

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors- Regular Session
Tuesday, January 13, 2015- 7:00 p.m.
Sam Case Elementary School
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Liz Martin, Chairman

Present: Liz Martin, Chairman; Karen Bondley, Vice Chairman; Ron Beck, Kelley Ellis, Terri Woodd (via phone), Directors

Also Present: Steve Boynton, Superintendent; Laurie Urquhart, Secretary

Handouts: Personnel Addendum; December 31, 2014 Financial Reports; Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2014; Communication to Governing Body for Year Ended 6/30/14; Survey (from patron Cari Jenkins)

Call to Order-Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Liz Martin convened the meeting and called the session to order at 7:07 p.m. with a quorum of five board members present (Director Woodd via telephone).

Communications

Janet Abbot of Lincoln City addressed the board regarding the proposed full-day kindergarten (which she favors, though with a “soft start”) and reconfiguration in the north and west areas. She disagreed with the reconfiguration of schools in the north area as she has concerns regarding transportation. Superintendent Boynton asked where her experience occurred with a soft start; she replied it was in Burns, Oregon.

Board Reports

Director Bondley noted her visit to the 21st Century after school program at Taft Elementary, saying it is a “really great program.”

Chairman Martin thanked everyone for the mementos in honor of board recognition month, and said she plans to visit Newport Intermediate in the near future.

Student Representatives

Sam Case Principal Libba Sager introduced first grade teacher Ms. Schroder. Several students in Ms. Schroder’s class sang a song they learned about friendship, then third grade students coached by Ms. McVeigh played “Jingle Bells” on recorders.

Audit Report

Kenny Allen of Pauly, Rogers and Co. presented the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. He reported this district obtained a “clean, unmodified” audit, the highest level attainable. He gave kudos to Business Manager Julie Baldwin and staff for their excellent work.

He noted a new federal auditing standard that concerns reporting for pensions. The unfunded liability for the district’s portion of the unfunded PERS liability will be shown on the district’s books beginning next year.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Julie Baldwin said the Board has Kenny Allen’s contact information should they have questions on the audit. She reported nothing unanticipated in December. If projections hold, the ending fund balance should be approximately \$1,947,000. ADM is holding steady. She reminded board members that ending fund balances on the special revenue funds do not reflect encumbered expenses.

Bond funds will be fully expended by June, 2015. Ms. Baldwin said it is exciting that \$42.6 million in bond proceeds has been spent in Lincoln County. For the month of December, 88% of bond revenue spent was spent in county.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Boynton thanked the LCSD Board of Directors for their support and dedication, in honor of School Board Recognition month. He presented them with mugs imprinted with “Every Child- Every Day.”

The Superintendent thanked Dutch Bros. for their donation of \$1,084 to the HELP program. The money was generated in Dutch Bros.’ “Buck for Kids” dollar drink day.

Mr. Boynton recognized Taft Elementary teachers Valerie Baker and Susan Roebber for presenting at the National Science Teachers Association conference in Long Beach, CA. They presented information on family STEM nights they have hosted.

Roby’s Furniture in Lincoln City will donate a day of service to Taft 7-12. Fourteen Roby’s employees will visit the school later this month to paint. Ace Hardware will donate the paint.

Taft 7-12 participated in the “Feed the Flame” fundraiser to benefit families in need of help with their electric bills. Approximately \$1,400 was raised and will be donated to families in the HELP and Family Promise programs.

Mr. Boynton reminded the Board of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 19th (all district facilities will be closed).

He noted the Newport science fair is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Marine Science Center.

The Superintendent also called attention to the “bargaining priorities” the Board received and read them to the audience.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion 14/15-22

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Consent Calendar items, including:

- Minutes, 12/9/14 Regular Session;**
- Planned Course Statement, Astronomy;**
- Regular Personnel Items and Addendum;**
- Superintendent Evaluation and Timeline;**
- Resolution, Board Vacancies.**

Full Day Kindergarten/Reconfiguration in North and West Area Schools

Chairman Liz Martin noted the agenda had been formulated specifically to allow for public comment following Superintendent Boynton’s presentation on full day kindergarten and the reconfiguration of schools in the north and west areas of the district, and prior to the board vote. She said she had several pink cards from patrons, who she would call upon following the presentation.

Mr. Boynton described the proposed plan for full day kindergarten and the reconfiguration of schools in Lincoln City and Newport beginning in 2015/16. The move to full day kindergarten will create the need for additional classroom space in all areas of the district. In addition, Newport High School is at capacity and requires room for expansion.

The Superintendent reported LCSD kindergarten students are below average when they start school; the gap widens due to limitations of the current system. “The range of ability of students is very wide; we need a customizable system. I believe we will get an acceleration of learning with this new plan, and we are working hard to remove barriers to learning,” said Boynton.

