

MINUTES

7/ Principals and school staff made School Improvement presentations to the Board of Education in the Board Room of the District Administration Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. Board members present included Chair Bigley, Laurie Adams, Al King, Jonathan Light, and Garry Weber. The presentations were concluded at 6:40 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on November 10, 2008.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

The Springfield Board of Education meeting was called to order in the boardroom of the Administration Center at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Nancy Bigley and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board members in attendance included Laurie Adams, Nancy Bigley, Al King, Jonathan Light, and Garry Weber. Others identified in attendance included Nancy Golden, Logan Lewis, Cassidy Peterson, Marshall Curry, Kyle Barley, Torii Phillips, Brett Yancey, Dawn Strong, Jeff DeFranco, Karen Lewis, Tom Lindly, Keith Hollenbeck, Matt Coleman, Sara Ticer, Stuart Perlmeter, Judy & John Svoboda, Yvonne Atteberry, Sheryl Ott, Jeff Butler, Lottie Duey, Chris Reiersgaard, Eric Tucker, Ashley McDonough, Jacqueline Enrique, and Craig Murphy of the *Springfield Times*.

Laurie Adams was excused from the meeting due to illness.

2. RECOGNITION

• American Education Week Proclamation

Garry Weber read the following proclamation in recognition of American Education Week, November 16-22, 2008:

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees, be they substitute educators, custodians, teachers, bus drivers, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield Board of Education do hereby proclaim November 16–22 as the 87th annual observance of American Education Week.

Please join us in celebrating this year's theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility."

3. WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Chair Bigley asked that each Board member describe their impressions of the School Improvement presentations, followed by comments on process, from the Work Session that began at 5:00 p.m.

Garry Weber reported having a whirlwind tour with 3-4 minutes for each presentation. He noted a common focus on continuous improvement with a marked upward trend toward using data to inform instruction and instructional strategy. He also noted each presentation having a focus on reading strategy, and also heard concerns for math scores.

Al King thanked school leaders present at the board meeting for their impressive work for the presentations. He remarked that each school was working with specific challenges, and he appreciated being able to see each of the presentations.

Jonathan Light noted that Mt. Vernon Elementary had reported having 95% participation at their parent conferences, and that Camp Creek's numbers were great. He enjoyed the new format, although it felt pressured because of the short time period for each presentation.

Chair Bigley commented that an amazing amount of information was presented in the few minutes. She said she saw a lot of creative and different approaches to Response to Intervention (RtI). She saw that the great efforts put forth at each school were paying off with improved attendance, wishing only that there were more time for the presentations so that in-depth questions could have been asked.

Regarding feedback on process, Mr. Light said the process this time was his favorite, though he felt the lack of time to be a problem. He would be in favor of having two presentations, which would double the total time, with half the schools presenting at one time. He suggested that extra time was needed for asking questions and that charts could be presented to compare work at different schools.

Mr. Weber argued that three minutes per presentation did not allow enough time for depth of understanding or to honor the effort to create them. He felt the project boards did not need to communicate data, trends, areas needing improvement or areas being successful. He hoped an even better model could be found for the future, including time for dialogue. He valued having all board members present at one time for the presentations.

Mr. King noted that the roaring sound during the presentations made hearing difficult. He thought having time both at Springfield High and at Thurston High might be beneficial, and that there could be perhaps half an hour to move around and view the different boards. He felt the presenters must have been disappointed as well to have the short time periods for their high quality presentations.

Mr. Light said he would be interested in feedback from principals and presenters, guessing they would prefer presenting less data and offer more time for dialogue.

Chair Bigley was disappointed that she did not make it to all the boards, although she wondered if format was also an issue and not just the amount of time for presentations.

Superintendent Golden said she would take the Board's feedback to the principals and presenters with the hope of improving the format for these presentations. She introduced Eric Tucker from the meeting audience, a University of Oregon student who was required by his journalism program to attend a school board meeting.

4. PRESENTATION

Stuart Perlmeter, WELL Project coordinator, commented that this was the 10th year of the program, which was funded by a grant from the Springfield Utility Board. The project had received a grant for an additional

five years with cost of living increases. He identified Thurston High student Logan Lewis as being a student on one of his teams. He noted the main focus of the project being science learning about water and energy.

Mr. Perlmeter explained his duties as teaching students and training teachers at the district schools, and developing curriculum for science projects, with a large focus on field experience. He said much of his time was spent at the high schools, beginning with modification of existing curriculum to include water science and continuing to spend time helping teachers to implement the curriculum. The Parson Creek simulation, he said, was a week-long simulation where students analyzed samples from wells and then located the source of buried landfill, using Google Earth and data to analyze concentration levels and how contamination takes place. He said most of the biology classrooms now include some water quality material, which he sometimes taught.

