

**WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 22, 2013**  
**Executive Session - 5:00, Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Blaine Peterson, Board Director; Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Karen Rubino, Board Director; Ron Dinius, Board Director; Terrie Hutchins, Board Director; and Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Potential Litigation, RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**

Blaine Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The board recessed immediately to executive session to discuss potential litigation with attorney Donald Austin. The board returned to regular session at 6:00 p.m. and recessed for a short break and tour of Hathaway Elementary School prior to the regular meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Blaine Peterson called the meeting back to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. AGENDA REVISIONS**

None.

**3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ron Dinius shared information about the legislative session, which started last week. The governor has pressed for additional funding toward education as a step toward addressing the McCleary case. Thirteen bills related to fully funding schools were introduced in the first week of the session. Ron strongly encouraged board members, staff, parents and community members to continue to contact their legislators to let them know the importance of school funding. We need to be more vocal to make sure schools are funded adequately.

Karen Rubino will be attending the Legislative Conference in Olympia March 10-11, along with Ron Dinius. She and Ron will be taking input from Washougal as they meet with legislators. Karen thanked the Hathaway student tour guides for their assistance earlier in the evening. They were very attentive and knowledgeable about their school. The band room is especially awesome! Karen asked for clarification about the upcoming McDonald's event and was informed that Hathaway will benefit from the Wednesday, February 6 "McTeacher" night, when 15% of all purchases between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. will go to the Hathaway Boosters group.

Terrie Hutchins appreciated the board training and workshop held last week. It has inspired her to make an even bigger point to visit programs and events held at all of the schools.

Elaine Pfeifer thanked the Hathaway student council members for the school tour as well. Hathaway is such a cheery school, and she appreciates all of the effort that goes into showcasing student work so well. Elaine attended the American Sign Language (ASL) program at Washougal High School (WHS), noting that it was really well done. She was very impressed with the level of support that the students showed for each other's performances. Elaine closed by sharing that she also felt that the board's recent WSSDA training workshop was very productive.

Blaine Peterson highlighted articles in the Post-Record covering the district's wrestling, basketball and equestrian teams. The article about promoting positive school environments was inspiring and full of great information. The recent outstanding food safety audits also received coverage.

Blaine added to other board members' comments about the value of the recent board training. He spoke about the State of the Schools address given by Dawn Tarzian and Camas Superintendent Mike Nerland at the last Chamber of Commerce meeting. Blaine has received many positive comments about the message in Dawn's presentation, which had a focus on preparing our students to be good citizens. Blaine thanked Hathaway staff members for coming to the meeting tonight.

#### **4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dawn Tarzian expressed her deep appreciation for the district's board of directors. She shared from Governor Gregoire's proclamation declaring January to be School Board Recognition Month. She presented each board member with a gift of flower bulbs, and shared a "deep roots" analogy to their work.

Dawn provided an enrollment update. January's FTE on count day was 2902, which is down slightly from December, but still significantly higher than the 2749 projection used for budgeting. The Partners for Schools key communicators group will be hosting an event on January 31 at 5:30 p.m. at Jemtegaard Middle School. Dawn encouraged board members and the audience to attend. There will be an assembly held on January 29 at 1:30 p.m. at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School in recognition of their recent School of Distinction award. Board members are welcome to attend this celebration.

Dawn thanked ASL teacher Tami Grant for the incredible work that she does with students and for her commitment to assuring that innovation and creativity are a requirement of her students' demonstration of their learning, all evident in the recent ASL "Show of Hands" performances.

Dawn continues to make community presentations, most recently for NW Properties Realty Group. At this meeting, Dawn shared information about the district's programs and provided the realtors with information cards to share with prospective families who may have questions about our school system.

Dawn congratulated Mark Jasper and his Food Service staff members for the very high marks received from a recent health and safety inspection. Of the three schools inspected, "Double Gold" ratings, signifying 100%, were earned at Jemtegaard Middle and Gause Elementary Schools, and Washougal High School scored nearly perfect with a 99.5%.

After reviewing the issues from the January 4 weather-related school closure, some refinements to the district's Alert Now system have been implemented. Dawn highlighted these, which include a change to the distribution list and the inclusion of email notifications to go along with the calls, which will be an extra measure to reach families and will be helpful to any individuals with hearing disabilities.

OSPI recently provided a very clear and succinct summary of the McCleary Case, which Dawn shared with board members.

