

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Blaine Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVISIONS

None.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terrie Hutchins spoke about the recent Clackamas Town Center tragedy. She also thanked Rhea Bohlin for the meeting treats. Karen Rubino added to Terrie's comments about the recent shooting. She congratulated the entire Washougal School District for its tremendous Stuff the Bus competition collections. She is very appreciative of this community for these kinds of efforts. Ron Dinius spoke about the district's recent energy grant award. Elaine Pfeifer noted that the Stuff the Bus food drive competition brought out enthusiasm from all students, from high school to elementary grades. It was nice to see all age groups of students working together to support the local community. Blaine Peterson added that 85,000 pounds of food was collected all together. What a great program! He also highlighted Post-Record stories covering the district's wrestling team, a local gymnast and last weekend's Festival of Trees event. The Camas-Washougal Rotary Club's donation of dictionaries to all third graders is also in progress. There is "great stuff" happening here!

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian shared that the slideshow of students that was playing prior to the start of the board meeting was prepared for use by the district's Partners for Schools organizers, and will be regularly updated and shown in the community. The next Partners for Schools event will be held in January at Jemtegaard Middle School.

Dawn shared an enrollment report showing that the district has 177 students enrolled above last spring's projections.

Stuff the Bus was a huge success, thanks to the whole Washougal/Camas community. At Gause Elementary School, two of the classrooms (Mrs. Klemmer's and Mrs. Yung's) collected so much food that their graphical charts had to be extended across the ceiling! Dawn shared a photo of Gause 4th graders excited about their chart.

The Festival of the Trees once again raised holiday cheer and more than \$4,500 to be split between the district's seven schools. Though a major project for the Washougal Lions Club, this event is a combined effort of the whole community—schools, businesses and community service organizations. The event featured 20 decorated trees and more than 50 baskets, all going to the highest bidding donor. Major supporters were the Washougal River Christmas tree Farm, Columbia Litho, the management of Washougal Town Square, and the faculty, parents and students of the Washougal schools.

Cape Horn-Skye Elementary fourth graders' "The Giving Tree Project" allowed students to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate at the Open House Homeless Shelter in Vancouver. Congratulations to Washougal students who placed in the VFW Post 4278 Youth Essay Contest. Les Brown has provided tremendous leadership as he has worked with the Central Office staff to create and publish a 2012-2013 Staff Handbook that will be the district's ongoing way to help assure that our staff is educated on the important policies and requirements of the district. Each staff member will be asked to review the policies included in the handbook and sign a form stating that they have had that opportunity.

Last Friday, notification came from OSPI that the district received funding for the Jobs Now Act Grant for more than \$911,000. Retrofitting of district schools, including some new chillers and lighting will be made possible due to this grant. Congratulations to the district, and thanks to the board for making the difficult decisions necessary to move forward with this.

5. COMMENTS - CITIZENS

Gail Anderson recently accompanied district runners to a competition in New Mexico. It was a great experience for all, with Olympic athletes speaking during opening ceremonies. Gail thanked district coaches for inspiring the love of running in their students.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Board members received and reviewed the following documents in advance of the meeting:

A. Meeting Minutes (November 27, 2012)

B. Accounts Payable (December 2012)

General Fund

Warrant numbers 187534 – 187637 in the amount of \$213,968.40 (Pay date: Dec. 14, 2012)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 19467 – 19487 in the amount of \$20,029.66 (Pay date: Dec. 14, 2012)

ACH

ACH numbers 121300128 – 121300162 in the amount of \$17,809.48 (Pay date: Dec. 14, 2012)

C. Accounts Payable (pre-authorization of December 2012 second run)

D. Payroll (November 2012)

Warrant numbers 187465 – 187527 in the amount of \$1,916,468.74 (Pay date: Nov. 30, 2012)

E. Budget Status Report (October 2012)

F. Personnel Report

G. Contracts

H. Executive Responsibilities 15 – District Calendar

I. Travel

J. Field Trips

K. Donations

Ron Dinius moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Karen Rubino seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Demographics Study

Dawn Tarzian shared the documents previously sent to board members in their packets, including the most recent demographic studies conducted by the district. She also shared recent estimates for current proposals from the same two providers used previously – Cascade Planning and Portland State University. Ron Dinius asked about forecasting versus historical data in the two proposals.

He asked that the district make sure that the bids include completion of the same work. Karen Rubino asked if the board could see a copy of the Cascade Planning report recently completed for the Camas School District. Elaine Pfeifer shared information about a process used by the Bellevue School District, which is less expensive than this type of study. Dawn shared that the district staff recommendation is that the board wait until the next school year to conduct the study. Staff members would like to first see what impact the opening of a new elementary school in Camas will have on Washougal enrollment, and would also appreciate being able to plan financially for the study in next year's budget. Blaine Peterson asked for more clarification on the proposals, as well as consideration of the Bellevue process before a decision is made. This topic will be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

B. Facilities Capacity and All-day Kindergarten Costs

Joe Steinbrenner presented facilities information in response to the board's question about the space requirements necessary to host all-day, every-day kindergarten. He presented an inventory of classroom capacity at each district building, as well as a summary of status of the district's portable classrooms, including installation dates, which show that some of the structures are showing the signs of their ages. Joe also shared a plan from each elementary school showing how each building would like to use their spaces if they were to add all-day kindergarten. Joe's conclusion is that space is available, should all-day kindergarten become a reality, either through district choice or state mandate. Rosann Lassman spoke to the additional costs related to all-day kindergarten, estimated at \$325,000-\$350,000 per year, including additional teaching staff and transportation costs. The board thanked Joe and Rosann for this information.

