

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Blaine Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVISIONS

None.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Karen Rubino attended a Washougal High School (WHS) soccer game on Saturday. She also toured the softball fields with district staff and a geo-technical engineer to further assess the fields' drainage issues. Dawn Tarzian added that she appreciates the help in assessing the fields. Blaine shared that there was good coverage of all of the spring sports teams in last week's Post-Record. He also highlighted a recent presentation given to WHS students interested in the programs offered through WHS's partnership with the Clark County Skills Center. Students reported that this was a great presentation outlining the many opportunities available to them.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian shared that she is dedicating this time of the meeting to Mark Prussing, Public Financial Management, Inc., and Trevor Carlson, Seattle-Northwest Securities, for an update on the district's refunding of existing bonds. Mark provided an overview of bond rate history, and outlined the initial goals for these bond sales. He congratulated the district on its recent "Aa3" rating, established by Moody's rating service. Mark expressed appreciation to the board and district administration for managing the district's finances so well, which played a large part in being able to obtain such a rating. The interest rate on the existing bonds will go from the current 4.92% to 2.47% with the refunding, resulting in a \$2.26 million savings to tax payers over the life of these bonds, between 2012 and 2019. These dollars will now remain in the local economy. Mark clarified that there is no financial gain to the district in this refunding process. The board thanked Mark and Trevor for their work throughout the refunding process.

5. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Michelle Simeone is a Cape Horn-Skye (Cape) parent with a 4-year old in the Cape preschool who was affected by the recent changes in the preschool program. She is very supportive of this program, but is concerned about its future.

A. Testimony regarding proposed Snow Route changes

Angela Hancock is a Cape parent living at a high elevation on Bear Prairie. She is concerned about the proposed changes in bus snow routes for next year. While she understands that it is difficult for the schools in town at lower elevations that have to close when road conditions are safe for them, she is concerned that if bus routes are limited, parents will have a hard time driving their students to school safely. She does not like the idea that her student should have to miss school and make up that work on days that school is in session when her roads are not safe to travel. The number of absences that these impacted students might incur is also a concern, even if they are excused. Angela voiced that since higher elevation patrons pay the same taxes as those in town, they should receive the same services. She asked that the board clarify for the families potentially impacted why they are looking into this proposal, and why Cape and Canyon Creek

school closures could not be separate from the rest of the district due to their difference in elevation and climate.

Michelle Simeone echoed Angela's comments. She would prefer that the entire district close on days that travel is unsafe in the Cape/Canyon Creek region of the district, instead of creating further reduced routes on snow-route days.

Jean Collins lives at 2200 ft. elevation. Even though the district's last late start day was last week, there is still more than a foot of snow at her residence. She understands that her family is in the minority regarding this situation, but her students have become increasingly impacted since Skamania County has reduced road-plowing services due to recent budget cuts. She asked the board to explain why Cape and Canyon cannot have separate closure days from the rest of the district, in an effort to avoid having the in-town students miss school due to conditions up higher. She voiced concerns that changing the snow routes puts students who will drive or be driven to school at increased risk on days snow routes are implemented.

Tony Collins shared that some of the areas under consideration for snow route changes have become a low priority for plowing by Skamania County. If it is deemed unsafe for a bus to travel the roads, it will also be unsafe for the parents who will be trying to get their kids to school by car. He also asked the board to consider if it is worth keeping the Cape and Canyon Creek schools open if a significant number of students would likely be absent due to travel conditions.

Kris Leonard shares the same concerns. His wife will be driving their kids to school. It is scary to think that she would have to do that because the zones couldn't be split or the entire district couldn't be closed. He asked the board what is bringing the issue about at this time, since the district has been dealing with this variation in weather conditions for a long time.

Rick Thomas lives at about 450 ft. elevation. He asked if there might be a partial solution involving technology. Could a certain segment of the population do online work if they were unable to get to school, but the schools remained open? Elaine Pfeifer answered that, unfortunately, many of the families impacted also have the fewest internet service options.

Michelle Simeone brought up the issue of the parking lot at Cape on late start or other bad weather days. It has been difficult to walk through, and is a safety risk to the students, parents and staff. If the district is going to have school, then the parking lot must be cleared. Doug Bright responded that Skamania County used to plow the parking lot as they were clearing the roads in that area, but have stopped doing that this year. The district's maintenance department is working to have one of the district's trucks fitted with a clearing blade to be able to attend to this issue.

Doug Bright also added that the Washougal Association of Educators (WAE) co-president Sheila Good asked him to re-emphasize the point that she and co-president Frank Zahn made at the last board meeting: that the WAE leadership would prefer not to see the proposal adopted by the board. They would prefer that the entire district close when conditions are unsafe in a portion of the district.

