

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Blaine Peterson, Board Director; Ron Dinius, Board Director; Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Terrie Hutchins, Board Director; Jim Gadberry, 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 Jim Gadberry led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVISIONS

None.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Elaine Pfeifer thanked retiring bus driver Mike Broderick for his many years of service to the district, and for driving her kids to and from school. Terrie Hutchins reminded the board and audience that the Blue Note Café will be open this Thursday evening. There is also a choir concert on October 18th and “Guys and Dolls” will be performed in November. Ron Dinius received an email from the state regarding preliminary budget cuts. Schools and public employees will be impacted, with further cuts to be implemented in January and February of 2012. Ron highlighted cuts to social service programs, and spoke about the need for everyone to communicate with our legislators. Blaine reiterated the need for patrons to talk with their legislators about funding for schools. The Camas-Washougal Rotary Club hosted a welcome breakfast for new teachers. It is nice to see community support and appreciation for teachers. The Post-Record published a front-page article about the district’s turf replacement options. There is also great coverage of all of the sports teams, which are all still doing very well. Blaine has received many patron comments regarding the turf field and is looking forward to the announcements to be made regarding the campaign at Friday’s football game.

4. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

As a follow up to comments made at the last meeting regarding the distance that teams must travel for competitions, Dawn Tarzian spoke about her conversations with Washougal High School (WHS) athletic director Doug Cox about the complexities of scheduling. The goal is to keep games within 100 miles of Washougal. Dawn met with principal Laura Bolt and social worker Molly Hayes at Hathaway Elementary School today to talk about some of the serious social and emotional issues at Hathaway that make it difficult for the students impacted to learn. She is weighing this information and appreciating district staff even more. Wells Fargo is once again donating \$1000 to Hathaway. Staff there is particularly happy to be receiving these funds again. Dawn provided the board with updated student enrollment data for October (2865.62 FTE). She also informed the board of new state requirements around immunizations, and how much work school staff members do to keep the related forms updated. She is looking at the possibility of setting an exclusion date for families who have not completed the required immunization forms for next year. Dawn contacted all of the volunteers who signed up to be involved in the turf replacement campaign at last week’s meeting. Press releases have been helpful, and “giving envelopes” have been printed and are ready to be distributed at Friday night’s football game, along with an announcement about the campaign.

5. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Nancy Kutchera is the parent of a 1st grader and a 7th grader. She spoke about the impacts at Hathaway Elementary at all grade levels due to reorganization of classrooms as a result of higher than predicted enrollment numbers. The movement of teachers and students was tough on the whole

school, but especially the younger students. The school experience should be a safe and stable one, so she asked what could be done to minimize change for students after the start of the year. She asked for a uniform start date, so that families can better plan (e.g., always before or always after Labor Day), as well as better collaboration with Camas School District, since the two districts and their families are so entwined. She also asked that teachers not be allowed to switch schools after the year begins. For the success of students, she asked that the district and staff members please do all that can be done to have students end the year with the same teacher they started with. On a separate note, Nancy congratulated Jemtegaard Middle School on their assessment achievements. She specifically thanked Dr. Ron Carlson, Nathan Kellar and Brian Walsh, who all directly helped her son. She also thanked Laura Bolt, who continued to provide support to her son even after he left her elementary school for middle school. Dawn Tarzian thanked Nancy for her thoughtful input. She apologized that the effects of enrollment reached farther than expected when new teachers were hired, and noted that the district will work toward minimizing those effects in the future.