Mr. Perlmeter described advanced water teams as a unique program involving partnerships. He had met with and co-developed programs with agencies such as the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the City of Springfield or the Springfield Utility Board (SUB). He then recruited students through an application process, trained them, took them out in the field to monitor various parameters, helped them maintain equipment, ordered reagents, and reported back to the agencies on a two-year basis.

He said there were currently 85 students involved, with 65 high school students and 20 middle school students. Current teams included the well water testing team, the Cedar Creek water chemistry team for which there now was ten years of data collected that was shared with the Army Corps of Engineers and DEQ, which would help form decisions about improvements to be made to Cedar Creek. A new project coming on board was the Camp Creek project, a cooperative program between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), EWEB, the Clean Watershed Council and Springfield Public Schools, which was a 5-year study looking at how land use patterns in the upper Camp Creek basin influenced water quality. Five separate teams would analyze different components of data. After three years private landowners on the upper Camp Creek basin would be offered free restoration work on their properties along the creek. Also free well water testing was being offered to residents in the same area to look for failing septic systems, with EWEB helping to pay for replacement systems.

Mr. Perlmeter noted that the well water testing program, of which Logan Lewis was a member, had been operating since 1999 and offered free service to residents. Students had received in-depth training, had tested 850 private wells, and performed quality control checks. He described the McGowan Creek project, which existed in the McGowan Creek old-growth vegetational area, as a wonderful 5th grade field trip for twenty different classrooms during each school year. The one-day field trip included different stations with aquatic macro-invertebrates, a water chemistry station, an old-growth hike and a beaver pond. He said that since BLM's funding for this program had been cut, additional funding was being sought to continue the project, which runs throughout the month of May each year.

The Jasper Slough project, Mr. Perlmeter explained, was a wetlands project in an area behind Agnes Stewart Middle School. This project included provision of labor, construction and funding for maintenance of the wetlands area. Future plans included turning this area into an educational learning center for the entire district.

Mr. Perlmeter next described the Agnes Stewart Middle School Native Seed and Plant Nursery, a new project under proposal, to be located behind the school on district property. Students would create and maintain raised beds for growing native plants that would be used throughout the district. They would learn to propagate native and endangered plants from seeds, with the plants to be used not only for the school district, but also for Walama projects throughout the area. He described Walama as a nonprofit group

working for the BLM and Forest Service working to restore native habitats. It was also hoped that community members could rent plots for growing vegetables and other plants in this area.

The Hamlin Garden project, Mr. Perlmeter explained, was run very successfully by Paul Cesmat and Sue McCumsey with \$2000 annually from Mr. Perlmeter's grant. The garden had drip irrigation, raised beds, ponds, and benches, and was tended by twelve students two days per week.

The Electric Car Team was also sponsored by the grant, where students designed, built and competitively raced electric cars throughout the Northwest.

He described the Wind Turbine project at middle schools where students built working turbines that produced up to 20 volts of energy. He said the project was so successful that nearly fifty teachers from Eugene, Bethel and Springfield districts had been trained to use this project in their science programs.

Mr. Perlmeter noted he was in the final phases of editing a two-DVD production on water and local energy issues in cooperation with EWEB and a team of students. Once it was completed, the DVDs would be distributed to all schools, water shed councils and public utilities in the State of Oregon.

Ten students (nine females) involved in Mr. Perlmeter's water projects had received Apprenticeship in Science and Engineering Summer Internships at the Oregon Graduate Institute. He noted these were highly competitive, summer-long internships with leading industry or university researchers. Also the program had received a curriculum award from the Oregon School Boards Association and the Edith Stevens award from the National Groundwater Association. He stressed that this success was largely due to financial backing. He noted that at Thurston High School the water lab now had \$80,000 worth of equipment dedicated to water quality testing.

Mr. Weber asked if students in these programs had been interfaced with career tracking for the students. Mr. Perlmeter responded that some students had paid positions in the summers through a stipend program and others made connections through job shadows with EWEB or SUB. He said that Delta Environmental had hired one of his students, who had been very excited to be paid for her work.

Responding to a question by Chair Bigley about Logan Lewis's involvement with the program, Logan commented that he had been involved since his freshman year, that he found the work very exciting, and that he was able to help train other students in how to use the equipment. He did not think he would seek a career in science, though he was sure he would use some of the skills he had learned throughout his life.

