increase respect and promote acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities. This month, teachers have been provided with curriculum resources to add lessons that are designed to inspire

students with disabilities to feel a greater sense of pride, reduce harassment and bullying and help keep students with disabilities in school. Dawn shared a summary of materials that will be posted on the district's website for the month to draw attention to several famous historical people who have made tremendous contributions to society, even though their disabilities might have been considered by some to be a barrier to these contributions.

October is also National Principal Appreciation Month. Washougal's professionals are certainly deserving of our recognition and appreciation. They give tirelessly of their time, taking on tasks that range from setting up cafeteria tables to assessing the quality of a lesson and giving feedback that will build skill and confidence. They keep our children (and our staff) safe. They are the first line of responsibility for just about everything. We are deeply appreciative of their commitment to our children and their education. Dawn encouraged the board and audience to find a way to let our principals, associate principals and dean of students know how much their work means to us.

Board members had previously asked about data surrounding the district's home-schooled students. As of the middle of September this year, the district had no homeschoolers attending our schools part time. There are several home-schooled students who are entered into our student system for athletics only. There are a handful of homeschoolers signed up for full time Running Start. Last year there were a couple of students taking band or choir only at the middle schools, but none this year. There are four students who have completed boundary exception forms out to online school through other districts who take a few classes here in their home district.

Dawn thanked Mark Jasper, the district's Food Services Director, for his work to obtain a grant from Child Nutrition Services at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Washougal's \$10,816 award will be used to purchase restaurant-grade equipment for Hathaway Elementary School's kitchen.

Canyon Creek Middle School (CCMS) principal Sandi Christensen has worked with researchers from Stanford University to have CCMS included in research being conducted related to growth mindsets. The research will include three lessons that will fit into the end of the day Focus Time and will tie in with one of the school improvement goals around motivation. Parents will be notified before the research activities begin and will have the ability to opt their children out if they wish. The school will receive group data after the study. Dawn gave a very brief explanation of Carol Dweck's research related to growth mindset thus far.

Congratulations are in order to Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School teacher Lucie Willeman! OSPI and the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) have accepted her as a Washington State Fellow for the 2014-15 school year. As a fellow, Lucie will join a statewide effort to build teacher leadership and a foundation of knowledge and skills to support instructional shifts necessary to help all students in Washington state be career and college ready.

Dawn read an email from a La Center patron who shared how impressed she has been with Washougal athletes as they compete with other schools. She wrote that the CCMS volleyball teams represented their school very well. "They were respectful and even though they lost they were smiling and interacting with the La Center students. It was nice to see this kind of sportsmanship... I think your volleyball team represented their school with pride, respect and they appeared to be having a lot of fun too!"

8. COMMENTS—CITIZENS

Paul Smith of Washougal spoke about the oil trains and the negative impacts that these trains do have and will continue to have. He spoke about recent train explosions, and the fact that the rail industries are resisting increased safety standards. Many of the oil cars are very old, and while there are plans for them to be phased out, the industry is asking for seven years to accomplish this, which is far too long. Paul lives above the National Scenic Area in the gorge. He noted that Skamania County operates with an all-volunteer fire department. Both sides of the Columbia River lack the infrastructure to deal with an oil explosion or spill. There is limited emergency response equipment

in the gorge. Increased oil train traffic would create even more problems for the at-grade rail crossings in Washougal, since these unit trains can be more than a mile long. When communities add their voices together, the agencies providing oversight and permitting will listen. There is no economic value to Washougal coming from increased oil train traffic. Please urge the governor not to approve any projects that would increase this traffic through Washougal and spread the word to teachers and parents, since this issue greatly impacts the district's families.

Tom Gordon of Washougal urged the board to draft a resolution similar to the City of Washougal's upcoming resolution concerning unsafe oil trains coming through our town. The City will hold a workshop on October 13 about this issue. Washougal has schools and an administration building so close to the railroad tracks. The combination of resolutions from the Washougal City Council and the Washougal School Board would send a powerful message to Governor Inslee that we don't want dangerous oil trains coming through our community. The risks to our schools alone should make that evident.

Ernie Suggs of Washougal recently attended the WHS Volunteer Fair, which is a great event. In speaking with students, he learned that not many know about the Washougal Schools Foundation (WSF) and the work they do. Teachers know, but maybe the kids should as well. WSF is hoping to broaden its name base.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (September 23, 2014)

B. Accounts Payable

General Fund

Warrant numbers 204634 – 204653 totaling \$23,961.30 (Pay date: 10-10-14)

Warrant numbers 204654 – 204731 totaling \$69,547.34 (Pay date: 10-10-14)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 20250 – 20251 totaling \$214.03 (Pay date: 10-10-14)

Warrant numbers 20252 – 20259 totaling \$7,424.00 (Pay date: 10-10-14)

ACH

ACH numbers 141500039 – 141500064 totaling \$8,726.74 (Pay date: 10-10-14)

C. Payroll (September 2014)

Warrant numbers 204580 – 240590 totaling \$2,088,007.77 (Pay date: 9-30-14)

D. Personnel Report

Classified Appointments: Michelle Lewis, Para-educator, SPED EBD (JMS).

Classified Resignation: Icela Maldonado, Para-educator, SPED EBD (WHS).

E. Contracts

F. Travel

G. Field Trips

H. Donations

Karen Rubino moved, seconded by Elaine Pfeifer, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

10. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Enrollment Report

Brian Wallace shared enrollment data as of October 1 of this year. He also provided comparisons to the past year's enrollment and budgeted student FTE. The board thanked Brian for the information.

B. Fall Class Size Report

Marian Young Provided information regarding class sizes, specifically as related to the overload limits set in the collective bargaining agreement. She explained that overload meetings are held once per semester, at which time all class sizes and total number of students per teacher are

reviewed. Marian provided the average class size for each school in the district. The district can be very proud of the class sizes, most of which are well below the overload limits, allowing for students to receive more individualized attention. The board thanked Marian for the information and the great work done to achieve these numbers.

C. Scope & Timing Discussion for Capital Bond Recommendation from Long-Range Facilities Planning, continued from September 23, 2014

Joe Steinbrenner, Vaughn Lein and Casey Wyckoff continued the discussion from the previous meeting about the district's facilities prioritizations.

The board agreed that the replacement of roofing at Gause and Hathaway Elementary Schools is a priority. It was clarified that only the single-ply membrane portions of both roofs need replaced.

The mechanical systems at Hathaway and Gause were discussed. The concept would be to replace the current units with more central, commercial units, resulting in better climate control as well as reduced energy costs. Problems occur in the Hathaway gym when the controls are not working properly, and also when there are too many warm days in a row to allow the area to cool at night. The board would like additional information about the costs related to air-conditioning the Hathaway gym. Vaughn recommended that this data be gathered for the other non-conditioned buildings.

Upgrading the site lighting at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary and Canyon Creek Middle Schools is a safety issue. The board would like to pursue grants and economic incentives through utilities for this upgrade, but would like the project considered a priority no matter the funding.

The board discussed upgrading the current Bus Barn to continue as the district's mechanical facility, while relocating the Transportation office, bus parking and dispatch to the Kerr property. The district has already begun discussions with the City of Washougal about the impacts of this proposed change. The board agreed that the Transportation facility is a priority, but would like to see a comparison of costs if the entire facility were moved to the Kerr property, including the construction of a new maintenance building at this location.

The district will work with City and County offices to best anticipate where new growth will occur. This will help focus the search for additional property for schools. The board agreed by consensus to study this issue further and not have this cost added to a possible bond request at this time.

The board thanked the presenters for the information.

11. PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

A. Naming of one field at Schmid Memorial Complex

A request was presented at a previous meeting to name one field at the Schmid Complex after a respected community member. Board members shared their discomfort in approving this type of request without following a set procedure involving a more comprehensive process. Elaine Pfeifer moved to deny the naming request. Karen Rubino seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

12. POLICY/PROCEDURE REVISIONS

A. Procedure 6970P – Naming Facilities (Information Only)

Dawn Tarzian shared a procedural document to accompany the district's policy related to the naming of facilities.

B. Policies 1400, 1420, 1805, 2161, 2162, 2337, 3247, 3418, 5409, 6605

The board agreed by consensus to bring the above policies back to the next regular meeting for a second reading to allow the newly appointed board member time to review.

13. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Responsibilities 11— Communication and Counsel to the Board

Executive Responsibilities (ER) 11 will be brought back to the next regular meeting to allow the

newly appointed board member time to review.

B. Executive Responsibilities 12—Communication with the Public

ER 12 will also be brought back to the next meeting. However, since members of the Public Relations (PR) team were present, the board asked to hear them present evidence in support of the ER at this meeting. Les Brown and Jodi Thomas noted that René Carroll, who could not be present, is the third member of their team. Les and Jodi shared the district’s Communication Plan, which maps out the team’s efforts for the school year. A focus on increasing the number of news releases to media about excellent things happening in our schools was discussed. The use of social media to promote positive stories was also shared. The PR team worked on the informational campaign related to what would be funded by the operations and technology levies last year. Two videos produced during this time were used as levy informational pieces, but have life beyond the levies, since they can be used to showcase excellence in our schools for a variety of events. Each year the PR team helps the district to celebrate certified and classified appreciation weeks. Weekly “Did you know?” and Partners for Schools communications provide information and updates. “Realtor cards” have been developed to help local professionals stay informed about the district as they meet with new community members. The PR team also helps get district families needing resources connected with community outreach programs that can help. The board thanked the team, noting that they are doing an excellent job! Elaine Pfeifer added that the breadth of the work is huge. There is a phenomenal amount of material being produced, and the community has a much better sense about what is going on in the district.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dawn Tarzian highlighted some of the agenda topics for upcoming meetings.

15. BOARD EVALUATION

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

16. ADJOURN

Elaine Pfeifer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Karen Rubino seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 21st day of October, 2014

President

Secretary to the Board

BOARD MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2014

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

	<u>S</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>U</u>
1. I was prepared for the meeting.	4		
	<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	3.5*	0.5	
b. Ample time was given to discuss agenda topics	3	1	
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):

* *“a little long”*

“Great facilities presentation”