

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 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 Elaine Pfeifer led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVISIONS

The board agreed by consensus to move the work session discussion of the turf replacement to immediately follow the approval of the consent agenda, in order to accommodate the patrons present.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Terrie attended the last Blue Note Café event. The students are very talented and fun to watch. Jim Gadberry noted that the school year seems to be off to a good start. The athletic programs are doing well, and positive news is coming from the schools. Elaine Pfeifer attended the first Counseling Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting of the year as the school board representative. This group's mission is to collaborate and best address the needs of the students in the district. The CAC is currently working to streamline forms and procedures, and will focus this year on raising community awareness about issues affecting students. She also noted that Red Ribbon week, which is a nation wide prevention effort, will be celebrated this month. Ron Dinius attended the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Legislative Assembly meeting last week in Pasco, WA, along with Dawn Tarzian. The group's priorities for the year include working toward the state fully funding education and the issue of unfunded mandates. The WSSDA Regional Meeting will be held on October 17, 2011 in Vancouver, WA. Ron plans to attend with Dawn. Blaine Peterson noted that the state budget shortfall is very likely to be significantly larger than anticipated. Schools may see further cuts even in the middle of the current budget year. He urged the board and those present to contact legislators to share thoughts about funding for education. Blaine highlighted the sports teams' successes reported in the most recent edition of the Post-Record newspaper. The Panther Foundation will be supplying a booster bus as well as a charter bus for the football team for a game scheduled to take place in Prineville, OR this weekend. Blaine thanked the parents and community members involved in the Panther Foundation for stepping up to support Washougal students.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian thanked those in attendance at the meeting. She spoke about the three new teachers who were recently hired in response to the increase in student enrollment. Amy Switzer teaches music and Sarah Anderton and Andy Schlauch are both teaching 5th grade. All three new hires are at Hathaway Elementary. Dawn announced that the time of the graduation ceremony at Washougal High School (WHS) will remain 7:00 p.m. for the class of 2012. WHS principal Aaron Hansen has outlined a list of reasons that he would like to explore in support of moving the graduation time up to early afternoon for the classes of 2013 and beyond. Discussions within the WHS community and district administration will continue. Dawn appreciates the thoughtful work occurring in consideration of this proposed change. Dawn noted that the board meeting calendar was revised last month in order to hold some regularly scheduled meetings in school buildings. The October 25, 2011 meeting will be held at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School.

5. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Dr. Frank Zahn is co-president of the Washougal Association of Educators (WAE). He read from a prepared statement requesting that the collective bargaining agreement remain in full force until negotiations are completed. He expressed that the proposed 1.9% cut in teacher pay is not acceptable to WAE members. Sheila Good, also a WAE co-president, spoke of the letter that WAE sent to the superintendent and board. She asked for a response from the board and district, and reiterated that the option currently being presented by the district is not acceptable to the WAE membership. WAE will be holding a meeting tomorrow, October 5, 2011, and would like to have a response from the board before that time. Other districts have found ways to make up the cuts from their district funds, or to offer furlough time, or unpaid personal days. She asked the district to continue to look at the WAE's offers of compromise so that action can be taken.

Susan Lewallen, a teacher at WHS and WAE officer, asked all teachers present to stand up or step forward. She noted that this group represents many other teachers who could not be present tonight, and that all represented are coming to the board united, "so say we all."

Mike Adams has three students in the district and is a supporter of the Panther Foundation. He expressed his appreciation for the board's comments regarding the charter buses. He also thanked Doug Bright for working to make the charter bus trip possible. He noted that the Panther Foundation's donation is saving the district the funds that it would have used to run regular transportation to Prineville and back. He asked that the district consider the travel distance in the scheduling of athletic events, noting that he would prefer not to have games scheduled so far away in the future.

Gail Anderson agreed with Mike's comment about team travel and asked the district to examine this.

Rhea Bohlin shared some observations related to the counseling center at WHS over the past couple of weeks. A senior parent-student night held last week was well-attended. Good information was provided, and she has received appreciative feedback from parents. The PSAT test will be given to all sophomores next week, and is also available to juniors. She has noticed that more juniors are voluntarily registering for the test and that there seems to be more awareness about college preparation and scholarships. Students are taking more responsibility in matters related to college readiness.

John Carver, WHS teacher and coach, shared with the board a proposal for the WHS softball team participate in training over Spring Break in Florida. He provided information to the board related to the trip costs, as well as fundraising plans. The board will consider this request at a future meeting.

