

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Excelsior High School

PRESENT: Blaine Peterson, Board Director; Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Ron Dinius, Board Director; Terrie Hutchins, Board Director; Karen Rubino, 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

Blaine Peterson moved agenda item #11.A to take place immediately following the Excelsior SIP presentation.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Karen Rubino thanked the Excelsior High School (EHS) staff for the tour of their building prior to the board meeting. She also thanked David for the lesson in educational acronyms. Terrie Hutchins saw the current Washougal High School (WHS) Production, “Inherit the Wind”. The play is really good, and the students must have worked hard to master the long dialogues. She would highly recommend that the audience see the play, which is still running this coming weekend. Ron Dinius met with the fiscal auditors, who are conducting the district’s audit last week and this week. He spent January 29-30 in Olympia for the WSSDA Legislative Conference, where he also had the opportunity to meet with the Camas and Hockinson School District boards to discuss budget shortfalls. At the Legislative Conference, board members and patrons met with State Senators Zarelli and Rivers. Ron provided some budget timeline updates to the board and audience. Elaine Pfeifer is proud of the breadth and depth of the programming offered at Washougal schools, especially in comparison to some other districts, where much of the arts programs have been cut. Washougal schools are meeting the needs of many different students. Blaine Peterson concurred with Elaine, noting that our district has some wonderful offerings. Blaine referenced several articles in today’s Post-Record, including coverage of Hathaway music students, the district’s strategic planning events, the WHS basketball team in the playoffs, and wrestlers competing in Tacoma this weekend. He urged everyone to see the WHS play and support the drama program, since the drama students always do a great job. Terrie added that there are two EHS students involved in the production as well.

4. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian reported that four students from the WHS Metals Program took part in a Skills USA machining competition on Saturday, February 12 at Clark College. Ilia Svistun was the first place winner and Douglas Murray was the third place winner. These two students are now eligible to compete at the state level. Also representing WHS were Robert Raynor and Braden Devlin. These students should be congratulated for their outstanding accomplishment, and their CTE teacher, Don O’Brien should also be recognized for providing such inspiration to these students.

The Food Service audit has been rescheduled for March 20-23 due to the bad weather in Seattle last month that closed schools and affected the audit schedule.

Dawn provided the board with copies of the information going out to parents regarding the October 15, 2012 immunization exclusion date. Parents of students in need of immunizations will be contacted directly by the district by tomorrow, giving parents a full six months to take care of this responsibility. Flyers include information about where shots are given. In addition, broader communications are going out in school newsletters, on the district website, etc.

Nine Jemtegaard Middle School (JMS) students attended the SW Region Winter Business Leadership Conference last Friday. The JMS FBLA Chapter is the only middle school chapter in the SW Region. Their competitors were high school students at high schools in Southwest Washington. A very proud middle school principal announced that it is now time to raise money for state-level competition. Students receiving awards included: Sayre Glaser, third place, FBLA Principles and Procedures; Melissa Hardy, Grace Elsensohn, Alyssa Barnett and Sayre Glaser, fourth place, Parliamentary Procedure; Rory Csanky, Katherine Aimone, Janis Trent, Trillium Allison and Tyler Bowlin, fifth place, Parliamentary Procedure. Congratulations to these students and their teacher!

5. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Rhea Bohlin applauded the students who are continuing to be so successful in their competitions. She wanted to also give credit to the teachers behind the scenes, who put in a lot of time and effort to get the kids there. District staff are willing to go the extra mile to get the students registered and make all of the arrangements for these events. Their passion for student success is evident.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (January 24, 2012)

B. Payroll (January 2012)

Warrant numbers 185016 – 185080 in the amount of \$596,739.56 (Pay date: January 31, 2012)

C. Accounts Payable (January 2012)

General Fund

Warrant number 185081 – 185203 in the amount of \$268,803.84 (Pay date: February 17, 2012)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 19060 – 19092 in the amount of \$25,313.13 (Pay date: February 17, 2012)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant numbers 3790 – 3792 in the amount of \$18,958.86 (Pay date: February 17, 2012)

