

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112-06
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

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

Ron Dinius asked to add a discussion of the material presented at the recent Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) legislative meeting and Regional meeting, to be board work session agenda item 9.C. Teresa Baldwin asked to add to the executive session the performance review of an employee, per RCW 42.30.110 (A)(7).

3. COMMENTS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Ron Dinius – Ron visited Washougal High School (WHS) for a tour of the building with district maintenance workers to view the heating units and gym lighting. There was a great turnout in donors for the Red Cross blood drive at WHS. At the WSSDA conference next week, Governor Gregoire and state superintendent of public instruction Randy Dorn will be speaking to board directors and school administrators. An upcoming presentation by the state board of education (SBE) will be held in southwest Washington.

Elaine Pfeifer – Elaine has heard from several WHS parents expressing their appreciation and excitement for the hiring of Aaron Hansen as principal next year.

Blaine Peterson – Blaine highlighted an article in the Columbian newspaper about the WHS cross-country team. He noted that there was an article regarding the girls' soccer team as well. Blaine is amazed at the talent in the Washougal schools, most recently showcased in the WHS production of "Dracula" written by drama teacher Kelly Gregersen. At a lunchtime visit to WHS, Blaine witnessed the staff handling a difficult student situation. He expressed his appreciation to the staff involved for handling the situation so smoothly and for preventing its escalation.

Rebecca Miner – Rebecca echoed that the "Dracula" performance she attended was fantastic. She was also able to view the Fine Dining event at Gause Elementary School last week. She asked Michael Piekarski, Director of Food Services, to describe the event. Michael explained that 10 students from each 5th grade class were selected to enjoy a 4-course meal prepared by Sodexo's executive chef. Parent volunteers and staff served lunch, and all student participants were extremely well behaved and seemed to have a great time.

Teresa Baldwin – Teresa thanked Rhea Bohlin for bringing delicious cookies to the board meeting. She then thanked Cape Horn-Skye (CHS) Elementary School principal Mary Lou Woody for the wonderful Veterans' Day assembly today. Though CHS has a history of great assemblies, today's may have been the best ever. She thanked Lt. Col. Brian Bea for hosting the event and guest speaker Harold White, Pearl Harbor survivor, for his participation. Teresa announced that a Washington Apple Health for Kids public health flyer promoting low-cost and free health care coverage will be distributed to all district families. She shared the flyer with the board. Lastly, Teresa spoke about the electronic security breach experienced at the Vancouver School District and discussed the measures taken by Washougal School District to protect the district's electronic records.

4. COMMENTS – CITIZENS

Rhea Bohlin – Rhea noted that WHS students were very respectful today as veterans were circulating throughout the school. There was a great deal of activity at the high school today, including the blood drive. She noticed today how many students use the school facilities after school. She is glad that it is a safe place for kids to be for academic and extracurricular activities, that the students are respectful of the school and that the building is so well used.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Meeting Minutes (October 27, 2009)

B. Accounts Payable

General Fund

Warrant numbers 177293 – 177443 in the amount of \$265,336.61 (Pay date: November 12, 2009)

ASB Fund

Warrant numbers 17896 – 17918 in the amount of \$12,403.22 (Pay date: November 12, 2009)

Capital Projects Fund

Warrant number 3674 in the amount of \$5,355.90 (Pay date: November 12, 2009)

C. Personnel Report

D. Contracts

E. Policy Governance Executive Limitation 5, Staff Compensation

F. Travel

G. Field Trips

H. Donations

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

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. School of Distinction Award, Cape Horn-Skye Elementary

Teresa Baldwin received notification from the Center for Educational Excellence that Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School was recently awarded the “School of Distinction” award through the Great Schools program. CHS was one of only 55 elementary schools across the state to receive this honor. Congratulations to the CHS staff and students for this outstanding achievement. CHS students shared the banner that will be displayed at the school. The board thanked CHS staff and students.

B. 2008-2009 Budget Year Close Report

Rosann Lassman overviewed the district’s five funds, gave detailed expenditure and revenue information for each fund, including beginning and ending balances, and shared the 6% reserve fund calculations with the board.

C. 2009-2010 Academic Leadership Team

Teresa Baldwin described the district’s opportunity to participate in the Washington State Leadership Academy (WSLA), which includes 6 days of professional development at the ESD for administrators, principals and associate principals. Kay Ball and Sue Conway are also participating as Washougal Association of Educators (WAE) representatives. Teresa presented information about the Washougal Academic Leadership Team (ALT) and spoke about the instructional rounds to take place this Thursday and Friday, November 12-13, 2009. The focus of the group’s work this year will be on intellectually challenging engaging (ICE) instruction.

7. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. Executive Limitation 6, Staff Evaluation

Teresa Baldwin presented to the board additional evidence in support of Executive Limitation (EL) 6 regarding staff evaluations. She handed out five sample evaluations (staff members not identifiable) written by district principals and associate principals, highlighting the comments portions of each.

Blaine Peterson collected the monitoring report response forms from all board members, noting that the approval of EL 6 will be on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Orlan Gessford asked for an update on the costs of copy machines and their leases. Blaine Peterson asked for an analysis of how copy costs compare to print shop costs. Rosann Lassman explained that the district is closely monitoring copy machine use and costs, as well as print shop billings, and will have relevant data to share with the board when the leases are closer to expiring. In the mean time, Teresa suggested a meeting with Tonette Sweet and Rosann for any board members interested in an informal work session to discuss the photocopying options for the district. Rosann will set up this meeting.

9. BOARD WORK SESSION

A. Levy Election 2010 Plans

Teresa Baldwin shared with the board a draft copy of an informational levy brochure. The content of the brochure has been reviewed by public information specialist Jodi Thomas as well as the public disclosure commission (PDC). Teresa also shared a Q & A format informational sheet that will be used at public presentations regarding the levy.

B. School Communications Policy Dialogue

Aaron Hansen, Associate Principal at WHS, Doug Bright and Rebecca Miner were present to share information regarding communications between district staff members and parents. Doug reviewed the collective bargaining agreement, the basic education act and a review of the policies and procedures of neighboring districts related to such communications. Aaron described the periodic grade checks and communications with parents related to Panther Time and athletic eligibility. Rebecca spoke about the district's expectations regarding timely responses to parent inquiries. Board members discussed the benefits of having syllabus and due date information available to parents and students on classroom websites. Blaine brought up the issue of communication from athletic coaches, especially related to changes in practice or game times at the middle school level. Teresa asked Aaron to follow up with the athletic directors at the high school and middle school levels regarding this issue, to ensure that information gets to parents well in advance for transportation planning.

C. WSSDA Legislative Conference and Regional meeting

Ron Dinius handed out information presented at the recent legislative conference in Seattle and the regional meeting in Ridgefield. He highlighted information regarding unfunded mandates, the governor's proposed budget, and potential state budget shortfalls. Ron asked board members for input regarding WSSDA's request for a 3% increase in dues. The board agreed by consensus not to support the proposed increase.

10. BOARD EVALUATION AND ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Elaine Pfeifer moved to adjourn to executive session at 8:42 for approximately 15 minutes, returning to regular session for adjournment only. Tom Huffman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

A. RCW 42.30.110 (A) (2,3) Buy/Sell Property

B. RCW 42.30.110 (A)(7) Employee Performance Review

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ADJOURNMENT OR ACTION

The board adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Dated this 24th day of November 2009

President

Secretary to the Board