Dawn announced that the district will be proceeding this year in retaining a company to provide custodial guidance, training and oversight. A six-month pilot is scheduled to begin on February 1, pending the selection of a vendor through a bid process. She shared the areas of expertise and support that the district is hoping to gain through such an agreement.

#### **5. COMMENTS - CITIZENS**

Rhea Bohlin echoed Dawn's words about the board. As one who comes to many of the board's meetings, she sees first hand the hours that they put in and knows that there is much work done to prepare for the meetings as well. Other meetings, workshops and trainings, and staying current on educational issues all take time too. She wanted board members to know how very appreciated they are, and agreed with Dawn that they are definitely sending down deep roots here.

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Meeting Minutes (January 8, 2013)**
- B. Meeting Minutes (January 16, 2013)**
- C. Accounts Payable (January 2013)**

### General Fund

Warrant numbers 200078 – 200179 in the amount of \$202,998.69 (Pay date: Jan. 25, 2013)

Warrant number 200054 in the amount of \$1,607.00 (Pay date: Jan. 25, 2013)

### ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 19515 – 19535 in the amount of \$13,532.74 (Pay date: Jan. 25, 2013)

### Capital Projects Fund

Warrant numbers 3831 – 3832 in the amount of \$5,237.61 (Pay date: Jan. 25, 2013)

### ACH

ACH numbers 121300192 – 121300212 in the amount of \$29,040.88 (Pay date: Jan. 25, 2013)

- D. Payroll pre-authorization (January 2013)**
- E. Budget Status Report (December 2012)**
- F. Personnel Report**
- G. Contracts**
- H. Executive Responsibilities 7 – Budget Planning**
- I. Travel**
- J. Field Trips**
- K. Donations**

Blaine Peterson noted the addition to the personnel report since the original board packet materials were prepared. Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Karen Rubino, to approve the consent agenda as presented, with the noted addition. The motion carried unanimously.

## 7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### **A. Hathaway Elementary School Improvement Plan presentation**

Laura Bolt, Hathaway Elementary School principal, thanked the board for all that they do and welcomed them to the school. She began the school improvement plan (SIP) presentation by sharing the school's demographic data. She presented the most recent measurements of student progress (MSP) state assessment data. Laura spoke of the environment at Hathaway, noting that "kids are happy to be here". The school benefits from a remarkable staff – teachers and classified staff who collectively believe in kids and hold themselves accountable for achieving the results that are expected. Laura asked teachers Sue Conway and Andy Schlauch to share examples of how staff participate in finding solutions to issues at the school. Laura shared Hathaway's 2013 MSP reading goal of 72.7%. Teachers Mackenzie Foley and Alexis McKee described some of the strategies teachers are using to reach this goal. Cathy Burrows and Kathy Evans spoke about reading intervention strategies used with students served in special education and Title I programs. Hathaway's 2013 math MSP goal is 62.3%. Philicia Weaver and Chera Thompson spoke to math instructional techniques and the strategies in place as some grade levels have fully implemented the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and other grade levels are transitioning. Molly Hayes spoke about the wonderful community support that Hathaway benefits from – with a deep focus on supporting the whole child, heart and mind. Laura and her staff answered questions from the board, and the board thanked them for the informative presentation.

The board asked the staff and parents present for feedback and input. In response:

Alexis McKee shared that this is her first year working in the district, having been in Portland previously. She has never been at a school with a staff as positive as this one. It is a really supportive environment and she is very happy to be here.

Cathy Burrows spoke about the changes that have taken place over the past two years. The addition of the Jan Rauth literacy support trainings, while creating some very difficult work, has been remarkable. Philicia Weaver added that the results of this training are showing already, and Kathy Evans noted that it is nice to have this kind of advice come from an outside consultant whose work is so respected. This makes the teachings more readily accepted.

Molly Hayes is appreciative that the district is working with local realtors. She has heard around the community for too long that Hathaway is the “poor” school, and it is actually so rich in so many ways. She feels the school is hurt by this categorization and would like to see continued work toward shifting this identity to be more positive.

