

BREMERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 100-C

Regular Board Meeting

November 12, 2009

The regular meeting of the Bremerton School District Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President Cynthia Galloway. The meeting was held at the Administration Building, 134 Marion Avenue North, Bremerton, Washington 98312.

Call to Order

Members Present: Ms. Cynthia Galloway, President
Dr. DeWayne Boyd, Vice President
Ms. Vicki Collins
Mr. Louis Mitchell
Ms.Carolynn Perkins

Administrative Staff Members Present: Mr. Lester "Flip" Herndon, Superintendent
Ms. Linda Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Denise Zaska, Director of Personnel
Ms. Marian Woods, Supervisor, Business Office
Mr. Ron Carpenter, Supervisor, Facilities
Mr. John Grant, Supervisor, Special Education
Ms. Patty Glaser, Community Services Coordinator

Director Mitchell led the pledge of allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

The agenda was revised to add under "Consent Agenda," Linda Jenkins' update on the Spring 2009 WASL Performance for the district. Director Mitchell moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Revisions

Superintendent Flip Herndon recognized Dr. DeWayne Boyd for his service on the Board and presented him with a plaque for his service. Dr. Boyd announced that this would be his 50th year in education, and explained his focus has always been to improve learning and achievement for kids. He congratulated winners of the recent election for Board of Directors and thanked the current Board and district staff for all of their hard work and focus.

Recognition

Hilah Cochrane, teacher at Kitsap Lake Elementary, spoke on behalf of Kitsap Lake staff, as well as many parents and families. She read a letter prepared by Kitsap Lake staff in regard to the reduction in librarians, music and P.E. teachers.

Public input

Denise Burbidge, Kitsap Lake teacher, specifically spoke in regard to the cuts in librarians' hours at the elementary schools and how this impacts student's reading time and ability. Coupled with the fact that students are no longer learning how to use and appreciate a library, she voiced concern that it will eventually affect their learning and the challenges may be too severe to overcome.

Marissa Alter, a student at Kitsap Lake Elementary, talked about too about the loss of librarians and how that affects her. She feels Librarians are always helpful and explained that without the librarian encouraging them to read, the school no longer has "Olympic" or Royal Readers." The librarian would read books, but no longer has time, and would share new websites with them to help them in their studies. She organized book swaps and did activities with the books that they read. She complained that now there is not a lot of time to explore new things with the librarian.

Mr. Walt Connolly, a Bremerton parent and active volunteer for the district, talked about the poor track recently resurfaced at the high school, some miscellaneous items that were to be covered under the Bond but were not, and the decision by the administration and Board to purchase new curriculum last spring at a time when employees were being cut. He also talked about “top-down” management, shared decision-making, the district’s over-reliance on “teachers on special assignment” (TOSAs), and the importance of electives to keep students interested in school.

*Public Input
(continued)*

Lloyd Pugh provided an outline of some issues with the resurfaced track. He talked about the setting for a tremendous track and field at Memorial Stadium and urged the Board to insist that this track be completed in a quality fashion so that meets, even State meets, can be held and be a source of revenue to the district. (look on original minutes to see what it says after “he says he will stick around to??”

Board President Galloway asked for a motion on the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the regular Board meeting of October 15 2009; minutes of the special Board meeting of October 29, 2009; personnel report 2009/2010-06; payroll for issue dates October 30, 2009 and November 15, 2009; and acceptance of donations of \$100.00 from Ms. Candace Currier for the Bremerton High School Football Team, A Quickie Wheelchair from James and Donna Huff for OT & PT, \$3,200.00 from the View Ridge PTA for Islandwood Camp, \$100.00 from Mr. David Clark for Crownhill Elementary students’ Islandwood Camp, \$250.00 from Ms. Dana Hayden for View Ridge students’ field trip to “Alice in Wonderland,” \$75.00 from Ms. Ivaly Alexander for Crownhill students’ Islandwood Camp, \$100.00 from Ms. Susan Morris-Parrington for Crownhill students’ Islandwood camp, \$100.00 from Mr. Fred Roggi for the Bremerton High School Football program, and \$200.00 from R&H Market to support the DECA Competitions. Director Collins moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Superintendent Herndon reminded folks that next week is National Education Week. He then introduced Allison Galloway, from the College Success Program, who gave a brief overview of the Collegebound scholarship created in 2007 for middle school students. She explained the program and its eligibility requirements and applauded Bremerton for its recent success in signing up middle school students. She explained that Mountain View Middle School has become kind of a lighthouse in this state for best practice because of how well they are doing. She invited administrators and the Board to attend an event on December 12, 2009 asking for continued support from the District and the community to give students the “what’s next?” piece. Next, Ms. Glaser gave an update on H1N1, and reported that there was a period with a relatively high number of absences, but whether these were related to the H1N1 virus, they are not sure, and attendance has returned to normal for this time of year. The district continues to work closely with the Health Department. Superintendent Herndon then updated the Board on the recent committee established to review requests to name facilities after specific individuals. He explained that the committee met on Tuesday and that he would forward their notes to the Board members in December. He explained that they have listed three possibilities and that the Board will ultimately make the decision. Director Mitchell requested that a member of the committee be on hand to answer any questions of the Board.

*Superintendent’s
Report*

Ms. Amber Coleman, student representative to the Board of Directors, thanked Dr. Boyd and Ms. Galloway for welcoming her to the Board when she arrived in September, and wished them well as they leave the Board. She congratulated the incoming Board members. She reported on Fall sports and upcoming events at the Performing Arts Center. She reviewed recent and upcoming events at the high school. She offered her support to staff who spoke on behalf of librarians, music and P.E. teachers, stating that cutting back on this curriculum now will result in decreased future interest for students.

Student's Report

Academic Options Principal Lynn Caddell provided a report on the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and efforts to increase student achievement at alternative programs available to Bremerton's high school students. Mr. Caddell reviewed Options programs supporting Bremerton High School, including the NovaNet Program, Drawbridge, Drawbridge Boost, Extended Learning Opportunity Program, Renaissance High School (currently 145 students), and the Washington Youth Academy (current enrollment 123). He discussed at-risk factors for Options students, and reviewed extended graduation rates. He briefly described the focused steps taken to meet students' needs, and explained that the extended graduation rates have increased by nearly 30 points in the past six years. Principal Caddell along with Deputy Director Pearce of the Washington Youth Academy, announced that the Academy has set some high marks around the country and that retention is much higher than normal for this program. Principal Caddell then introduced the student council from the Academy who spoke to the Board about why they chose to enter a military academy and to explain how it has made a difference in their lives. Mr. Caddell introduced staff who were in attendance tonight, and shared a recent front page article in the Gig Harbor Life Weekly featuring the Academy.

Options' CSIP

Ms. Woods reported enrollment as of the November 2, 2009, count date. These first three months follow our usual trend. November 2009 enrollment was 5059.61, a reduction of 28.69 FTE from October, but still above the budgeted FTE of 4951.0. She reviewed enrollment data for individual school and explained how they were budgeted. The headcount for November 2009 was 5,397 and she compared this to last year (5,418).

Enrollment Report

Ms. Woods presented the District's 2008-2009 end-of-year Financial Report. She reviewed the ending fund balance history, and explained that the Business Office has worked very hard to increase the ending fund balance. The ending fund balance for the 2008-2009 school year was \$ 4,137,468 compared to \$2,108,854 for the 2007-2008 school year. She reviewed all funds and answered questions from the Board. Two areas of concern continue to be the funding that will not be coming in from the State due to stimulus funds already received as well as the increased retirement funding that will have a major effect on the budget unless the State increases their support level.

*End of Year
Financial Report
2008-2009*

Ms. Cindy McClain, Bremerton High School Teacher, presented for approval a student travel request for Bremerton High School students to travel to China during spring break 2010 (March 23-April 3, 2011). She fielded questions from the Board regarding the potential learning experience, travel agency, insurance, adult supervision, and fundraising. Director Perkins moved to approve the trip in spring of 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

*Student Travel
Request: Students to
China March 23-
April 3, 2011*

Mr. Ron Carpenter, Facilities Supervisor, presented information on substantial completion of the high school Field & Track project, and a request to make a progress payment to Henderson Partners. Mr. Carpenter answered questions from the Board. The major problem with the track at this time is that the 8th lane is smaller and erratic in size. This is because the track was resurfaced over the existing asphalt, which is what the contract called for and it was not within budget constraints to add additional asphalt. There are several punch list items and one warranty item still to be addressed. Director Mitchell shared his perspective based on his experience, his review of the project documents, and a conversation with the contracted architect, D.A. Hogan, and previous project manager, Heery. Discussion was held whether the District has met its obligation to provide everything promised with the passing of the Bond. Mr. Herndon indicated he is investigating to be sure we can get the track we want with the money set aside from the Bond. Improvements to the track still need to be made, but Mr. Carpenter pointed out that these cannot be immediate as most of the job is weather-dependent. Mr. Carpenter stated that the contractor has fulfilled his part of the contract and recommended payment be made. Director Mitchell moved to table the motion until they can get information from D.A. Hogan, for two weeks. The motion passed unanimously and discussion continued including effects of the inflationary economy on Bond money (major projects all cost more than originally planned). Superintendent Herndon asked Mr. John Wall or any affected parties to contact his office, if necessary, about this decision.

*Bremerton High
School Field and
Track Improvement
Project*

Mr. Carpenter presented for first reading Policy 6810 – Energy and Resource Management. He explained our efforts to work with Puget Sound Energy as a part of their Resource Conservation Energy program, which will provide rebates back to the District, as well as energy grants that he is working on. Director Mitchell stated that he did not feel we needed to have a second reading of this policy and moved to adopt Policy 6810 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

*Policy 6810: Energy
and Resource
Management*

Mr. Carpenter presented for approval Resolution 2009/2010-04, Asset Preservation System (APS). He explained that this resolution is required by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enable us in the future to apply for “State Fund Match” as needed. Director Collins moved that the Board approve Resolution 2009/2010-4 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

*Res. 2007/2010-04:
Asset Preservation
System*

Superintendent Herndon presented Resolution 2009/2010-05 to place a proposition before the voters on February 9, 2010. The recommendation is to maintain a current rate of approximately \$2.50/\$1000, which is lower than the \$2.75/\$1000 estimate in the previous 2007-02010 levy. Dr. Boyd moved to approve Resolution 2009/2010-05, to place a four year levy on the February 9, 2010 ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

*Res. 2007/2010-05:
School Support Levy
for CY 2011-14*

Written Report was noted.

Written Reports

Calendar of Events was noted.

Calendar of Events

Director Mitchell announced that he has been honored by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) to receive and appointment to the Federal Network Relations Committee and has accepted that appointment.

Board Comments

Director Collins wanted to say farewell to Dr. Boyd and to thank him for the support and guidance not only being the only experienced Board member when she came on the Board in the 2003/04 school year but over the years since. She stated that the Board has functioned as a wonderful team and Dr. Boyd's participation and commitment to students has been invaluable.

*Board Comments
(continued)*

Dr. Boyd talked about aspects of tight budgets, the unpopular decisions that then need to be made, the need for consistency by the Board and that the Board needs to always put learning at the forefront of their decisions using the best available knowledge. He warned that the decisions may not be popular, but it will be better for the District.

Ms. Galloway applauded Dr. Boyd for his genuineness and his passion for student achievement. She has noted the many lives he has touched in local, state and federal levels, and hopes to continue to see him involved in the field of education.

Dr. Boyd moved to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. The motion passed unanimously and the Board meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Adjournment

President, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Directors

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