Blaine Peterson responded to the patrons' concerns. Over the years, the board has received many comments from parents at lower elevations about why school is closed when travel is safe in most of the district. The board decided to take a look at the situation and explore the possibility of a more equitable solution. The parents speaking tonight have brought up very valid points and real safety concerns. The board, while faced with a great deal of budget issues, is working to see if there could be improvements made in the handling of weather-related school closures.

Dawn Tarzian introduced Theresa Thomsen, Transportation Supervisor. Dawn explained that the board decided to explore the issue due to the large number of comments received from parents in town. The sheer volume of input warranted consideration. There has also been communication from staff members who are frustrated by the closures that result in extending the school year further into the summer. Theresa Thomsen has explained to Dawn in the past that bus travel may be more dangerous than other vehicles, due to the size of the buses and the frequent stops they must make, often on sloped roads, to pick up students. The district currently runs buses on snow routes when necessary, so some families at the higher elevations are already impacted on those

days. The district has received feedback from families in town as to the safety concerns resulting from parents having to leave students at home all day when they need to get to work and there is no school for the students. No easy solution has presented itself. There was no predisposed idea at the start of the process, just an exploration of possibilities.

Theresa Thomsen shared a map of the proposed changes. The area of concern, where changes are now being proposed, is actually an area of higher elevation than some of the roads that are currently on snow routes. Theresa is supportive of whatever decision the board makes. She is glad they are working to consider all options.

Blaine Peterson explained that the schools cannot be separated in the closure decisions because all students in the district, including those in the impacted areas, attend the same high school. The WHS students at higher elevations would still have school if only Cape and Canyon Creek closed.

Amanda Klackner was part of the parent group from the in-town schools that complained to the board a couple of years ago. She was told at that time that the district was unable to split the closures by state law.

Dawn noted that the board will discuss the issue at its next meeting on April 10, though this discussion will not include a public comment agenda item. The board will make its final decision at the April 24 meeting, which should provide time to weigh the input received.

Dawn and the board thanked the parents present for attending and for their valuable comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (March 13, 2012)

B. Accounts Payable (March 2012)

General Fund

Warrant numbers 185481 – 185572 in the amount of \$242,991.74 (Pay date: March 30, 2012)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 19128 – 19153 in the amount of \$10,176.65 (Pay date: March 30, 2012)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant numbers 3798 – 3800 in the amount of \$11,866.62 (Pay date: March 30, 2012)

ACH

ACH numbers 111200271 – 111200295 in the amount of \$9,251.74 (Pay date: March 30, 2012)

C. Budget Status (February 2012)

D. Payroll (March 2012)

Warrant numbers 185573 – 185630 in the amount of \$1,803,510.71 (Pay date: March 30, 2012)

E. Personnel Report

F. Contracts

G. Executive Responsibilities 11 – Communication and Counsel with the Board

H. Travel

I. Field Trips

J. Donations

Blaine noted the addition of a personnel report since the original board packets were distributed. Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Karen Rubino, to approve the consent agenda as presented, with the noted addition. The motion carried unanimously.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Turf Fundraising Committee Update

Rick Thomas, chair of Turf Campaign Committee, reported that after a very energetic start, the committee has slowed down its work over the winter. He thanked Amanda Klackner for her consistent efforts toward the fundraising projects. The committee is currently focused on two major fundraisers: a brick campaign, for an honor walk at the stadium, and a major gifts campaign, in which the committee will make contact with businesses and high net-worth

individuals. The committee would like to bring a proposal for the brick campaign to the board at an upcoming meeting. Rick said that he could use some help from the board and district in obtaining good data on the turf field's usage, by both school and community groups, which would highlight how much this field is a part of the community. He also requested that everyone on the turf committee and the board makes a financial contribution to the fund, to show full support and commitment to the project. Rick informed the board, that for the district's planning purposes, it is very unlikely that the committee will have the necessary funds raised in time to replace the turf field this summer. The district will likely need to use this field for another year. The board discussed with Rick the possibility of advertising at the stadium as a major fundraiser. Rick responded that the committee plans to pursue this possibility. Doug Bright reported that though the district has not sought official bids at this time, estimates for field replacement do not appear to have changed from what was presented to the board last year. Doug is also looking into the possibility of enlisting the help of a company to oversee the installation of the new turf, to make sure that the quality of materials and installation is consistent with the bid. Doug will work with the maintenance crew to evaluate the field and determine if additional repairs might be needed prior to use for the next school year. The board thanked Rick and Amanda for their work on the turf committee.

B. District Calendars, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Dawn Tarzian explained that feedback from the certified staff was still being collected. She received one communication from a parent regarding the calendar, which she forwarded to the board. WAE should have the results of their vote on the preferred calendar very soon, and that information will be communicated to the board. Doug Bright shared that there is both interest and concern from WAE members regarding the proposed changes to professional learning community (PLC) schedules. It has not been determined yet whether the proposed changes will be implemented next year or whether the PLC schedule will remain the same as this year. This decision will be early on the docket in negotiations with WAE this spring.