ACH

ACH numbers 111200202 – 111200225 in the amount of \$20,124.98 (Pay date: February 17, 2012)

D. Personnel Report

E. Contracts

F. Executive Responsibilities 15 – District Calendar

G. Travel

H. Field Trips

I. Donations

Blaine Peterson noted the addition to the personnel report since board packets were originally distributed. Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition as noted. Ron Dinius seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Excelsior High School Improvement Plan

EHS Principal Aaron Hansen thanked the board for coming. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for the board to see the student work posted around the building, noting that the students and staff take great pride in that work. Aaron introduced the EHS staff members present: Tere' Gustafson, Sherry Lorenz-Hunt, Betty Millington, Linda Green, Lemecia Lindsey, Ali Miller and Trudy Tkach. Les Brown, who shares their building, is also a part of their "family". Tere' spoke to the history of the program and the many changes that have taken place over the years, most significantly since Ali and Trudy began in 2006. Tere' is "nothing but proud" to be a part of this "awesome" program where students thrive. Aaron provided demographic information for the 66 EHS students, as well as the school's mission and vision statements, which highlight the importance of offering an alternative learning experience that is different from traditional high school and works to meet each student's individual needs. Aaron shared the school's learning goals and the achievement data for the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) and End-of-Course (EOC)

assessments. Sherry spoke about how EHS functions as a professional learning community (PLC). The staff works collaboratively to personalize student learning, implement a system of interventions and celebrate all successes as part of the school culture. Ali provided some examples of course offerings and Trudy presented information about multi-disciplinary learning, including writing across all subjects and gardening incorporated in science lessons. Betty spoke about partnerships, including WHS, Red Cross, and the Gause Elementary “buddy” system for math and reading mentoring. Lemecia added that some students also attend the Clark County Skills Center, and that EHS works to connect students to their post-high school goals. Student quotes about the school were shared. EHS staff answered questions from the board related to post-graduation tracking, intervention processes, electronic learning, ALE funding and school capacity issues. Aaron closed by thanking the board.

• **Staff Feedback Forum**

In answer to the board’s question about how the board could better support the school and students, Ali answered that more internship opportunities, and different ways to get students more involved in the community would be very valuable. Students have a need to gain experience, get into the work environment, and learn from business and community mentors.

When asked if EHS students volunteer in the community, Lemecia responded that some do, especially as part of their senior projects. ESD 112 also works with the school to provide internships, but staff members continue to look for ways to connect students with the community, as well as community resources. Many EHS students are motivated to work, and volunteer positions are a great way to gain some initial work experience.

Aaon expressed that the district has been incredibly supportive of this program. He cited the technology in the building as an example. District students are fortunate to have this option. The board has always shown support for and appreciation of this program and the staff here.

When asked about challenges faced at the school, Betty responded that the staff is having some unique challenges with students this year, and are working very hard to provide consistency for the students throughout the school. Tere’ added that the staff is able to provide a very consistent message to students, since there is such good communication between staff members.

Lemecia said it is helpful to EHS for the board and district to continue to share positive information with the public and parents regarding the school, since alternative learning schools sometimes seem “mysterious” to those not familiar with how they work.

Aaron shared how EHS and WHS are working more closely this year. WHS teachers have toured EHS. Both schools work to acknowledge that the two schools are separate but joined in some ways.

In response to the question of how the board could better support work at EHS, Les spoke about the facilities needs of the building, most notably the problems with the roof.

Sherry closed by saying that it is a privilege to work here.

• **Volunteer Feedback Forum**

No volunteers present.

ACTION ITEM

A. Resolution 2011-12-06: Delegation

Mark Prussing, from Public Financial Management, was present to share information with the board regarding bond refinancing planning. Mark provided the board with updates regarding bond rates, noting that they are at an all-time low, which is great for re-funding. He explained the benefit to Washougal taxpayers of re-funding at this lower rate, and added that there is not a direct financial benefit to the district. The resolution will allow the superintendent and board president to sign on behalf of the board in order to act more quickly and take advantage of the best financial timing possible.

Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve Resolution 2011-12-06 as presented. Terrie Hutchins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Facilities Fees Report

Kathy Douglas presented information regarding facilities fees as related to Washougal's neighboring district, Camas, for each of three specified user groups: non-profit 80% Washougal, less than 80% Washougal, and for-profit. She also shared comparator data for Washougal, Camas, Vancouver, Evergreen and Battle Ground districts for field, gym and stadium use. The board discussed fees as related to providing a balance between covering costs and liabilities to the district and supporting programming for the youth in our community.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Policy 3130 – School Attendance Areas and Emergency Boundary Changes, second reading

B. Policy 3131 – In-District Boundary Transfers, second reading

C. Policy 3141 – Nonresident Students, second reading

The board will bring policies 3130, 3131 and 3141 back to the next regular meeting for a vote on their approval.

9. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Responsibilities 14 – Instructional Materials Selection

Dawn Tarzian presented the monitoring report for Executive Responsibilities (ER) 14 regarding the district's selection of instructional materials. She worked with Curriculum Director David Tudor to produce the edits highlighted from the previous year's report. The ER as revised reflects the board's wishes to set aside specific funds each year toward curriculum adoption materials and training. Board members expressed concerns about having the necessary funds available to support the curriculum revisions that will be required due to the state's adoption of Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Dawn noted that the board will be able to increase the percentage of funds set aside for curriculum as the district is financially able to do so. Dawn added that she relies tremendously on Business Manager Rosann Lassman's recommendations regarding this kind of budgeting decision.

The board agreed by unanimous consent that the interpretation of the ER was reasonable and that the evidence and data presented supported the interpretation. The approval of ER 14 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

10. BOARD WORK SESSION

A. Resource Conservation Management and Retro-Commission Services

Rosann Lassman explained the billing process for the resource conservation management services contracted through ESD 112. The timing of the payments is dependent on when the district is invoiced by ESD, which results in larger payments some months than others. The retro-commissioning services are billed in five equal payments. Doug spoke to the scheduling of the work, providing an update for completion dates for WHS and Cape Horn-Skye/Canyon Creek. Board members asked about the timeline moving forward, for completion of work on the schools that have not yet received retro-commissioning services. Board members and district administrators agreed that timelines should be clarified before entering into future contracts. Board member Terrie Hutchins asked for the superintendent's recommendations regarding the project. Dawn Tarzian responded that she would like to see the district continue to contract with ESD 112 toward retro-commissioning, since the work being done is saving the district money and the energy-saving work is the right thing to do altruistically. She also greatly appreciates the increase in staff and student comfort in the buildings. She would welcome honest feedback from board members, who can set up a time to meet with her individually at their convenience. Elaine Pfeifer expressed a desire to speed up the pace of improvements so that increased energy savings could be realized sooner. Blaine

Peterson asked about the status of the schools' Green Teams. Doug Bright will follow up with an update. Karen Rubino stated that the preventative maintenance of the district's mechanical systems should be a priority for facilities work.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None specifically outlined.

13. BOARD EVALUATION

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

14. ADJOURN

Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Terrie Hutchins, to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 28th day of February 2012

President

Secretary to the Board

Board Self Evaluation Results												
February 14, 2012						board member:	1	2	3	4	5	Average
1.	The board followed its agenda and did not allow itself to get sidetracked.					4	3	5	4	3	3.8	
2.	The agenda was well planned to focus on the real work of the board.					5	4	5	5	4	4.6	
3.	The meeting started on time and proceeded in a timely manner.					3	4	5	4	3	3.8	
4.	The meeting proceeded without interruptions or distractions.					5	4	5	5	3	4.4	
5.	The board's deliberations and decision-making processes were public.					4	5	5	5	5	4.8	
6.	Participation was balanced; all participated; no one dominated.					4	5	5	5	5	4.8	
7.	Members listened attentively, avoiding side conversations.					4	5	5	5	3	4.4	
8.	Work was conducted in an atmosphere of trust and openness.					4	5	5	5	5	4.8	
9.	Meeting participants treated each other with respect and courtesy.					4	4	5	5	5	4.6	
Point scoring system:												
1	Failed											
2	Unacceptable											
3	Acceptable											
4	Commendable											
5	Met Best Expectations											