Janine Troyer has 2nd and 4th grade students at Gause Elementary who were also affected by a change in teachers. She had concerns during the transition about homework and the expectations of the new teachers. The parent night, which was held after her students were moved, was very helpful. Teachers did an excellent job of explaining new information, especially regarding the Common Core State Standards. Staff members shared upcoming changes and how the schools and families will work together to meet these challenges. During parent night, Janine learned that there is no computer lab at Gause. She is grateful for the computers in the classrooms, but concerned at the lack of a lab at Gause, and willing to help to be able to bring this necessary technology to the school in order to help students better prepare for the future. Dawn Tarzian apologized for the disruptions to students caused by the staffing changes this fall. She informed Janine that the district's Technology Committee, chaired by Lester Brown, works to make equitable purchases for the schools, and is already planning to fund a computer lab at Gause.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (October 4, 2011)

B. Accounts Payable (October 14, 2011 pay date)

General Fund

Warrant numbers 184011 – 184104 in the amount of \$119,233.92 (Pay date: October 14, 2011)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 18875 – 18894 in the amount of \$12,311.23 (Pay date: October 14, 2011)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant numbers 3770 – 3771 in the amount of \$2,282.30 (Pay date: October 14, 2011)

ACH

ACH numbers 111200052 – 111200070 in the amount of \$8,652.77 (Pay date: October 14, 2011)

C. Personnel Report

D. Contracts

E. Travel

F. Field Trips

G. Donations

Blaine Peterson noted the additions to the personnel report since the original board packet materials were sent. Ron Dinius moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, with the above notation. Elaine Pfeifer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION

A. Resolution 2011-12-02: Renewal of Section 125, Flexible Fringe Benefits Plan

Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Jim Gadberry, to approve Resolution 2011-12-02 regarding the renewal of Section 125. The motion carried unanimously.

8. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Responsibility 3 – Treatment of Parents, Students and the Public

Dawn Tarzian presented the monitoring report in support of Executive Responsibility (ER) 3 regarding the treatment of parents, students and the public. She highlighted the policies in place that lay out the board's expectations regarding confidentiality and complaints. She noted that she is impressed with the culture that exists in this district. Staff members are very responsive to the public, respectful of parents, and deeply caring about students.

Blaine Peterson collected the monitoring report response forms from all board members. He agreed that district staff members are very welcoming to parents in every building that he has visited. The approval of ER 3 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

9. BOARD WORK SESSION

A. Budget Process for 2012-2013

Dawn Tarzian thanked Rosann Lassman for her tremendous work on the district's budget. She would like to continue to work with Rosann as well as a budget committee toward a budgeting process as open and transparent as possible, noting that she will be cautious about the process, since the district office staff already have very "full plates".

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board will discuss at future meetings the softball team field trip request, input to be gathered to meet the linkage meeting goals, and processes for the school improvement presentations at remote locations. The school hosting the board meeting will also provide a tour of the building prior to the regular meeting. Cape Horn-Skye staff will give a tour at 6:00 prior to the October 25 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

Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Ron Dinius, to recess to executive session, returning in approximately one hour with no action. The motion carried unanimously at 7:28 p.m.

RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) - Litigation

RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g), RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) - Negotiations

The board returned to regular session for adjournment only at 8:36 p.m. Elaine Pfeifer moved to adjourn. Jim Gadberry seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 25th day of October 2011

President

Secretary to the Board

Board Self Evaluation Results												
October 11, 2011						board member:	1	2	3	4	5	Average
1. The board followed its agenda and did not allow itself to get sidetracked.							5	5	5	5	5	5.0
2. The agenda was well planned to focus on the real work of the board.							4	5	5	5	5	4.8
3. The meeting started on time and proceeded in a timely manner.							5	5	5	5	4	4.8
4. The meeting proceeded without interruptions or distractions.							5	5	5	5	5	5.0
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.							5	5	5	5	5	5.0
7. Members listened attentively, avoiding side conversations.							5	5	5	5	5	5.0
8. Work was conducted in an atmosphere of trust and openness.							5	5	5	5	5	5.0
9. Meeting participants treated each other with respect and courtesy.							5	5	4	5	5	4.8
Point scoring system:												
1 Failed												
2 Unacceptable												
3 Acceptable												
4 Commendable												
5 Met Best Expectations												