Mr. King expressed gratitude for this science program, and felt that since this was the tenth year of the program, it might be a good time to schedule an event that would thank Mr. Perlmeter for his work. He remarked that the Northwest Power Coordinating Council supported watershed projects and wondered if the school board could help find some extra funding to channel to these science programs.

In response to a question by Mr. Light regarding the funding shortfall for the McGowan Creek project, Mr. Perlmeter said that approximately \$20,000 for twenty classrooms, covered the hiring of two outside coordinators as well as transportation, reagents, and all the equipment used. He said he was currently in talks again with the BLM regarding renewal of funds of \$15-\$20,000/ year.

Mr. King remembered visiting the Education Department of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and wondered if it would be helpful for someone to look into resources from this agency. Mr. Perlmeter said he had received a \$12,000 EPA education grant in the past, covering equipment for the bacteria lab at the well water testing facility.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Bigley called for public comment. There was none.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. October 27, 2008 Board Minutes

B. Personnel Action, Resolution #08-09.017

Dawn Strong recommended that the Board of Directors approve the personnel action for licensed employees as reflected in Resolution #08-09.017 as listed below:

New Hires

Anna Sontag

Justin Turcotte

Retirements

Helen Fast

Linda Berg

Rescind Retirements

Marcella Sather

Resignation

Douglas Hennessey

C. Employee Update Report

Motion: Jonathan Light, seconded by Garry Weber, moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

7. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items for the board to consider.

8. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Financial Statement

Brett Yancey provided an overview of the 2008-2009 Revenue/Expenditure Report as of October 31, 2008. He noted that revenues for the district were being affected significantly because of the assessed value of Lane County being reduced by 2.5% for the current fiscal year. Also he remarked that, because of rising unemployment rates, property tax revenue would be affected. Regarding the state budget, Mr. Yancey said Governor Kulongoski would be speaking on Friday, November 14, 2008 at the OSBA convention, and though he wasn't expected to reveal his new budget, it was anticipated that the Governor would reveal trends for the future biennium. He said that the fourth quarter forecast for the year would be presented on November 19, 2008, which was earlier than most years because the Governor would be presenting his budget for the next biennium on December 1, 2008.

Mr. Yancey reported for expenditures an ending fund balance for the year being forecast right at 4%. He reminded the board that on December 4, 2008 the first Budget Committee work session would take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at which time Tim Dewey, Director of the Oregon Economic Forum, would be presenting a report. Mr. Yancey said an invitation would be extended to other school districts, hoping that an informative conversation could take place.

Responding to a question by Mr. Weber, Mr. Yancey clarified that though other school districts would be invited to the presentation by Mr. Duy on December 4, 2008, it would be determined by the Budget Committee and Board whether or not the conversation that followed would be open to input by others.

B. New Schools Construction

Jeff DeFranco reported that the tilt-up erection process at both Maple and Thurston Elementary Schools was completed, with steel framing for the concrete walls being placed currently. He showed photos of the form liners being used to diminish the sense of monolithic design in the building structures. He said the welcome

walls had been unveiled and cleaned up and that school staff were excited to see them. Further, he said, the public improvement project that was required to move Thurston Road to one lane had been completed within the required timeline.

Mr. DeFranco reported that at the Academy of Arts and Academics (A3) four art display windows had been installed, along with cabinetry with lights and slotted walls to display artwork.

Torii Phillips, student representative from A3, commented that students were excited to see the construction progress. She reported some concern about how the façade of the building would be finished, noting that the model showed it having a brick face. Mr. DeFranco responded that a simplified design included a brick veneer would be attached to the front of the building.

C. Student Communication

• Thurston High

Logan Lewis reported that a canned food drive was being held in friendly competition with Springfield High School. At the end of the week the food collected at each school would be weighed to determine the winner. He said there was a wager on where student representatives at the losing school would have to shave their heads. He reported that girls were playing Powder Puff football, and there was volleyball competition between junior and senior boys.

Cassidy Peterson reported campaigning for student elections would begin the following week.

• Springfield High School

Kyle Barley reported that about 35 students from Thurston and Springfield High Schools had attended a leadership retreat in Seaside. At breakout sessions they learned about leadership roles and fundraising ideas for their schools. He said it was great to have the opportunity to bond with students from the other school. Kyle attended a fundraising session and also one on stress management.

Marshall Curry reiterated that the canned food drive, in competition with Thurston High school, was in progress.

• Academy of Arts and Academics

Torii Phillips reported that their play was still being performed on November 13-15, 2008 and a Christmas concert, with their two concert choirs coming together, would be performed in December.