Blaine Peterson read a prepared board response to the WAE testimony. He shared the board's concerns about the current uncertainty of state funding in this year of budget shortfall. He acknowledged that the teaching staff is one of the district's greatest assets, and that the board takes great pride in what the teachers do for the students of Washougal. The board recognizes the long hours put in and the selflessness shown by district staff. The board hopes to take this opportunity to work together rather than at odds, and will keep working to find a solution. He thanked those in attendance for coming tonight.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (September 13, 2011)

B. Payroll (September 2011)

Warrant numbers 183838 – 183906 in the amount of \$1,822,148.57 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

C. Accounts Payable (September 2011)

General Fund

Warrant numbers 183907 – 183974 in the amount of \$112,918.70 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

Warrant numbers 183975 – 184010 in the amount of \$121,423.15 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 18845 – 18853 in the amount of \$5,791.63 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

Warrant numbers 18854 – 18874 in the amount of \$4,132.86 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant number 3767 in the amount of \$458.85 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

Warrant numbers 3768 – 3769 in the amount of \$77,966.97 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

Transportation Vehicle Fund

Warrant number 165 in the amount of \$946.75 (Pay date: September 30, 2011)

ACH

ACH numbers 111200029 – 111200051 in the amount of \$4,913.77 (September 30, 2011)

D. Accounts Payable Pre-Authorization (September 30, 2011 pay date)

E. Personnel Report

F. Contracts

G. Travel

H. Field Trips

I. Donations

J. ER 1, Global Executive Constraint

K. ER 2, Emergency Superintendent Succession

Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jim Gadberry seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Turf Replacement – Fundraising Campaign

Blaine Peterson noted that he is currently looking into another suggestion regarding funding of a turf field that involves the Community and Sports Council. He noted that whatever avenue the district decides to take, fundraising will likely be involved. Mike Adams asked about the seriousness of the problems with the turf field. Blaine and Doug Bright explained the process of turf evaluation that took place last year and the results of that study that indicated several problem areas on the field, as well as the work that was done to improve those areas. Dawn Tarzian provided background information around the research that was done last year and the discussions the board held related to repairing and/or replacing the turf field. Doug provided an update about the current repair issues. The board considered the repair/replace issue at length last year, but lacked the resources required to replace. Repair work was done, and the field is holding up well. Some funds have been set aside to begin saving for the replacement, though business manager Rosann Lassman warned that we are still in a budget shortfall year. Dawn proposed as a starting place, that a community fundraising campaign be launched, with the district and local businesses to match any donations brought in. She noted that there are potential savings if the district would be able to partner with Camas School District in their turf replacement project. Last year, the replacement cost was estimated at \$400,000. Doug will work to obtain updated estimates. Rick Thomas asked about Camas's timeline to replace their field. Doug responded that they will do the work this summer. Roger Daniels asked about the possibility of naming rights for a large donor. He noted that the Washougal Schools Foundation and its board will be supportive of the project, although their primary function is to support work being done in the classrooms. Rick Thomas asked what the contingency plan is if the field is at any time deemed unplayable, and the response was given that Washougal teams would then have options including playing games "away" at the opponents' fields, renting a nearby turf field, or playing on a district or other grass field. The option of removing the turf and going back to a grass field was discussed, but it was noted that this is also an expensive option, and maintenance costs are significantly higher. Ron Carlson spoke about the drainage issues that have been resolved at the turf field location. Gail Anderson expressed frustration that this conversation is taking place again, three years after the last efforts to figure out how to fund a turf replacement. She would like to know from the board what will be done and what the timeline for the project will be. Amanda Klackner echoed Gail's concern, noting that several years ago, fundraising for turf replacement was not supported by the district since it did not provide sustainable funding for future replacements. Amanda noted that Safeway may be interested in partnering with the district in the fundraising efforts. Jay Bennett asked how the district could promise to match funds raised in the current budget year. This would be a very public and visible project, and how is a new football field justified when there aren't proper funds for textbooks, and teachers and programs are being cut. It is a difficult balancing act. Dawn stated that she recognizes that the needs and values of the students and community all need to

be taken into consideration around this issue. Washougal also values its athletics and arts in addition to academics. Dawn will be working to convene a panel of budget experts to review the district's expenditures and compare them with the expenses of other districts of similar size. Aaron Hansen reminded the board and audience that the field and stadium area is used by many groups. It is also a soccer field, used by track, the PE departments and the community. Kyle Eakins said that it is very important that the community does not allow this issue to become an "either/or" conversation. He asked that a clear and direct head of the project be established, since this would be very important to the project's success. Mike Adams warned of the potential for volunteer burnout related to fundraising, especially if the efforts drag on for too long. Gary Martschinske from the Camas-Washougal Soccer Club stated that his group has been one of the primary users of the field from the community. He asked about potential partnerships with outside users, noting that his club is open to suggestions. Gary also asked the board to consider the possibility of some grant funding. Gordon Torstendo asked the board to confirm its commitment around the field issue. Jim Gadberry answered on behalf of the board that the board does want a new field and is supportive of these efforts. Suggestions were made by patrons to get more information out to the community, and the possibility of publicizing the fundraising campaign at the next home football game was mentioned. Roger Daniels brought up the possibility of private financing. He added that he would like to know that all funds raised will go directly to turf replacement, and not expensive overhead or project management. Dawn shared her appreciation for all of the input and ideas generated. She is hoping to have a group ready to meet prior to the October 14 football game. She thanked the groups represented at the meeting, including the Schools Foundation and Panther Foundation. She is open to further discussions with anyone interested, and would welcome any suggestions for additional contacts in the community.

