

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2010

Page 1

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-Chair Anne Burkart at 6:02 p.m. Present: Anne Burkart, Holley Carlson, Beth Young, Jennifer James-Wilson and Tom Opstad. Also present staff and members of the community.

The Board Reviewed “What’s Good in the District:”

Jennifer James-Wilson reported that the Port Townsend Education Foundation art auction held Saturday, February 20th was a wonderful event, with a great turnout. School staff and community members were well represented. The foundation expects to net around \$30,000 from the event, which will support students and teachers in the district.

Holley Carlson noted that several board members attended the PTEF art auction, and there was good representation from the physician community. She also saw a lot of grandparents there, as well as people she didn’t know. She declared it the “social event of the season.”

Beth Young said that she enjoyed attending the high school drama club’s performance of “Antigone,” which was done in a theater-in-the-round style. She also announced that the high school Knowledge Bowl team is going to state.

Anne Burkart gave her kudos to Scott Wilson for his great job emceeding the art auction. She felt that all the members of the foundation worked hard to make the event a success.

Tom Opstad ran a brief video produced by teacher Susan Doyle regarding the 7th grade Maritime Discovery Program. He also congratulated Steve McIntire for his 10 years of work in the district, and wished him well in his new position. Cake was served in Steve’s honor.

Included in the consent agenda were: 1) Accounts Payable for February 22, 2010; 2) Accept the resignation of Steve McIntire, Manager of Fiscal Services, effective February 26, 2010; 3) Recommend Kathryn Kent for the .80 FTE Director of Special Education position for the 2010-2011 school year; 4) Accept the resignation of Carolyn Olsen, High School Special Education Paraeducator, effective the end of the 2009-10 school year; 5) Accept the resignation of Peter Downey, High School JV Boys’ Soccer Coach, effective immediately; 6) Accept the resignation of Brian O’Hara, High School Football Coach, effective the end of the 2009-10 school year; 7) Approve Judith Dobszinsky to attend the National Council for Computer Education Conference, March 3-5, 2010, in Seattle, WA; 8) Approve Cleone Telling to the National Legislative Seminar for Key Women Educators Conference, March 15-18, 2010, in Washington D.C.; 9) Approve Katie Harding to attend the Cheer Coach Conference, April 9-11, 2010, in Everett, WA; 10) Accept the donation of \$700.00 from the Port Townsend Elks Lodge BPOE NO 317 to help purchase “Fit For Life” T-shirts for Blue Heron Middle School students who achieve the Presidential and National Physical Fitness Award; 11) Accept the donation from Daryl Hrenko of two DC electric option panels, with a combined value of \$200.00, to be used in the high school freshman science program; 12) Approve the agreement for the 2010-2011 school year between Port Townsend School District and OESD 114 for OESD 114 to provide a program of education for district students detained in the Kitsap County Juvenile Detention Center.

Public Comments:

Mark Decker:

- Presented each board member with a copy of the book “The Tiger Rising” by Kate DiCamillo, which was selected by Blue Heron staff as the title for this year’s all school read.
- Presented the board with a copy of the bullying survey that his staff will present to students on Tuesday, saying that the feedback will be beneficial to assist staff with bullying prevention.
- Updated the board on the progress of adding back football at Blue Heron next year. Staff will review students for academic eligibility, reviewing 3rd quarter grades, and working with students who need help for 4th quarter. Coaches plan to do the same for the volleyball and cross-country athletes.
- Noted that parent conferences for grades 4, 5 and OPEPO will be held March 26 – April 1st.
- Noted that 7th graders will be at Tales, Text and Theater at Fort Worden from March 26 – April 2nd.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2010

Page 2

Tom Thiersch:

- Noted an error on page three of the minutes from the February 8th board meeting.
- Suggested that the board consider placing public comments at the beginning of the meeting, which would allow for such errors to be noted before the minutes are approved.
- Spoke about concerns about the Interlocal agreement on tonight's agenda, stating that different versions were sent out to different entities. He noted that the most recent revision was provided for the board, and that he had emailed board members with his list of concerns about the agreement. Urged the board to discuss and get as much information as possible before voting.
- Noted that the statement in the district's strategic plan under "diversity" could be simplified. Stated there was a punctuation error in the motto.

Tim Caldwell:

- As Manager of Community Partnerships in Port Townsend for Puget Sound Energy, addressed some of the concerns raised about the Interlocal agreement on the agenda.

Sheila Murphy:

- Likes the change in the board meeting format, with the business meeting first. Suggested that the board consider moving Executive Session to the end of the night, so audience members aren't left to wait during the closed session.

TAPE 1, SIDE B

- Commented that the travel to Washington D.C. seems expensive in these tough economic times.

Mr. Opstad brought the listed curriculum for adoption. After discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer James-Wilson and seconded by Beth Young to approve the curriculum as listed. Motion carried 4-0.

Beth Young and Anne Burkart gave an update on the Legislative Conference they attended in Olympia, WA on February 7-8, 2010.

Mr. Opstad presented the revised Resolution 10-02: A resolution affirming Port Townsend School District's support and partnership with the 2010 Census, for approval. Discussion followed about the district's role in supporting census activities. Beth Young made a motion to approve Resolution 10-02. Jennifer James-Wilson seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

Mr. Opstad presented the Strategic Plan for first review. Discussion followed. Holley Carlson suggested the board schedule an additional work session to work on this before bringing for approval. Alternatives were discussed.