Sue Conway spoke about the possibility of all-day kindergarten. The curriculum being used is for a full-time program, and teachers don’t have time to cover everything. Any ideas as to how to influence those at the state level would be appreciated. Blaine Peterson encouraged teachers and parents to contact their legislators to provide ongoing input related to this issue. Rhea Bohlin stressed the importance of parents communicating to legislators. Dawn Tarzian added that the issue of funding for all-day kindergarten came up at the recent joint board legislative forum. Local legislators heard this message strongly from all three boards.

Sue Conway followed up with a question about whether the district might consider going back to the “half-day, every day” schedule if full day kindergarten cannot be implemented. Blaine Peterson explained that the switch to “full-day, every-other day” was in an effort to stretch dollars related to transportation costs. The board and district will look into those costs and weigh this decision again.

Nancy Kutchera, parent, loves Hathaway. The school has an amazing staff that is supportive of kids. Of course there are some challenges, but having her kids attend Hathaway has been one of the most positive experiences imaginable. Her kids have gained so much from their time here. She asked the board and administration to support the school as much as possible.

Storm Wilcox spoke from the unique perspective of having six children in the district. Hathaway has offered wonderful support for her children. Laura is an excellent source of support, and she is really happy to have all of her children here in the district.

Dawn Tarzian is proud of the focus of Hathaway’s work. There is so much to celebrate. She appreciates the dedication and level of commitment from the staff here. Blaine Peterson thanked everyone for their contributions adding that, from comments he has heard, Hathaway has a great reputation in the community.

## **8. BOARD POLICY**

### **A. Policy 6022 – Minimum Fund Balance, second reading**

Karen Rubino moved to approve Policy 6022 as presented. Terrie Hutchins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **9. WORK SESSION**

### **A. District Mission, Vision and Goals Statements**

Dawn Tarzian shared a draft of a community flyer that highlights the district’s mission, vision and goals statements, which were created using the input received from last year’s Community Visioning process. Dawn asked the board to review these statements and bring back any suggestions. The board will be asked to approve these statements at a future meeting.

## **B. Levy Renewal Discussion**

Dawn shared a summary of the programs that are currently supported by levy funding, at approximately 20% of the current total budget. She asked board members to consider whether the renewal levy should be on the February 2014 ballot, and if so, whether it should be a fixed amount or increasing, how many years to run the levy for, and whether or not the district should work to try to align the running of future levies on the same cycle as other neighboring districts. This discussion will take place at the next regular meeting.

## **C. 2013-14 Budget Planning**

Dawn Tarzian asked the board to begin compiling a list of their budgeting priorities to assist the district in developing next year's budget. Ron Dinius stressed the importance of long-range facilities and capital projects planning. He specifically mentioned the well at Cape Horn-Skye and Canyon Creek schools, and the board discussed the timing of the proposed long-range planning process. Elaine suggested that the allocation of resources necessary to support the programs outlined in the community goals shared earlier should be a priority. For instance, Career and Technical Education, Alternative Education, music, athletics, and clubs are all very much a part of this community. She would also prioritize the consideration of all-day kindergarten. Dawn noted that the March 1, 2013 enrollment numbers will be used for the 2013-14 student FTE budgeting estimates.

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None specifically noted.

## **11. BOARD EVALUATION**

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

## **12. ADJOURN**

Elaine Pfeifer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Karen Rubino seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013**

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**President**

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**Secretary to the Board**

## BOARD MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: January 22, 2013

**Instructions: S = Satisfactory I = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory**

	<b>S</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>U</b>
1. Board members were prepared for the meeting.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
2. Our agenda was well designed.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
3. Each board member was given an adequate opportunity to participate in discussion and decision-making.	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	
4. The board's treatment of all persons was courteous, dignified, and fair. There was a respectful atmosphere.	<b>5</b>		
5. We practiced good parliamentary procedure.	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	
6. The board demonstrated a sense of responsibility for excellence in governing the district.	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	
	<b><u>Yes</u></b>		<b><u>No</u></b>
7. The board adhered to its adopted governance style:			
a. It emphasized the future and the total community:	<b>5</b>		
b. It encouraged diversity in viewpoints:	<b>5</b>		
c. It exercised policy leadership more than overseeing administrative detail:	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>
d. It maintained a clear distinction between the roles of board and staff:	<b>5</b>		
e. It worked for group agreement and responsibility:	<b>5</b>		
f. Progress toward board goals:	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>
8. Your suggestions on where we could do better: <i>"too long"</i>			
9. Additional Comments: <i>"Executive session working well before regular meeting"</i>			