He noted staff began by looking at simply building additional classrooms. That idea was not feasible due to cost, so redrawing boundary lines was next explored. This proposal raised several insurmountable obstacles, including equity issues. Several meetings were held in Lincoln City and Newport to gather input from community members (three in the north and three in the west, over three months). The proposed plan reconfigures schools to accommodate student population.

The plan may be found on the district website (www.lincoln.k12.or.us). A summary of the changes in Lincoln City and Newport follows:

- Oceanlake Elementary changes from grades K-6 to grades K-2;**
- Taft Elementary changes from grades K-6 to grades 3-6;**
- Yaquina View opens to become a K-2 school;**
- Sam Case changes from grades K-3 to grades 3-5;**
- Grade 6 of Newport Intermediate/Isaac Newton Magnet School/Newport Prep Academy combine to become grades 6-8, known as “Newport Middle School”;**
- Newport Prep Academy closes so Newport High can expand to include that building.**

The realignment of schools will consolidate resources and provide a building wide approach to be more efficient. It will also allow for greater consultation and collaboration for teachers of similar grade levels.

In the west area, Newport Middle School will combine the best of two systems in one building. The concern in the west was the need to maintain quality programs.

Concerns in the north area mostly centered around transportation. Mr. Boynton reported Director of Support Services Rich Belloni is working with Mid-Columbia Bus Company to ensure that no child will be on the bus longer than they currently are. They are also considering express routes, when a bus would transport students between destinations without stopping.

In the east and south areas, one to two additional classrooms per area will need to be repurposed; there is existing space to do this.

Board member Ron Beck asked whether Siletz kindergarten students attending Toledo schools had been considered; it has. Director Ellis noted that Siletz Valley Charter currently offers full day kindergarten.

Director Beck asked if closing one school in Newport and opening another had been considered with regard to ODE reporting and rankings. Mr. Boynton replied that there are new ODE rules being developed and that staff would be sure to explore this.

Chairman Martin and Vice Chairman Bondley said their concerns centered on the length of time students would be on buses, and said they appreciated the consideration given to this. Mr. Boynton added schools will have to stagger start and stop times; Mid-Columbia is working with the District on this issue.

Director Ellis said she appreciated staff spending time looking at the transportation issue, saying “We experienced restructuring back in the 80’s. I’m glad to know you are looking at this.”

Audience members addressed the Board as follows:

Newport parent Scott Hall expressed his support for full day kindergarten, and asked about the special education program. Mr. Boynton responded that the Special Education Director will work with her staff, as these are yearly considerations determined by the numbers of students. He added that specialty programs will likely be maintained in their current format, if they cannot be replicated.

Mr. Hall then asked if district staff had checked with city officials about changes in traffic patterns with the proposed reconfigurations, and said it may be helpful to direct parents how to navigate most efficiently between schools. He also said crossing guards may be needed. Mr. Boynton said “We have addressed some of your concerns but not all. Thank you for mentioning contacting the cities.”

Special Education teacher Melissa Goschie noted she lives in Newport and teaches in Lincoln City. “We want the special needs of students to be considered, as opposed to boundary lines. I wonder if we could sit down with the Special Education Director to discuss this.” Mr. Boynton replied that Director Susan Van Liew will meet with teachers in each school to determine the best way to serve students, adding “I really believe in ‘every child, every day.’”

Otis resident Amber Fox stated she started a petition against the north area restructure due to worries about length of time on the bus for students. "This does not make sense," said Ms. Fox.

Newport parent Vicki Krutzikowsky thanked Mr. Boynton and staff for the parent/community meetings which answered many questions. She noted that Sam Case is now a school wide Title I school, and asked if this designation will remain; it will.

She then acknowledged the accomplishments of Isaac Newton Magnet School, noting one of her sons attended a few years ago and one is there now. She asked if it would be possible to resurrect the magnet school, should the need arise. Mr. Boynton said magnet schools are designated by districts, and have particular focuses. There is a process that could be followed.

South Beach parent Cari Jenkins said she has two students in the west area, and expressed gratitude for the last community meeting held in Newport. "It felt like the first time we had a conversation with the district," said Jenkins. She noted her hope that the district will begin working with parents more than in the past, and said she felt some ideas had been dismissed. She also said she felt there is a trust issue with the district and that the decision to have full day kindergarten and reconfigure schools had been rushed.

She distributed a short survey she conducted that asked respondents about full day kindergarten, the proposed reconfiguration, the proposed dissolution of Isaac Newton Magnet School, STAR testing and the district's communications regarding the proposed changes. Ms. Jenkins said she agreed with full day kindergarten, but hopes the funds will not be taken from grades one through twelve to make it happen. She also noted she would like smaller class sizes. She added "I would like to know a few more answers so our trust can be built. I want to have a positive experience, rather than being drug along."

