

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

September 27, 2010

Page 1

Board Chair Bobby DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present: Bobby DuBois, Anne Burkart, Beth Young and Holley Carlson. Also present were Superintendent Gene Laes, staff, students, community members and a member of the press.

Ms. Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Laes announced that the board meeting was being videotaped for re-broadcast on PTTV.

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Burkart. Motion carried 4-0.

High School ASB President Kerri Evalt gave an ASB report to the board:

- ASB is currently working on homecoming;
- ASB donated \$2,500.00 towards the “Discover PTHS” publication, and \$1,000.00 to help maintain Memorial Field;
- The high school held the Andy Palmer Classic football game last week, and the ASB donated the gate receipts of \$813.00 to the Andy Palmer Scholarship fund;
- The ASB will be collecting change for Unicef at Halloween;
- Upcoming programs and events include an assembly on November 2nd with a strong anti-bullying message, a presentation for Veterans’ Day, a food drive and in December, and “Gift a Child” donations to needy families through DSHS.

Ms. Carrie Ehrhardt introduced two of the high school’s three foreign exchange students, Topaz Putra, from Indonesia and Vogita Krempek from the Czech Republic.

The following correspondence was received:

- An email from Tom Thiersch regarding use of school facilities for Levy or Bond Committee meetings.
- An email from Tom Thiersch regarding Policy 3245: Students and Telecommunication Devices.

Public Comments:

- Julie Jablonski
 - Commented on the “wish list” she received from Blue Heron and questioned how the schools’ needs are prioritized and how the district is funding them.
- Rita E. Beebe
 - Complimented the high school for the outstanding publication “Discover PTHS.” She stated that many people in the community have stopped her to compliment the district on the publication, and that community members particularly enjoyed seeing the teacher photos and information.
 - Questioned why more “good news” about the schools hasn’t been publicized in the local papers.
 - Community members are interested in the upcoming levy.
- Tom Thiersch
 - Stated that the high school publication was a good idea.
 - Noted that the web address on the high school publication points to the high school’s website, which has not been migrated over to the district’s new Schoolwires site, and the high school should convert.
 - Inquired whether there is an electronic version of the publication.
 - Noticed an article about a new pilot science program at the high school, and spoke to Ms. Ehrhardt who described the pilot. He stated concern that the pilot could be a multi-year program, and suggested that it be taking through the Instructional Materials Committee and the public review process before it is instituted for a second year.

The board reviewed the minutes of the June 9, 2010, special board meeting. Mr. DuBois requested clarification about why the minutes are appearing out of sequence. Ms. Butler stated that the minutes were

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

September 27, 2010

Page 2

overlooked earlier and weren't approved previously. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2010, special board meeting was made by Ms. Burkart and seconded by Ms. Young. Motion carried 4-0.

The board reviewed the minutes of the September 13, 2010, regular board meeting. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkart and seconded by Ms. Young. Mr. DuBois noted a correction to the minutes, stating that the sentence, "Mr. DuBois took exception to Mr. Thiersch's comment that there is no willingness on the part of the board to violate policy and procedures, stating it should read "...there is a willingness." A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Ms. Burkart and seconded by Ms. Young. Motion carried 4-0.

The board reviewed the consent agenda. Ms. James-Wilson reviewed and signed off on the Accounts Payable in advance of the meeting. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ms. Burkart and seconded by Ms. Young. Motion carried 4-0.

Included in the consent agenda were: 1) Accounts Payable as of September 7, 2010; 2) Recommend Donna Van Ackeren for .20 FTE Speech Language Pathologist position, increasing her FTE to 1.0, for the 2010-11 SY only; 3) Recommend Lisa Blohm for the .20 FTE ELS Teacher position for the 2010-11 SY; 4) Recommend Cheryl Garnett Harris for the .50 FTE PM Kindergarten teacher position, increasing her FTE to 1.0, for the 2010-11 SY; 5) Accept the resignation of Lynne Poser, Business Office Secretary, effective October 15, 2010; 6) Recommend the individuals on the attached list for supplemental contracts; 7) Accept the donation from Rick Unrue of practice and game volleyballs, valued at \$450.00, for use by the PTHS Volleyball team; 8) Accept the donation of \$2,127.29 in donated printing services from Dan Huntingford of SOS Printing for the high school's "Discovering PTHS" publication; 9) Accept the donation of \$200.00 from First Presbyterian Church to be split between PTHS, Blue Heron and Grant Street's "Love of a Child" fund for school supplies.

There was no unfinished business.