D. Board Communication

• Globalizing our Students and Oregon Students

Al King reported attending in Seattle, with Garry Weber and others, the Technology and Leadership national conference sponsored by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). One important point he heard at the conference was that today's students would not only be in competition with students from their state and their country, but they would have global competition. He noted that the State of Michigan had mandated virtual schools statewide, and that the State of Washington was far ahead of Oregon with virtual programs. He said the textbook companies were quickly losing business for curriculum sales, since curriculum development was moving to online resources. He remarked, however, that there was no sense of less need for teachers with virtual classrooms because without supervision, half the students were predicted to fail.

Garry Weber commented that the NSBA had been hosting the Technology and Leadership conference since 1986, though this was the first year board members from Springfield had attended. He and Mr. King felt this was a conference worthy of attendance, and shared a hope that the whole school board could attend together, perhaps at next year's conference, which would be held in Denver. Mr. Weber suggested that research be done to find out what the Springfield district needed to learn about virtual/ online schools. He noted that

Boise State University's School of Education had one of the premier educational technology programs in the country, and that Spokane and Denver also had great programs. He mentioned open boundary programs, where students could join online programs from other districts, and his hope that the State would become more involved with promoting virtual education. He suggested that perhaps board members could make field trips to visit some of the outstanding technological programs to learn about them.

Mr. King also mentioned that vendors could be invited to bring information about their resources for virtual schooling to the district.

Jonathan Light noted attending the musical performance of Spokesong at A3, which he found very impressive.

Chair Bigley also attended Spokesong at A3 and found the minimalist set which was used to be very interesting. She also attended the Latino celebration at Gateways where seniors presented their senior projects, which she found to be remarkable. She remarked that she had danced with one of the board's student representatives, joking that perhaps this was the reason he was missing from the board meeting tonight.

E. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Golden reported that she had been connected virtually, by email from Al King, to the Technology and Leadership conference. She had attended the Decision Education Foundation conference at Stanford the past week, a program created by math professor, Brown Howard. She had also attended a meeting with other superintendents where an initial draft had been produced towards creating a legislative bill regarding a statewide virtual school. She wanted to make sure the Springfield District pushed forward in leading this effort so that students would have virtual school opportunities.

She also commented that she had heard the concerns of board members about the need to modify the format of the School Improvement panels. She asked Jeff Butler, Brattain Elementary Principal, to speak more about the reality of state law requiring children to be in school only by age 7.

Mr. Butler reported that the State Report Card incorporated grades K-5 to calculate attendance rates, though some parents were aware of the state law allowing children to wait until age 7 to attend school. He commented that state legislation to change this law would be helpful, stressing that for children consistent attendance through kindergarten had a big impact on student success later in school.

Superintendent Golden said that research showed that jail beds in Oregon prisons were largely determined by 4th graders with reading below grade level. She said it was hard to understand a state law that allowed children to miss school before age 7, and suggested the district press the legislature to change this law.

Mr. Light said he felt it would be important to understand what the current law said. Mr. Weber asked that this information be available for an informal conversation the following weekend when the board would attend the OSBA convention. He also mentioned that Laurie Adams would be speaking about Lane Community College at the OSBA meeting.

Sara Ticer, Director of Elementary Education, clarified that Oregon state law specifically stated that children at the age of seven were required to attend school, with parents being responsible for placing their children in school. She said that because a child needs to be five by September 1 for kindergarten or six by September 1 for first grade, it was possible for a child to lose two years of school by age seven. Responding to a question by Mr. Light who wondered if there would be resistance by legislators to changing this law, Ms. Ticer said she thought not, that it was more a matter of the law being on the books and needed challenging.

Mr. King mentioned that one down side to acquiring more young children would be no additional state funding for those children on the K-12 level, so that an increase in numbers of kindergarten students would mean that current funding would cover each student at a lesser level.

Responding to a question from Chair Bigley as to whether the issue was rather that the children might be enrolled, but not attending school regularly, Ms. Ticer said this was the true issue. Since the laws did not back up the schools, parents were less likely to have their children at school on a consistent basis.

Mr. Weber commented on the outcome of the Willamalane levy in the November election. Superintendent Golden said that after school opportunities were needed for students to extend learning, to offer fitness opportunities to help with the obesity issue, and to offer a safe place for children to be after school hours. She looked forward to working with Willamalane to encourage that to happen.

Chair Bigley again thanked the school administrators for their School Improvement presentations at the Work Session before the board meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. NEXT MEETING

Chair Bigley announced that the next regular board meeting would be held on December 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Judy Burton)