Superintendent Boynton reported all-day kindergarten will be funded by the state, and said the time for parent committees is coming up as "we put it all together." Chairman Martin thanked Ms. Jenkins for her comments and said "You really do have a voice in what happens in your schools."

Otis parent Alethea Parker expressed concerns with the proposed north area reconfiguration, specifically related to transportation and the splitting up of siblings of different grade levels. She asked if the public could vote on the proposal and said it felt rushed. Director Beck noted that the public voted for the school board, who will make the decision.

Newport parent Aimee Thompson noted she has three girls in Newport schools and has been a part of several changes in the district through the years. "It was tough when Yaquina View closed and for a couple of years after. But every year since, it has gotten better." She said she was initially opposed to the reconfiguration but attended meetings, asked questions and listed pros and cons. "The pros outweigh the cons," said Thompson, adding her oldest daughter will be thrilled to attend school with all of her peers. She also said she likes the idea of teachers in a grade level being together in a school, as well as the idea of pods of students. "Our sixth grader is in a pod and it made her step up and want to be a better student. Our family is in support," said Ms. Thompson.

**Approval of Full Day Kindergarten and Reconfiguration of
Schools in Lincoln City and Newport, 2015-16**

Motion 14/15-23

On motion of Director Beck, seconded by Director Ellis, the Board unanimously approved the implementation of full-day kindergarten and the reconfiguration of schools in Lincoln City and Newport in 2015/16 as described in the 1/13/15 board folder.

Director Woodd said her main concern was transportation. Mr. Boynton reiterated that staff met with Mid-Columbia Bus Company to let them know that no child can be on the bus longer than they currently are. "They will add routes, including express routes with no stops." Director Belloni reported he could have a preliminary framework in March regarding busing.

Vice Chairman Bondley commented that change can be difficult, but said "Some of our schools are doing well, but many of them need big changes. Thank you for your thoughtful comments; this year and next will be a time to build trust to make this successful."

Chairman Martin agreed that change is hard. "We made a decision when we hired the superintendent to make some changes to get us where we want to go. We want to affect each child, every day." She added that she appreciates what the audience members have to go through as parents.

Superintendent Boynton addressed the audience, saying "For those of you that participated in the process, now is the time I need your help. As we decide what these buildings will look like, I will need your input."

Budget Committee Members, Zones 1, 2, 5

Motion 2014/15-24

On motion of Director Bondley, seconded by Director Beck, the Board unanimously approved the following Budget Committee members: Zone 1: Dave Price, through 6/30/17; Zone 2: Terry Bugenhagen, through 6/30/15; Zone 5, Larry Anthony, through 6/30/17.

The first budget committee meeting is slated for May 19, 2015. Chairman Martin thanked the budget committee members for serving.

National School Counselors Week

Motion 2014/15-25

On motion of Director Ellis, seconded by Director Bondley, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2014/15-8, proclaiming the week of February 2-6, 2015 as National School Counseling week. Board members gave kudos to LCSD school counselors for the important and unique work they do.

Division 22 Standards Assurance Report

Student Services Administrator Aaron Belloni reported LCSD is in compliance with Division 22 standards. The process for reporting this compliance to ODE has changed to help with the paperwork reduction act. Mr. Boynton added that different areas are examined in more depth in rotating years.

Admittance of Non-Resident Students

Student Services Administrator Aaron Belloni noted a state law enacted in 2011 allows districts to continue to enter into voluntary inter-district transfers with other districts, but also created a new transfer process that does not require the consent of the district in which the student lives.

Part of the law directs the Board to decide upon the number of students they wish to admit under this process by March 1st each year. Mr. Belloni recommended the board admit “zero” students under this process, but continue with inter-district transfers as it has for many years. This item will return for the board’s consideration at the next meeting.

ESD Local Service Plan, 2015-17 (Resolution Services)

Every two years, the Linn/Benton Lincoln ESD presents a resolution to each of the twelve districts within their boundaries describing services to be provided the following two years by the ESD, and funded with “Resolution” dollars. These services are offered to districts when approved by two-thirds of the districts representing over one-half of the average daily membership of the 12 districts.

Tier I services are available to all 12 districts and are determined to be essential to all districts. The emphasis on Tier I is on achieving the greatest economies of scale and assuring equity of access. They are funded using 90% of the ESD’s SSF (state school fund) allocation.

Tier 2 services are allocated to districts using the remainder of ESD monies after funding Tier I services. These services are customized to the particular district. A resolution describing the Local Service Plan was presented to the Board and will return for consideration at the next meeting.

Other

Chairman Martin noted the enrollment report at the end of the Board Folder, and asked about absenteeism at the high school level in December. Mr. Boynton noted that is not unusual.

Ms. Martin thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and expressed appreciation for the hard work of staff in developing the plan. She also expressed appreciation of the board, and the involvement of the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent