

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Gause Elementary School

PRESENT: Blaine Peterson, Board Director; Elaine Pfeifer, Board Director; Ron Dinius, Board Director; Karen Rubino, Board Director; Terrie Hutchins, 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 6:34 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVISIONS

The Gause Elementary School Improvement Plan (SIP) presentation was rescheduled to take place at the April 24, 2012 meeting, due to the fact that school was cancelled today for inclement weather. Staff and volunteer input from the Gause community will be gathered at the April 24 meeting as well.

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Terrie Hutchins attended the Blue Note Café at Washougal High School (WHS) this past Friday. The talent was incredible, as usual. Ron Dinius reported that there is still no consensus on the state budget, and that the legislature will be back for another 30-day session. Last night, Ron attended the Washougal City Council meeting. There was a great deal of public comment regarding the proposed increase in coal train traffic. Elaine Pfeifer also attended the City Council meeting and added that most of the comment received was asking for the safety and health implications to communities along the rail lines be included in the assessment for the project, instead of only at the proposed export site. Blaine Peterson shared a Post-Record article about the WHS Challenge Day, adding that he has received very positive feedback about the day from the students involved.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dawn Tarzian introduced Janet Yanzick, Washougal's Public School Employees (PSE) president, and Indra Burcella, PSE Field Representative. She thanked Washougal's classified staff members for the amazing work that they do. She noted that small token gifts have been sent to the buildings in honor of Classified Staff Appreciation Week, and that buildings are celebrating their classified staff members as well. Board members expressed their appreciation for classified staff: Blaine spoke of how classified staff members are often not out in front, but keep everything moving smoothly. Terrie thanked the para-educators. She has witnessed how they work so well with both teachers and students, creating a great learning environment in the schools. Karen admired how hard the maintenance staff works, and how they accomplish so much with a limited staff. She is very impressed with the maintenance staff's knowledge and skills. Ron thanked the bus drivers and mechanics for the great job they do – amazing work is done on the buses, especially considering the age of the transportation facility. Elaine thanked Janet personally for her many years of service to the district. She also shared her appreciation for the amazing job that the district's custodial staff does. Doug Bright added that it is a pleasure to work with Janet and Indra. It is nice to have such pleasurable, respectful meetings. Janet responded that she is fortunate to work with and get to represent such a great group of people. The PSE also enjoys its good relationship with the district. Dawn closed by noting that the classified staff's skill and talents are apparent, but it is their commitment and dedication that is particularly celebrated at this time.

Dawn shared that State Superintendent Randy Dorn recently announced that OSPI will apply for a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) sanctions. If approved, Washington state would be relieved of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) rules. Current AYP rules include increasing consequences for Title I schools and districts that do not meet certain percentage levels of students

passing state tests each year. In 2011, roughly two out of every three schools in Washington did not meet AYP.

Dawn reported that Samantha Lockhart followed up her presentation regarding the coal train proposal to the board at the last meeting with a draft of a resolution in the event that the board would want to make a statement. Blaine has requested that the district contact someone to provide equal time to present the other perspective to the board before posing the question to the board about whether or not to pass a resolution. Dawn is having a difficult time finding a contact person, but is following up with a patron who contacted City Council about the issue.

Rob Charles, City of Washougal Engineer, met with Aaron Hansen and the district's maintenance staff on February 29 regarding the WHS baseball field. Dawn deeply appreciates Rob's willingness to meet with the staff, walk the field, research the issue, and consider the ideas and proposals that the district has received through the donation of drainage pipe and informal bids for the work. Rob has also met with fellow City staff member Scott Randal regarding the drainage issue. Dawn briefed the board with Rob's analysis of the situation and recommendations for moving forward.

The district enrollment as of March 2012 is 2965 headcount, 2830.82 FTE. September 2011 FTE was 2839.59. This year's average so far of 2848.19 compares well to last year's average of 2779.53.

Dawn shared photos from the recent Challenge Day at WHS. She echoed Blaine's comments about the event being very worthwhile, noting that staff and community members also shared that it was a powerful experience. She cited the "cross the line" activity as an example of the meaningful interactions that took place that day. Dawn shared the story of her own lost (and returned) purse that evening as an example of the reinforced lessons and values learned at Challenge Day.

5. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Sheila Good, Washougal Association of Educators (WAE) co-president and long-time resident of Washougal, expressed her appreciation to Janet Yanzick for all of the contributions to the district from classified staff. She then stated that she, along with co-president Frank Zahn, were present to speak to the board in a proactive manner about the proposed changes to snow routes. WAE members and district patrons have shared ideas regarding the issue. In a small district like Washougal, they feel that instead of separating the district's students by lowering the snow routes, they would prefer that all schools close or start late on days deemed necessary. One worry is that even with snow routes in place, high school students will drive themselves to school, creating additional risk. Sheila understands both sides of the issue – that it is frustrating for parents of students at the lower elevations to have students miss school when the lower roads are clear, but she does not believe that it is worth any risk, when closing school is just an inconvenience, not the safety issue that it is for those up-river. The district doesn't have snow days very often, so should just plan to make a district-wide decision and make up those few days. She complimented the district administration for its decision to close school today.