7. INFORMATION

A. Policy 1634 – Board/Staff Communications, second reading

Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve Policy 1634 as presented. Ron Dinius seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy 2410 – Graduation Requirements, second reading

Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Terrie Hutchins, to approve Policy 2410 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. PRESENTATIONS

A. District Emergency Crisis Plan

Ron Carlson presented an executive summary to the board. He also provided each board member with a mock emergency plan, which he explained is modified annually. He described the district's work with the Clark County Safe Schools Task Force, as part of a countywide consortium. He shared collaborations with county law enforcement and rescue workers, and explained the threat assessment system in place at county schools. The board thanked Ron for his presentation.

B. Debrief WSSDA Legislative Assembly meeting

Ron Dinius attended the Legislative Assembly meeting last week along with Dawn Tarzian. He reported that the legislature will meet again on November 28 to consider potential additional budget cuts. He indicated that it is very likely that schools will face additional cuts and that LEA and kindergarten funding are currently most at risk. Dawn handed out to the board copies of Vancouver School District's Public Policy Agenda. She asked the board to review, and let her know if they are interested in adopting a similar policy. This can be discussed in more detail at a future meeting, if desired. Ron concluded that the Legislative Assembly was very informative.

9. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION

A. Policy 1630 – Superintendent Evaluation, second reading

The board asked to have all references to "EL" changed to "ER" to reflect the renaming of Executive Responsibilities. Jim Gadberry moved to approve Policy 1630 with the above-mentioned edit. Terrie Hutchins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. BOARD WORK SESSION

A. Turf Replacement – Fundraising Campaign

(Discussion held earlier in meeting.)

B. Linkage Meeting Calendar

Dawn presented a proposed calendar for linkage meeting discussions to take place during regularly scheduled board meetings. The board will focus on community members who volunteer in the schools. Dawn proposed using board meeting time to conduct the planning of the meeting with volunteers, meet with volunteers and collect their input, then analyze and reflect on that input to be able to address the issue with ideas for moving forward at a following board meeting. She has spoken with principals about the idea, and it was suggested that teachers and volunteers be brought together for this discussion at each of the school site meetings. Dawn asked board members to be prepared to discuss possible questions and prompts for staff and volunteers at the next regular meeting.

C. Staff Communication Plan

Dawn asked board members to be thinking about a list of questions they would like to see posed to staff members prior to each school site board meeting.

D. Strategic Planning Process

Dawn presented a strategic planning process proposal to board members and highlighted essential dates and timelines. She proposed that a strategic planning steering committee be formed, and that at the October 25 meeting, the board be ready to brainstorm about questions they would like to see addressed during the process. She listed the various groups that she would like to meet with to solicit input from and the process of bringing all of that information together to make it meaningful. She would like to see the committee's work on the district's goals and mission and vision statements brought to the board in May 2012.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board will discuss at upcoming meetings the questions to be posed to linkage meeting participants, questions related to the strategic planning process, and the softball trip request.

12. BOARD EVALUATION

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

13. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ron Dinius moved to recess to executive session for approximately 30 minutes, returning with no action at 9:22 p.m. Terrie Hutchins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

RCW 42.30.140(D)(b) – Negotiations

The board returned from executive session at 10:23 p.m. for adjournment only. Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Jim Gadberry, to adjourn, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 11th day of October 2011

President

Secretary to the Board

Board Self Evaluation Results												
October 4, 2011						board member:	1	2	3	4	5	Average
1. The board followed its agenda and did not allow itself to get sidetracked.							3	3	4	4	4	3.6
2. The agenda was well planned to focus on the real work of the board.							4	4	4	4	5	4.2
3. The meeting started on time and proceeded in a timely manner.							3	3	4	4	4	3.6
4. The meeting proceeded without interruptions or distractions.							4	3	3	4	4	3.6
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	3	5	4.6
8. Work was conducted in an atmosphere of trust and openness.							4	4	5	5	5	4.6
9. Meeting participants treated each other with respect and courtesy.							5	4	5	5	5	4.8
Point scoring system:												
1 Failed												
2 Unacceptable												
3 Acceptable												
4 Commendable												
5 Met Best Expectations												