

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Blaine Peterson, Board Director; Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Orlan Gessford, Board Director; Ron Dinius, Board Director; Tom Huffman, Director; Teresa Baldwin, 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

Teresa Baldwin asked to remove the Excelsior High School (EHS) School Improvement Plan (SIP) presentation from the agenda due to the recent soccer injury sustained by the EHS principal. Executive session will be divided into two parts, one immediately following the consent agenda and another at the end of the regular meeting. Teresa also asked to pull the approval of the asset inventory removal from the consent agenda for further discussion.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Tom Huffman – Tom announced that it was “good to be back.”

Elaine Pfeifer – Elaine sat in on the final Counseling Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting of the year, noting that it has been nice to be a part of that group and its work. She also attended the Facilities and Budget Task Force meetings last week, where good input was received.

Ron Dinius – Ron was also able to attend the community task force meetings and feels that both groups have brought forward some great ideas. He looks forward to having them brought to the board.

Blaine Peterson – Blaine highlighted articles in tonight’s Post-Record publication, including coverage of the WHS baseball, track and equestrian teams and the Little Shop of Horrors musical presentation, which is sure to be a worthwhile show to attend! Two community input budget meetings were held this week, and the participants’ willingness to contribute and work together is greatly appreciated.

Rebecca Miner – Rebecca shared the new link to the board’s linkage meetings page on the district website. The District Office, Jemtegaard Middle School (JMS) and Hathaway Elementary School (HES) are now all on the updated fiber-optics lines for internet service, and all buildings are noticing increased speed in that service. Special thanks were given to Les Brown for all of his work to make the upgrade possible. It is very exciting for the buildings involved. JMS recently received two awards for FBLA competitions – Congratulations to those JMS students involved. WHS teacher Brian Eggleston was recently named the Washougal School District (WSD) Teacher of the Year. He will be honored at the next board meeting as well as at a Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Teresa Baldwin – Teresa introduced Teresa Didien and Sheri Johnson from Columbia Credit Union (CCU). Sheri and Teresa presented Washougal Schools Foundation (WSF) member Roger Daniels with a \$1,000 check toward the group’s annual Stride event. Teresa Baldwin noted that this is the second year in a row that CCU has made this very generous contribution. Roger, along with the board and audience, thanked the CCU representatives for their organization’s on-going support of Washougal schools. Teresa Baldwin announced that CCU is also partnering with the district in their sponsorship of the annual Teacher Appreciation poster, which is again the second year in a row for their support of this project. Teresa and the board thanked Columbia Credit Union, noting their great appreciation for the organization’s partnerships with local schools.

4. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Blaine Peterson asked that citizen comments be limited to 2 minutes each.

Mike Adams – Mike has 3 students in the WSD system. He stated that Josh Gibson would still be coaching if the issues at the high school could have been resolved. He is a quality coach who raised a lot of money for his program and cared about it. Mike would also be interested in talking about the WHS basketball program and the direction it is going. He is looking for a venue to express these concerns further, and proposed a meeting to gather more community input.

Andy Wolmoth – Andy seconded Mike’s comments. He has coached youth sports in the community for many years, and feels that Josh Gibson was a big inspiration to Washougal students in a way that other coaches have not been.

Karen Short – Karen has a freshman on the football team. The programs put in place by Coach Gibson are important, and provide structure for the students. She agrees with the previous comments, and feels that WHS will not get a replacement coach with so much commitment. It is unfortunate that no one went after the coach and worked harder to keep him here.

Scott Purkeypyle – Scott has lived in Washougal all of his life. He recalled that the sports programs were the only things that kept him in school. He has never seen a coach like Josh, who worked so hard for so little money, and who enjoyed what he was doing so much. He asked the district to continue to work to try to bring Coach Gibson back. He also would like to see Washougal vs. Camas games brought back, since that rivalry is very important to the community.

Roy Erdwins – Roy has a junior in the football program. He stated that everyone would understand Josh Gibson’s resignation if they had known the obstacles he faced. Roy finds it difficult to believe that WHS staff problems could not be resolved in order to keep him as a coach. He is frustrated that some teachers have been outspoken about the resignation. He stated that the district was not willing to stand up and make an unpopular decision, which sends a bad message to the students and is unacceptable. He hopes that things will change, but has some reservations due to the cliques in Washougal.

Adam Philbin – Adam has a son in the freshman football program. It is obvious that Josh Gibson had a passion for his coaching position. He would like for the administration to look further into what happened that would make a person with such a passion resign.

Amanda Klackner asked the board for a response to the above stated requests.

Blaine Peterson answered that the board needed time for discussion before a response could be given.

Teresa Baldwin – Teresa shared that this coaching issue was both professional and personal for her. Her daughter had Josh Gibson as a math teacher for two years, and she sought Josh out to coach for WHS because of his incredible commitment to kids. He is a teacher above all else, and she was thrilled beyond words when she found out that he would be coaching here. WHS administrators, along with Doug Bright in Human Resources, worked with Josh, and then put together meetings with staff involved. While she is very sorry to see Josh go, he is requesting to resign, and she would like for patrons to respect that. She will touch base with Josh again, and will work to maintain the path that he set forward.