C. Linkage Review, draft survey

Les Brown presented a draft of a survey for recent graduates, as part of the board's linkage informational gathering. It is proposed to distribute the survey through Facebook pages for each graduating class. The survey is being piloted with a small group of students from Washougal High School (WHS) and Excelsior High School (EHS). The data will be collected during February, with the online survey open for approximately one month. A report of the data will be presented to the board in April. The district will invite former students to attend the May 14, 2013 board meeting, which will be held at WHS. Board members made several suggested additions to the survey, and Les asked them to contact him directly with any additional feedback. Les thanked the WHS counselors for their significant input in the development of the survey.

8. WORK SESSION

A. WSSDA Conference Debrief – Board Presentation of Key Learnings

Board members who attended the November 2012 Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) annual conference shared important information gained from the sessions each of them attended.

Elaine Pfeifer spoke about the challenge of setting a course for the district that ensures that the state requirements are met, but also nurtures each child's interests and needs. The whole community is part of the educational process. School partnerships, task forces and community committees have all been very valuable, but there is still more work for the board to do, especially in setting finite, focused goals for the district, and communicating those goals to the community. There is also a great deal of work to be done toward accountability. Vancouver School District (VSD) presented, and they have some really good, practical advice for creating district-wide conditions that support student and staff success. VSD board members visit schools with the superintendent, with the visit focused on a particular goal. Local community members also tour district programs. VSD can be a good, local model for Washougal's board.

Ron Dinius attended the Basics of School Finance workshop, which provided great information. He stressed the importance of levy equalization. Washougal is already doing many of the things that the presenters suggested, including the maintenance of a healthy fund balance. Regional meetings, joint board work sessions, legislative workshops and meetings with legislators are all essential, and he is glad that Washougal is working toward more focus on these types of collaborations. Ron would like to learn more about the superintendent evaluation pilot program as well as board leadership training.

Karen Rubino agreed that the VSD board presentation was very impressive. Their board has become adept at motivating themselves and their staff. They shared some excellent ideas to make boards stronger. Karen summarized a major theme of the conference as a warning not to let common core state standards take away from imagination and creativity. She urged the board to keep this in the back of their minds as decisions are made, working to meet standards, but keeping a healthy balance.

Blaine Peterson shared information from the Maintenance and Operations Levy presentation. A two-year planning process is recommended, with the district and board being very clear about the intended use for levy funds and clearly communicating those uses to the community. The Apple workshop showed how interactive curriculum materials can be through iPad applications. Also stressed was the value of “flipping”, with lectures received electronically at home allowing time for more creative projects at school. He also stressed the message that districts must work not to lose innovation, critical thinking and self-motivation, the things that have made this nation great but are not assessed on a standardized test.

9. ANNUAL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. Call for nominations for President, 2013

Elaine Pfeifer nominated Blaine Peterson for President. There were no other nominations.

B. Election of President, 2013

Blaine Peterson was elected unanimously as the President of the Board of Directors for 2013.

C. Call for nominations for Vice-President, 2013

Terrie Hutchins nominated Elaine Pfeifer for Vice-President. There were no other nominations.

D. Election of Vice-President, 2013

Elaine Pfeifer was elected unanimously as the Vice-President of the Board of Directors for 2013.

E. Call for nominations for Legislative Representative, 2013-2014

Karen Rubino nominated Ron Dinius to serve as the Board’s Legislative Representative for a two-year term, 2013-2014.

F. Nomination of Legislative Representative, 2013-2014

Ron Dinius was elected unanimously as Legislative Representative for a two-year term, 2013-2014.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board will further discuss the enrollment and demographics study, as well as a timeline for the energy grant expenditures. They would also like further information regarding the state of the district’s portable classrooms, perhaps at a meeting farther in the future. It was noted that paver brick purchases to support the new turf field have been extended into January, and possibly February. The board will also discuss the district’s next levy at an upcoming meeting.

11. BOARD EVALUATION

Blaine Peterson collected the board's self-evaluation form from each board member present. The results are attached.

12. ADJOURN

Elaine Pfeifer moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Terrie Hutchins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 8th day of January 2013

President

Secretary to the Board

BOARD MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: December 11, 2012

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

	S	I	U
1. Board members were prepared for the meeting.	1	3	1
2. Our agenda was well designed.	5	0	0
3. Each board member was given an adequate opportunity to participate in discussion and decision-making.	5	0	0
4. The board's treatment of all persons was courteous, dignified, and fair. There was a respectful atmosphere.	3	2	0
5. We practiced good parliamentary procedure.	4	1	0
6. The board demonstrated a sense of responsibility for excellence in governing the district.	3	2	0
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
7. The board adhered to its adopted governance style:			
a. It emphasized the future and the total community:	5		
b. It encouraged diversity in viewpoints:	5		
c. It exercised policy leadership more than overseeing administrative detail:	5		
d. It maintained a clear distinction between the roles of board and staff:	5		
e. It worked for group agreement and responsibility:	5		
f. Progress toward board goals: <i>(one answer left blank, with "goals" circled)</i>	4		
8. Your suggestions on where we could do better: <i>(none)</i>			
9. Additional Comments: <i>(none)</i>			