



## Board of Directors' Official Minutes

### **School Board *Special Meeting***

**June 2, 2011**

Estacada High School Choir Room

#### **7:30 p.m. Budget Sub-Committee Meeting – “Blending”**

GENERAL SESSION Called to Order by Vice Chairman, Steve Woods.

**Present were Directors:** Steve Woods and Leslie André. Directors Sherri Graham, Tim Schultz, Mark Greene, and Ralph Branson were absent. Also present were Superintendent, Howard Fetz; Business Manager, Donna Cancio; and Executive Secretary, Sabrina La Londe.

#### **GENERAL SESSION**

All Sub-Committee participants introduced themselves around the table.

Steve Woods congratulated the Sub-Committee for doing a good job at the last several meetings. Mr. Woods reminded the Sub-Committee that they are a recommending committee only.

Standing Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Cory Riedel, announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2 options available regarding “blending” for next year. Option B, and C are the two that have been tentatively approved by the teachers and also favored by the community. Option A that was proposed by the District for universal blending, has been declined as a viable option this year.

As part of the process to choose between Option A and/or B, the District asked the PLC leaders to get together and brainstorm. They have completed this exercise and have provided feedback to the Sub-Committee. The teams made lists of advantages and disadvantages to all three possible options. The consensus was option B from the teachers. Option B provides for leaving K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades as single grade levels while blending 2/3, & 4/5 across all 3 elementary schools. Part of this consensus came out of the conversations about keeping 1<sup>st</sup> grade as a foundational group and the adolescent needs of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mr. Riedel said that he had 4 different parents express their concerns about Option B and if the District decides to go with option B then they would home-school their children. He also said that teachers are the most important ingredient for the recipe for students.

There was much discussion among the Sub-Committee about what is the best classroom situation for students' development. Teachers, Shawna Lippert, Sam Fisher, and Eileen Brokaw shared their opinions and what they feel would be best for students.

#### **HEARING OF CITIZENS: (Non-Action Items)**

Community member, and parent, Ken Riedel said that the District should be looking toward the future and not just to the resolution for one year. Community member, and parent, Beth Avants asked if the District is considering sending the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the Junior High. Mr. Woods answered that question by reminding everyone that we have no clue what the future brings. The District has no idea what Salem will do. Mr. Woods said that the good news is that the professionals that met and worked through this year's issues, will most likely face future challenges in the same manner and work through those as well.

Ms. Avants asked what option would provide for the least amount of disruption to students year after year. Tina Rhue explained that universal blending across all elementary grade levels is the answer but it was not a popular decision with staff or parents this year.

Community member, and parent, Amy James asked what the Junior High capacity is. Mr. Fetz said that the capacity levels are studied every year. Whenever there is available space in a building, we try to make use of it. We may be looking at closing a school in the future.

Community member, and parent, Isabelle Jauron said she looked at the number for K-3 and 4-6 model and feels this would work with the amount of teachers we will have next year. This would also allow Eagle Creek Elementary to stay as it is now. Mr. Fetz reminded the community that one of the requests by the Board is that all three elementary schools be modeled the same.

**FINAL DISCUSSION**

The sub-committee took an informal vote on whether the consensus was to recommend Option B or Option C to the school board. The consensus was for Option B. All but two members were in favor of Option B.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

**There was no formal Board Action Taken**

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Mark Greene  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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Howard Fetz  
Superintendent

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Date

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Date