Mr. Opstad presented a report delineating the savings achieved by closing Mt. View. Discussion followed. Beth Young expressed an interest in a report showing the costs involved in closing Mt. View. This will be placed on the agenda for the March 8th board meeting

Mr. Opstad presented the Interlocal agreement for Resource Conservation Manager services for approval. He also introduced Ken Horvath, who works for the city and drafted the Interlocal agreement. Discussion followed about what a Resource Conservation Manager does, and how the terms of the agreement would be monitored. Tom Thiersch cautioned that the PSE portion of the grant reduces if the target goals aren't met, and they only count electrical use in their calculations. Mr. Horvath stated that PSE has agreed verbally that they will calculate the yearly goals for energy conservation in aggregate.

TAPE 2, SIDE B

Although several board members stated they felt rushed in making the decision, Mr. Opstad noted that he first brought this idea to the board at a November meeting. Beth Young made a motion to authorize the superintendent to move forward with the grant to meet the deadline, and participate in finalizing the wording of the agreement. Jennifer James-Wilson seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2010

Page 3

Facilities Manager David Herrington presented the board with a list of short-term facilities needs, as well as a “wish list” of other projects that he would like to see completed. Discussion followed about how to prioritize. Mark Decker stated that upgrading technology in the district should be a priority.

Mr. Opstad gave a short history of M&O levies, and how they have been pressed into service more and more to fill the gaps in basic education funding. The district must do an M&O levy in February 2011. Mr. Opstad said that the community levy committee should start working now to prepare for the levy.

Mr. Opstad described the differences between a capital projects bond and a capital projects levy. If the board approves either a capital projects bond or a capital projects levy, it would be scheduled in February 2011 as well. Mr. Opstad will invite Jon Gores from D.A. Davidson to a March board meeting to provide more information to the board.

Steve McIntire presented the January Budget Status report. Discussion followed.

TAPE 3, SIDE A

Mr. McIntire stated that he plans to purchase a surplus bus from Chimacum school district. This bus will be used as a spare bus and will replace an older spare on the district’s roster.

Mr. Opstad presented options for the formation of the following committees:

- Levy Committee
- Capital Projects (Bond or Levy) Committee
- Budget/Finance Committee
- Wellness Committee
- Technology Committee

Mr. Opstad clarified that the Levy committee is community-based, and is not run by the district. He also stated that Technology is already a standing committee. After discussion about targets and timelines for committees, Mr. Opstad stated that he would schedule meetings for the committees discussed.

Mr. Opstad demonstrated the netbook he has been trying out on loan. He stated that it works well with the district’s system. His goal is to have wireless access in place in the boardroom by the March 8th meeting.

Mr. Opstad presented the Calendar of Events.

The following policies were brought for second review:

Policy 1400/1400P: Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum

Policy 1420: Proposed Agenda and Consent Agenda

Policy 1430: Audience Participation

These policies will be brought back for approval at the next meeting.

Policy 1720: Operating Principles was brought for approval. A motion to approve was made by Jennifer James-Wilson and seconded by Holley Carlson. Motion carried 4-0.

Jennifer James-Wilson reported on the East Jefferson Educational Partnership meeting that they attended on February 18th. Jennifer James-Wilson said she found the meeting fascinating. The group wishes to continue to work on collaboration, and suggested inviting the Special Education Directors to the next meeting. Other topics discussed included synching school calendars between the districts in order to help facilitate combined in-service trainings for staff, and running levies at the same time, which would allow for shared costs for advertising.

The board discussed the revised format for the meeting.

At 9:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes in order for the board to review the performance of a public employee.

The meeting reconvened at 9:16 p.m. with a work/study session about the 2010-11 budget.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2010

Page 4

Mr. Opstad stated that prioritization is key with the limited funds available to the district. He stated he anticipates a loss of \$700,000 additional dollars from next year's budget with the complete elimination of I-728 funding and K-4 enhancement funds, as well as the projected decrease in enrollment.

Mr. Opstad explained that ARRA funds were received in Special Education (SPED) and Title I this year. Next year there are some additional ARRA funds for Title I, however SPED has only a modest carryover next year. Mr. Opstad also described how the district is only funded up to 12.7% for SPED, however our SPED enrollment is 14.5%. The funding gap must be covered using levy funds. Safety Net is the only other venue. Mr. Opstad noted that the SPED Parent Advisory Committee has been tentatively scheduled to give a report to the board at the March 22nd meeting.

The board decided to plan a two-hour work/study session for March 8th to review and discuss the Strategic Plan as drafted. The board also suggested that the Executive Session for the March 8th meeting be scheduled for 6:00 p.m., with the note that an additional Executive Session could be called later in the meeting, should it become necessary.

Jennifer James-Wilson noted that Policy 1720 states, "Executive Sessions will take place prior to the regular meeting, consistent with board policy." She recommended that be amended to say "Executive Sessions will take place *as needed*, consistent with board policy."

The board discussed things that would make interpreting the budget process easier for them. Anne Burkart suggested splitting out what is discretionary spending from fixed spending. Jennifer James-Wilson thought it might be helpful to see what the building principals work with in meeting their requirements. Mr. Opstad stated that staffing drives building budgets. Discussion followed.

TAPE 4, SIDE B

Board Announcements:

- Anne Burkart will be absent from the March 8th board meeting.
- Jennifer James-Wilson will be absent from the March 22nd board meeting.
- Holley Carlson and Tom Opstad will attend the WSSDA Regional Meeting on Saturday, March 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Port Angeles, WA.

The board decided to add an additional work/study session on Monday, March 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to review the budget and strategic plan.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Opstad, Superintendent

ATTEST: _____

Anne Burkart, Vice-Chairman