Katie Wilmoth – WHS is losing a great coach, and that is unacceptable. The bigger question is in how it transpired. There is bad blood with the coaching staff at WHS, and she is embarrassed to be affiliated with a school where this kind of bad behavior is allowed. Katie holds the upper level administration and board responsible. The community is asking for solutions so that this doesn’t happen again. The students need structure and the next coach should not have to face the same kinds of problems.

Teresa Baldwin – Teresa noted that the weight room program will continue. The program has support from WHS administration and the Athletic Director.

Karen Short expressed concerns with motivation issues in the basketball program.

Blaine Peterson – Blaine restated that the board is still collecting information and needs time to discuss this issue. The board is very aware that this is an important issue to the community and will work to figure out the best next step to take.

Hilary Gibson – Hilary had promised Josh earlier that she was only coming to listen. She acknowledged her bias, but felt compelled to speak, since she has seen Josh work with kids so many times. Hilary feels that while the district did offer verbal support for Josh, there was very little conflict resolution. The memo sent from Doug Bright was very inspiring and spoke to what should be happening, but actions taken amounted more to avoidance than resolution. She asked that the district keep pushing until resolution is reached, so that these problems do not continue with the future coach.

Amanda Klackner asked about the procedure for hiring a new coach. Will that person be hand picked by the athletic director?

Teresa Baldwin responded that work has already been done to form a hiring committee. Two applicants have inquired so far. The hiring needs to take place soon so that the coach will be in place for spring training.

Tiffany McCormick – Tiffany has taught in two WSD schools. She read from an email sent to the board of directors and the superintendent from her husband, John McCormick. John's letter urged the district to use reserve funds during this tough economic climate, asking "what constitutes an emergency?" Now is the time to use these funds, which can be prudently spent to do what is right for the children of this community. Tiffany asked the board to consider "fairness, caring and integrity" in making these tough budget decisions and to lead by example.

Blaine Peterson thanked those present for their comments. He assured them that the board does listen and does care. He encouraged patrons to reach out to their legislators about fully funding education, especially since there will very likely be funding issues again next year if changes to the state funding system are not made.

Sheila Good thanked the board members who attended the staff forum at WHS last week. She appreciated Ron Dinius's statement that the board has taken responsibility to be transparent throughout the budget process. To back up Tiffany's statements, Sheila asked that everyone come together with ideas and contributions – students, teachers, administration and community. She applauded the board for working for all of these years to build up the district's reserve fund. It is times like these when it is valuable to have that kind of reserve and to be able to come together to create a good budget for the students.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (April 13, 2010)

B. Accounts Payable (April 2010)

General Fund

Warrant numbers 179087 – 179215 in the amount of \$284,850.54 (Pay date: April 28, 2010)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 18131 – 18158 in the amount of \$18,639.88 (Pay date: April 28, 2010)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant number 3684 in the amount of \$330.00 (Pay date: April 28, 2010)

C. Payroll (April 2010)

Warrant numbers 179025 – 179086 in the amount of \$1,786,365.98 (Pay date: April 30, 2010)

D. Personnel Report

E. Policy Governance Executive Limitation 13, Communication with the Public

F. Budget Status (March 2010)

G. Contracts

H. Travel

I. Field Trips

J. Donations

K. Asset Inventory Removal

Tom Huffman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Orlan Gessford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Elaine Pfeifer moved to recess to executive session for approximately 15 minutes at 7:25 p.m. Tom Huffman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The board returned from executive session at 7:46 p.m. to continue the regular meeting.

Blaine Peterson reported that the board discussed holding a community meeting to gather input regarding the WHS athletics program within the next two weeks. Information regarding the meeting will be posted on the website and sent home to the families of football players. The board will accept information from community members interested in serving on a coach selection committee, and a name will be drawn to fill that position.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. School Improvement Plan: Excelsior High School

The presentation of the EHS school improvement plan was moved to a future meeting.

B. 2010-2011 Board Calendar – first reading

Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve the 2010-2011 board meeting calendar as presented. Tom Huffman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. 2010-2011 Policy Governance Calendar – first reading

Tom Huffman moved, seconded by Ron Dinius, to approve the 2010-2011 policy governance calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Federal Race To The Top: Tier III Schools

Teresa Baldwin presented information regarding the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) educational reform initiative. States are invited to apply if their criteria and objectives meet those of the program. Teresa passed out a copy of Senate Bill 6696 as well a chart outlining the requirements for compliance with the initiative. She asked the board to review these requirements and be ready to provide her input at the next meeting regarding her signature of support. She will also speak with Sheila Good, WAE president, and board president Blaine Peterson, since they are able to sign the document as well, should they choose to do so. Teresa and Rebecca are currently working with the district's two Tier III schools toward improvement in achievement. Teresa would like to bring this topic back to the May 11 meeting for further discussion.