C. Community Education Program Adjustment, Preschool and SPACE

Lisa Young, with the district's early learning and Safe Place Activity Center (SPACE) programs, and David Tudor, Curriculum Director, presented information related to changes recently made to the Washougal Community Education and Recreation (WCER) preschool program to make the program revenue neutral, since the district can no longer supplement the program's funding. Lisa shared the thought processes used to make the adjustments as well as actual and projected revenue and expense data. David thanked Lisa for her hard work throughout this adjustment process. The preschool is very much linked to improvement in the K-12 system, so he is appreciative of the program's strides and believes the program can be fiscally responsible while maintaining quality programs for students moving forward. Dawn Tarzian noted that the elementary school principals are also extremely supportive of the early learning program, and stepped up to supervise the preschool employees as a contribution toward keeping the program. The program staff is also grateful for the parent support during the transitions.

Dawn and David responded to questions from parent Angela Hancock regarding the preschool and SPACE programs' past financial losses. The district has in the past supplemented the programs' revenues by approximately \$30,000 each. Angela also asked for and received clarification as to what is involved in the supervision of the program employees.

Brandi Leonard asked for and received clarification regarding the age groups for the preschool program.

Angela Hancock noted that the drop in enrollment may be in part due to the elimination of the mid-day bussing for preschool students.

Michelle Simeone has been vocal about the preschool program since last fall. She asked the district for assurances that the program will be continued. She encouraged increased advertising of the program to help bring in more students. Dawn Tarzian responded that the continuation of the preschool and SPACE programs will be included in the budget that she presents to the board this summer.

Jean Collins concurred. She believes that not all parents are aware that the district runs a preschool at each elementary site. Jean also asked the administration to consider not having any of the 2-day per week classes held on Mondays, since there are too many non-school Mondays to make this work well for the families involved.

David and Lisa presented financial information and program updates for the SPACE before and after school care program. The program, which has been housed at two sites, will be moved to one location at Gause Elementary School.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Policy 5201 – Drug-free Schools, Community and Workplace, second reading

Dawn Tarzian noted a change in the verbiage for clarity, per Elaine Pfeifer's suggestion at the last meeting. Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Terrie Hutchins, to approve Policy 5201 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy 5202 – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Mandated Drug and Alcohol Testing Program, second reading

Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve Policy 5202 as presented. Karen Rubino seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Policy 2022 – Instructional Technology and Electronic Resources, first reading

D. Policy 5211 – Transfers and Reassignment, first reading

E. Policy 5215 – Alignment and Transfer of Certificated Administrative Staff, first reading

F. Policy 5221 – Part-time Staff, first reading

G. Policy 5230 – Job Descriptions and Responsibilities, first reading

H. Policy 5231 – Length of Work Day, first reading

Policies 2022, 5211, 5215, 5221, 5230 and 5231 will be brought back to the next regular meeting for a second reading. The board will seek clarification of the state legal references related to Policy 5215 prior to the second reading.

9. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Responsibilities 12 – Communication with the Public

Elaine Pfeifer commented that the strategic planning process referenced in Executive Responsibilities (ER) 12 is greatly appreciated. She has received good feedback from patrons involved. Blaine Peterson collected the board's monitoring report response forms, noting that the approval of ER 12 will be on the consent agenda for the next regular meeting.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board would like to receive an update regarding the district's Malfait property 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. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Superintendent Performance Feedback, RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Elaine Pfeifer moved to recess to executive session for approximately 20 minutes at 9:11 p.m., noting that the board will return to regular session for adjournment only with no action to be taken. Karen Rubino seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

ADJOURN

The board returned from executive session at 9:37 p.m. Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Karen Rubino to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 10th day of April 2012

President

Secretary to the Board

Board Self Evaluation Results											
March 27, 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		4.0
2.	The agenda was well planned to focus on the real work of the board.					4	4	5	5		4.5
3.	The meeting started on time and proceeded in a timely manner.					3	3	4	4		3.5
4.	The meeting proceeded without interruptions or distractions.					4	4	5	4		4.3
5.	The board's deliberations and decision-making processes were public.					4	5	5	5		4.8
6.	Participation was balanced; all participated; no one dominated.					3	5	5	5		4.5
7.	Members listened attentively, avoiding side conversations.					5	5	5	4		4.8
8.	Work was conducted in an atmosphere of trust and openness.					4	5	5	5		4.8
9.	Meeting participants treated each other with respect and courtesy.					4	5	5	5		4.8
Point scoring system:											
1	Failed										
2	Unacceptable										
3	Acceptable										
4	Commendable										
5	Met Best Expectations										