

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Excelsior High School

PRESENT: Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Karen Rubino, Board Director; Ron Dinius, Board Director; Terrie Hutchins, Board Director; and Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. The pre-arranged absence of Board Director Blaine Peterson was excused.

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. AGENDA REVISIONS

None.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terrie Hutchins spoke about the need for more local jobs for our students and graduates. She is concerned about the unfilled commercial properties in the city.

Karen Rubino visited Hathaway Elementary School following the last board meeting. She wanted to thank Principal Laura Bolt publicly for providing her with more information about the school's work, and noted that she is very pleased with what the staff there is doing. Karen is looking forward to spending time at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School tomorrow, for Take Your Parent to School Day, where she will be a "pretend parent".

Ron Dinius announced upcoming meetings that may be of interest to board members. The State of the County address will be held on March 14 at 4:00 at Prairie High School. Attendees will hear updates from the Clark County Commissioners at this meeting. The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Spring Regional meeting will be held on March 27 in Kelso. There will once again be a Teacher/Principal Evaluation Pilot (TPEP) workshop immediately prior to the regional meeting. Ron shared information about opportunities for teachers, parents, board members and school administrators to go to Olympia to speak with legislators, and possibly testify in front of the House or Senate. Dates for our region are February 18-22 and April 1-5. Please let Ron know if you are interested in attending one of these sessions. Brian Baird was in the local area last night as part of a Listening Tour, working toward improved K-20 educational alignment. Ron will share the minutes from this meeting with the other board members.

Elaine Pfeifer congratulated the girls' and boys' wrestling teams for the large number of athletes going to the state tournament. She was able to go to the retirement celebration for Bob Widner to acknowledge his 29 years of service to the district. It was a nice event, and Bob spoke about how appreciative he was to have employment in the district all those years. Elaine also attended Cape Horn-Skye's School of Distinction assembly, where students' achievements were recognized. She appreciates how the school is building a culture of modeling and rewarding good behavior.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Canyon Creek Middle School student, Emma Hein, won second place at the state level for her Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) essay entry. She was presented with a \$400 check at school, where her teacher, principal and classmates helped celebrate her success.

Gause Elementary School recently held "No Name Calling Week", which also focused on inviting

students to show their individuality and embrace what makes them special. Teachers used the special week to focus on positive behaviors and draw attention to forming good relationships, practicing refraining from name calling and to prevent bullying of any kind. A poster campaign was held to illustrate an end to bullying and promote kindness.

Gause second graders were able to glimpse into a vastly different culture thanks to a visit from Maasai warrior and elder, Sabore Ole Oyie, from the Ewaso Nyiro region of Kenya. Students have been studying facts about Kenyan culture, animals, geography and customs in preparation for the visit. Ole Oyie spoke to the students about life in his village and the different challenges they face, like recognizing the footprints of animals and accessing clean water, including the fact that the women and girls in this region must walk 6-8 miles one-way to collect water from the river, “and because fetching water consumes most of their day, many girls don’t have the opportunity to attend school,” he said. The issue of clean water and education for girls is a major part of Ole Oyia’s work.

The Washougal High School (WHS) Career Center has been busy. Last Tuesday, a representative from Boeing spoke with students interested in participating in a 7-week paid internship from June 25 through August 9. Tomorrow, WHS will host a Career Day Event, where students will have a unique opportunity to meet people from all career paths. All students will participate in this event as part of their High School and Beyond Plan requirement. On Thursday, a representative from Central Washington University will speak with interested students, and on Saturday an Aviation Resource Fair will be presented at the Pearson Air Museum for anyone with an interest in the aviation career field. On February 21, all sophomores will have a chance to tour the Clark County Skills Center and check out the many great programs offered to students. Students are invited to attend the upcoming annual Professional Technical Day at Clark College on February 28.

Excelsior High School (EHS) is kept informed of all of the activities that are planned at WHS, and EHS students are eligible to participate in the field trips, tours and career events.

Dawn expressed special thanks to Joe Steinbrenner, Rod Heller and Jack Walker for the new fence and new injury-preventing woodchips at the Gause preschool play area. The staff and students are very excited about these improvements! Dawn shared a picture of the preschoolers on their playground. Additional thanks to Metro Landscape Supplies, Inc. who gifted to the district the cedar chips, valued at nearly \$1000.