E. Washington State School Board: Core 24 Graduation Policy

Teresa Baldwin reported about the Core 24 state graduation policy, which would allow for a state diploma guided by statewide graduation requirements. She presented information about the proposed credits the policy would require. A proposal to adopt this policy at the state level will be considered during the next legislative session. School districts across the state are asking that this policy not be implemented without the necessary related funding to support it.

7. BOARD WORK SESSION

A. 2010-2011 General Fund Budget Planning

Teresa Baldwin shared with the board input gathered from the April 19 staff budget forum, where WAE leader Sheila Good announced that the teachers' group would be willing to provide approximately \$93,000 to the general fund from unused professional development funds, provided that the board was willing to match this amount, two dollars to one, from the district's reserve funds. Suggestions to make the Kerr property payment from the "new school" fund were also heard. Teresa reported that the community budget task force has generated a list of potential reductions. They will meet again this Thursday night, and will present their recommendations to the board on May 11. The group is promoting a multiple strategy approach to finding a budget solution, including some cuts,

some reductions, and pursuing additional funding. The community forum meetings held on April 26 were well attended and provided a great opportunity to gather further community input. Teresa shared a notebook where all community budget ideas and comments, including numerous patron emails, have been compiled. The board needs to have a draft of the budget prepared by the June 22 meeting. May and early June meetings will focus on formulating budget solutions. Teresa shared the progress made toward meeting the projected necessary budget expenditure reductions, noting that the district and community are still exploring options and still looking for further alternate funding sources.

B. 2010-2011 ASB Fund

Rosann Lassman presented information regarding the district's ASB fund, including the board responsibilities regarding these funds. She explained some of the reasons behind the increases seen in the ASB balances at some of the buildings over the past few years. She also explained the athletics fees collection and distribution system, and provided information about how these funds have helped to defray some of the athletics transportation costs. Teresa Baldwin added that the district received very high marks and positive feedback for its monitoring of the ASB fund. She thanked Rosann for all of the work she has done to improve systems and tracking. Ron Dinius asked about the possibility of one-way transportation for athletes to games and how the athletics officiating contracts are reviewed. The board will further discuss these issues as well as the scheduling for replacement of uniforms and equipment at a future meeting.

8. PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

A. Resolution 09-10-13: Reduction in Force

Orlan Gessford moved to approve Resolution 09-10-13 regarding a possible reduction in force. Tom Huffman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Limitation 14, Instructional Materials Selection

Rebecca Miner presented the monitoring report related to Executive Limitation (EL) 14 regarding the selection of instructional materials. Blaine Peterson collected a monitoring report response form from each board member, noting that the approval of EL-14 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

B. Executive Limitation 10, Asset Protection

Rebecca Miner shared with the board a notebook of the inventory listings for each district building. Les Brown spoke to the revision of a procedure document related to Policy 9302 regarding property, data and records management. He outlined some of the changes made to the inventory system. Les shared a short list of inventory being tracked and thanked the inventory representatives from each building for all of their work to make the database complete and current. Blaine Peterson collected response forms for (EL) 10 related to asset protection from board members. The approval of EL-10 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular board meeting.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members asked to discuss WIAA athletics competition official costs, WESPaC conversion costs and an updated energy policy at future meetings. It was noted that the presentation of the EHS SIP will also be made at a May 2010 meeting.

11. BOARD ADJOURNMENT OR ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. RCW 42.30.110 (A) (7) Performance of an Employee

Orlan Gessford moved, seconded by Tom Huffman, to recess to executive session for approximately 15 minutes, returning for adjournment only, at 9:23 p.m.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ADJOURNMENT OR ACTION

BOARD EVALUATION AND ADJOURNMENT

Blaine Peterson collected the board's self-evaluation forms. The results are attached.

Tom Huffman moved, seconded by Elaine Pfeifer, to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 11th day of May 2010

President

Secretary to the Board

Board Self Evaluation Results											
April 27, 2010											
					board member:	1	2	3	4	5	Average
1.	The board followed its agenda and did not allow itself to get sidetracked.					4	4	2	4		3.5
2.	The agenda was well planned to focus on the real work of the board.					5	4	2	4		3.8
3.	The meeting started on time and proceeded in a timely manner.					4	4	2	3		3.3
4.	The meeting proceeded without interruptions or distractions.					4	4	2	3		3.3
5.	The board's deliberations and decision-making processes were public.					5	4	2	5		4.0
6.	Participation was balanced; all participated; no one dominated.					5	4	2	5		4.0
7.	Members listened attentively, avoiding side conversations.					4	4	2	5		3.8
8.	Work was conducted in an atmosphere of trust and openness.					5	4	2	5		4.0
9.	Meeting participants treated each other with respect and courtesy.					5	4	2	5		4.0
Point scoring system:											
1	Failed										
2	Unacceptable										
3	Acceptable										
4	Commendable										
5	Met Best Expectations										