Frank Zahn thanked the board for coming to Gause tonight. He encouraged the board to keep going out to schools, since he believes it encourages patrons to provide more input. He also noted that Gause teachers are providing lunch for the classified staff tomorrow.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (February 28, 2012)

B. Accounts Payable (March 2012)

General Fund

Warrant numbers 185358 – 185446 in the amount of \$171,694.02 (Pay date: March 16, 2012)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 191114 – 191127 in the amount of \$13,238.29 (Pay date: March 16, 2012)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant numbers 3796 – 3797 in the amount of \$23,539.47 (Pay date: March 16, 2012)

ACH

ACH numbers 111200243 – 111200267 in the amount of \$17,693.74 (Pay date: March 16, 2012)

C. Accounts Payable (Pre-Authorization for April 2012, first run)

D. Personnel Report

E. Contracts

F. Executive Responsibilities 5 – Staff Compensation

G. Travel

H. Field Trips

I. Donations

Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Karen Rubino, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. **Gause Elementary School Improvement Plan**

Staff Feedback Forum

Volunteer Feedback Forum

These agenda items moved to the April 24, 2012 regular meeting, due to today's school closure.

B. **Secondary Release Proposal**

Doug Bright provided information regarding two proposed sets of district calendars for the next two academic years, Option A created by WAE and Option B by the district. Both sets of calendars honor the board's desire to start school after Labor Day. Doug shared a proposal to change the student early release times to allow for secondary school staff members to have 40 minutes of weekly professional learning community (PLC) collaboration time, instead of the current 3-hours eight times per year. The reasoning behind this proposal is that the district believes that weekly time together for staff would be more impactful to student learning than the fewer longer sessions as currently scheduled. This proposal is a draft only, since WAE has not had the opportunity to review it yet. The next time it is brought before the board, it will include input from WAE.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

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

Dawn Tarzian presented proposed revisions to Policies 5201 and 5202. She will be bringing several policies at a time from the 5000 and 6000 series to the board on a regular basis until these last two sections of board policy have been updated. The policies above have been reviewed by Human Resources as well as by PSE representatives. Transportation Supervisor Theresa Thomsen holds annual training for drivers where this information is reviewed. The policies will be brought back to the next regular meeting for a second reading.

9. PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

A. **Board Meeting Calendar Revision**

Dawn Tarzian presented a proposed revision to the board meeting calendar that would move the July 14, 2012 meeting to August 14, 2012. Business manager Rosann Lassman shared that this schedule will work better for budget preparation, review and approval. It would also allow for district office staff to take vacation time in July. The board expressed a desire to have more concentrated time to work on budgeting throughout the spring and June of this year. Dawn noted that the April 24 meeting will now take place at Gause instead of District Office, due to tonight's agenda revision. This change will be reflected in the calendar revision as well. Elaine Pfeifer moved to approve the calendar revision as presented. Terrie Hutchins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

10. POLICY GOVERNANCE

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

Dawn Tarzian presented evidence in support of Executive Responsibilities (ER) 11 regarding communication and counsel with the board. She clarified, in response to Ron Dinius, the revised section of the ER evidence related to the superintendent's mid-year evaluation. Elaine asked for an executive session to be scheduled at an upcoming board meeting for the board to discuss the superintendent's performance. Blaine Peterson collected the monitoring report response forms from all board members, noting that the approval of ER 11 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

11. BOARD WORK SESSION

A. Moving to Paperless Board Meetings – Technology Training for Board Members

Les Brown presented each board member with an iPad and instructed them as to how to download their board packets from their district email accounts, then navigate and make edits to the materials included. Board members will receive board meeting materials in this manner moving forward, in a move toward paperless board meetings. The iPad technology was well-received by all present. Dawn thanked Les for his work to bring about this change, which will save both district funds and district office staff time in the preparation for board meetings.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None specifically noted.

13. BOARD EVALUATION

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

14. ADJOURN

Elaine Pfeifer moved, seconded by Ron Dinius, to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 27th day of March 2012

President

Secretary to the Board

Board Self Evaluation Results												
March 13, 2012						board member:	1	2	3	4	5	Average
1. The board followed its agenda and did not allow itself to get sidetracked.							4	4	5	5	4	4.4
2. The agenda was well planned to focus on the real work of the board.							4	4	5	5	5	4.6
3. The meeting started on time and proceeded in a timely manner.							4	4	4	5	3	4.0
4. The meeting proceeded without interruptions or distractions.							4	5	5	5	4	4.6
5. The board's deliberations and decision-making processes were public.							5	5	4	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	4	4.8
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	5	5	5	5.0
Point scoring system:												
1 Failed												
2 Unacceptable												
3 Acceptable												
4 Commendable												
5 Met Best Expectations												