Mr. Laes proposed a change to the format of the board meetings, with the first meeting of the month being a work/study session, and the second meeting of the month being a regular business meeting. He stated that as provided for in Policy 1310, the board could choose make a change to Policy 1400 at this meeting to allow the change to go into effect. Discussion followed, and Mr. DuBois opened the topic for public comments:

- Bill LeMaster stated he supports the idea, as it allows deeper dialog with the community. He asked if a public comment section could be added at the beginning of a work/study session.
- Julie Jablonski stated that there was a work/study session from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on each board meeting up until last year, and having a regular schedule of work/study sessions is a good thing.
- Rita E. Beebe stated that work/study sessions have always been productive, and allow for two-way discussion with the audience. She suggested adding a short business section at the beginning of the work/study session. She stated that the board would not need to change the policy, as they are changing the format, however there would still be two meetings a month, on the same dates at the same time.
- Tom Thiersch stated that it was fine to split the work into two formats, however his only concern would be the wording of the proposed policy, particularly when compared to the language in the Open Public Meeting Act. He stated that the language could be fixed, and suggested changing the paragraph on Regular Meetings to describe the first meeting of the month as primarily work/study and the second meeting as a business meeting. He also stated that Executive Session could be called at any time. He stated a concern that Executive Sessions would be set for regular business meetings, not work/study sessions.

Mr. DuBois stated that the issue would be tabled and revisited at the next board meeting.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

September 27, 2010

Page 3

Mr. Laes gave an update on the Levy that the district will run in February 2011. The resolution is due by December 24th, and Mr. Laes plans to bring it to the November 22nd board meeting for action. He reported that the levy lid is now 24%, however the legislature will allow districts to raise it up to 28%. After conversations with other regional superintendents, OSPI and the district's attorney, he recommended the levy stay at 24%. He stated the need to reiterate to the community that the levy provides 3 million dollars out of the district's 13 million dollar budget, and failure of the levy would devastate programs.

Ms. Burkart stated that when she attended the Legislative Assembly she learned that the budget cuts announced by Governor Gregoire are most likely to come from Levy Enhancement (which will not effect this district) and K-4 class size reduction. She also stated that it was suggested that districts put the federal education stimulus money in the bank, and use it to make up for the cuts the state will take in August.

Policy 1400: Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum was brought for approval. Ms. Burkart made a motion to table this policy. Motion carried 4-0.

Policy 1720: Operating Principles was brought for signature. Mr. Laes stated that there were no changes to the policy, however the board and superintendent should review the policy annually and sign it. The board agreed to sign the Operating Principles. This policy will be brought back in January 2011 for annual review.

Policy 2004: Accountability Goals was brought for approval. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkart and seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Laes gave an update on the following:

- There was a power outage at Grant Street, and he originally called for a two-hour late start. At 9:00 a.m. Puget Sound Energy wasn't certain when the power would be restored, so he cancelled school at Grant Street for the day. Mr. Laes plans to place the procedures for Emergency School Closures on his agenda for an Administrative meeting soon.
- September enrollment. Discussion followed regarding class sizes and Virtual High School.

Mr. Laes presented the Calendar of Events.

Learning Support Services Director Kathyne Kent described Learning Support Services, which encompasses Special Education, 504 Plans Bilingual Education, Highly Capable and Assessment. Ms. Kent then introduced each of the Special Education staff at Port Townsend High School:

- Lisa Deen, who is highly qualified as an Exceptional Needs Specialist.
- Mary Barnes, who teaches the Life Skills program in the Stuart Building. Ms. Barnes is both highly qualified and is a registered nurse.
- Tanya Rublaitus, who joined the department this year as a .4 FTE Transition Specialist. Ms. Rublaitus is one of two teachers in the state to obtain a scholarship to attend a one-year program at Highline Community College to specialize in transition, which is assisting special education students to prepare for and transition from school to work after graduation. Ms. Rublaitus continues her work at the high school .6 FTE as the CTE Director and a vocational teacher.
- Mara Brownell, who is currently working toward her highly qualified status as a Behavioral and Emotional Needs Specialist.

Ms. Kent stated that she is proud of the expansion of the high school program in the area of transition. The district contracts with Skookum and Concerned Citizens on Project Transition, and with Jefferson Healthcare Hospital on Project Search. She stated that the percentage of special education students in the district is higher than the average, at 15-17%.

The board discussed the joint Port Townsend School District/Chimacum School District board dinner, to be held Friday, October 29th at 5:00 p.m. prior to the PTSD/Chimacum football game. PTSD is the home team this year, so our board will host the dinner at T's Restaurant.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

September 27, 2010

Page 4

Ms. Burkart announced that she would not be at the November 22nd board meeting.

Ms. Carlson announced that she would not be at the October 11th board meeting.

Ms. Burkart will report on the Legislative Conference she recently attended at the next board meeting.

There was no Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene R. Laes, Superintendent

ATTEST: _____
Bobby DuBois, Board Chair