Dawn shared the tremendous success of WHS student athletes, both in scholarship and sportsmanship. The boys’ and girls’ wrestling and basketball teams have had very successful seasons, and many athletes are still competing at the District, Regional and State levels.

On a sad note, the district’s SMART Team was called upon last Friday, as the principal at Stevenson-Carson High School announced that she was unable to return to work due to her progressing illness. Mary LaFrance, Julie Bristol, Heather Kassel and Lori Schilling spent the day in Stevenson, assisting their community as they processed the sadness and sense of loss. The Stevenson-Carson superintendent, Dr. Teena McDonald, expressed her deepest gratitude for the assistance of the dynamic and caring SMART Team members from around the region.

5. COMMENTS - CITIZENS

Gail Anderson expressed her appreciation for the level of communication with families that WHS Principal Aaron Hansen has worked to achieve.

Rick Thomas, campaign chair for the WHS Turf Campaign, shared updates and ideas from the committee. Just over \$16,000 has been collected so far, and the group is confident they can reach \$30,000 or even more. Rick asked the district and board to consider a black colored turf field. Though there will not be the cost savings that was once anticipated, there are other benefits

associated with a non-traditional colored field. He asked for board and community input about the idea, noting that students polled are overwhelmingly in favor. Rick believes a colored field would convey the great sense of pride the school has about its athletic programs. Dawn Tarzian added that the turf committee is not in complete agreement about the color choice at this time. She would like to see the community engaged and made aware of the possibility of this change in the field's appearance, noting that the new field will be a tremendous source of pride no matter what the color. The committee will bring the board another update in April, at which time a decision will have been made about the turf color.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (January 22, 2013)

B. Accounts Payable

General Fund

Warrant numbers 200180 – 200183 in the amount of \$8,939.27 (Pay date: Jan. 25, 2013)

Warrant numbers 200215 – 200321 in the amount of \$212,591.62 (Pay date: Feb. 15, 2013)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 19526 – 19560 in the amount of \$27,913.37 (Pay date: Feb. 15, 2013)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant number 3833 in the amount of \$2,160.00 (Pay date: Feb. 15, 2013)

ACH

ACH numbers 121300214 – 121300240 totaling \$17,891.25 (Pay date: Feb. 15, 2013)

C. Payroll (January 2013)

Warrant numbers 200055 – 200077 and 200184 – 200214 in the amount of \$1,835,578.18 (Pay date: Jan. 31, 2013)

D. Personnel Report

E. Contracts

F. Executive Responsibilities 7 – Budget Planning

G. Travel

H. Field Trips

I. Donations

Elaine Pfeifer noted the additions to the personnel report since the original board materials were prepared. Ron Dinius moved, seconded by Karen Rubino, to approve the consent agenda as presented with the noted addition. The motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK SESSION

A. Levy Renewal Discussion

Elaine Pfeifer introduced Donna Gregg, Director of Business Services for the Camas School District, and Brett Blechschmidt, Assistant Fiscal Officer from ESD 112, to share information about the levy renewal process. Dawn thanked them both for their willingness to present to the board. Donna and Brett highlighted statistics from Washougal's current levy, and explained how changes in assessed values impact levy rates. When property values go down (as they have in the past few years), levy rates go up, even though the total amount collected remains the same, which can be confusing to some voters. Brett and Donna also provided information about the state's levy equalization funding and showed the per-student spending for local neighboring districts. Brett shared his appreciation for Washougal's proposed timeline related to levy decisions, noting that there are valuable opportunities for voter education and input to be taking place over the summer

months, prior to the official filing of the levy resolution. The board thanked Donna and Brett for the very valuable and helpful information.

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Excelsior High School Improvement Plan presentation

Aaron Hansen, Excelsior High School (EHS) principal, welcomed the board to the school. He thanked Michelle Rutherford, one of the school's newer staff members, for all of the work she has done to create a welcoming entrance and front office. Aaron shared EHS's demographics information. The school currently has 72 students enrolled, with another 11 on the wait list. He highlighted the school's goals, including improving the number of students meeting standard on the high school proficiency examinations (HSPE) and end of course (EOC) assessments, improving the graduation rate to 75% in 2013, and integrating technology into all content areas. He shared the school's successes and programs that are working well, spoke about new staff members and partnerships in the community. He also walked the board through the school's new and very improved web site, which has proven to be a great communication tool for students, staff and families. Michelle Rutherford shared examples of some amazing things happening in the school. The school has received grant awards and generous donations from business partners. Columbia Credit Union sponsored the EHS entry in the Festival of Trees event, and the school made over \$500. Students are making incredible progress, especially in credit recovery. Aaron shared the "Phoenix of the Month" new award system, which rewards students for being inspiring, responsible, respectful and having great attendance, work ethic and a positive attitude. New staff member Cindi Freeman shared her perspective about the benefits of this small learning community for students. The board thanked the EHS staff for their presentation.

B. Linkage Input: Excelsior High School Staff and Parent Feedback

Elaine Pfeifer reviewed some of the issues that were brought up at the board's linkage input session at EHS last year, and steps the district has taken to address them. When asked to share input about this year, the staff responded:

Cindi Freeman appreciates the flexibility of the programs for the students at this school. She has also learned, in her short time here, that the staff is 100% available for the kids. She values Michelle's presence in the building, noting that she is the "jack of all trades" here.

Michelle Rutherford, besides being a staff member, is also a parent of a student who is at EHS for 2 periods a day. A major challenge for the students (and staff) is that EHS does not currently offer arts and vocational credits, so students must go to WHS to meet these graduation requirements. She appreciates the culture of the school and the district. Staff members in this district work as a team, and they creatively brainstorm to find solutions to issues. She likes the small environment at EHS, where everyone's opinion counts.

The board thanked the EHS staff for their presentation.

C. District Mission, Vision and Goals Statements

Dawn Tarzian shared a document outlining the community's input from the strategic planning process, including the district's vision, mission and goals statements. Dawn is especially looking forward to going back out into the community to share this information. Elaine Pfeifer appreciates the "entrusted with and accountable for" wording in the vision statement, as well as the outlining of very specific goals.

9. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Responsibilities 12 – Communication with the Public

Dawn Tarzian shared information related to the district's communications with the public. She introduced Jodi Thomas, the district's Public Information Coordinator. Jodi shared updates to the district's communications through social media, and work that the Communications Team has done to encourage staff to share more news about student projects, activities and accomplishments. The new Partners for Schools communications have been very well received. Karen Rubino shared her appreciation for the increased newspaper coverage, and thanked Jodi for her contributions. Ron Dinius also appreciates Dawn's presence at so many school events. Dawn added that kids take extra pride in their work when they see that their work is celebrated. Gail Anderson spoke very highly about the video monitor at District Office showcasing student work. The board thanked Dawn and Jodi for the information. Elaine Pfeifer collected the monitoring report response forms from each board member present. The approval of Executive Responsibilities (ER) 12 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

B. Executive Responsibilities 14 – Instructional Materials Selection

David Tudor, Curriculum Director, highlighted changes made to ER 14 since last year's presentation. He thanked the board for their budget allocation toward curriculum materials. He drew the board's attention to the Open Educational Resources (OER) document included with this ER. OER will create some significant changes in the state related to how schools look at and adopt instructional materials. It is new and very exciting territory. Elaine Pfeifer collected the monitoring report response forms, noting that the approval of ER 14 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board will hear an update from the Turf Replacement Committee on April 9. An adjusted levy timeline will be shared at a future meeting. The board will plan for work session time to discuss the Ends policy and how the new strategic vision will impact the material to be presented in support of the Ends. A TPEP and curriculum update will be given, and the board hopes to meet with Colleen Miller for additional training this spring.

11. BOARD EVALUATION

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

12. ADJOURN

Terrie Hutchins moved, seconded by Karen Rubino, to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 26th day of February 2013

President

Secretary to the Board

BOARD MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: February 12, 2013

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

	<u>S</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>U</u>
1. Board members were prepared for the meeting.	3	1	
2. Our agenda was well designed.	2	2	
3. Each board member was given an adequate opportunity to participate in discussion and decision-making.	4		
4. The board's treatment of all persons was courteous, dignified, and fair. There was a respectful atmosphere.	4		
5. We practiced good parliamentary procedure.	4		
6. The board demonstrated a sense of responsibility for excellence in governing the district.	4		
	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>
7. The board adhered to its adopted governance style:			
a. It emphasized the future and the total community:	3		
b. It encouraged diversity in viewpoints:	3		
c. It exercised policy leadership more than overseeing administrative detail:	3		
d. It maintained a clear distinction between the roles of board and staff:	2		
e. It worked for group agreement and responsibility:	3		
f. Progress toward board goals:	3		
8. Your suggestions on where we could do better:			
9. Additional Comments:			