



Board of Directors' Official Minutes

School Board Meeting

September 14, 2011

Estacada High School Choir Room

7:30 p.m. GENERAL SESSION Called to Order by Vice Chairman, Steve Woods. Present were Directors: Ralph Branson, Tim Schultz, Sonja McCarty, Leslie André, Rick Mudrow, and Steve Woods. Director, Mark Greene was absent. Also present were Superintendent, Howard Fetz; Business Manager, Donna Cancio; and Executive Secretary, Sabrina La Londe.

SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- Plaque Presentation to Former School Board Member Sherri Graham – Vice Chairman, Steve Woods presented Ms. Graham with a Service Award and her School Board photo as a token of the Board's appreciation for her recent service on the School Board.
- Estacada Food Bank – Mrs. Cancio thanked the Estacada Food Bank for their generous donations to the School District again this year. The funds donated help to purchase a variety of necessities for children such as backpacks, pens, pencils, paper, notebooks, lunch boxes etc.
- Program Demo of "Learning.com" – Sarah Powers, a teacher at Clackamas River Elementary, was awarded a grant last year from "Learning.com." Ms. Powers presented a short overview of this program, and its capabilities. The Technology Package purchased this year includes 30 licenses. The students are very excited about the use of this interactive technology.

HEARING OF CITIZENS – Action Items

None

ACTION ITEMS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Woods proposed to change policy KH in the Consent Agenda as follows: Paragraph 3 line 5 -- the word "will" is changed to "may;" and line 6 of the same paragraph, the word "annually" is changed to "consistently."

Ralph Branson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. Leslie André seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved, as revised.

2. APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A NEW DISTRICT LAWN/MOWER

Tim Schultz moved to approve the purchase of a new District lawn mower, seconded by Sonja McCarty.

Discussion – Greg Lynch explained to the Board why the lawnmower purchase is necessary. This is a commercial grade mower that can handle the 14+ acres of lawn the district needs to maintain. The current mower was purchased "used" in 1993. Mr. Lynch said that each hour a lawnmower runs is equal to 60 miles in a car. The current

lawnmower has traveled 354,000 miles under this calculation, and has held up well until the recent “collapse.” The district’s needs require a commercial grade mower in order for staff time to be productive. This proposed mower is built for rough terrain which is what the district has because the fields are fairly dry and bumpy. This machine will mow 7 ½ acres per hour, and it was tested last week. What used to take 2 ½ hours to mow now takes a half an hour. This piece of equipment will last a long time with proper care.

Leslie André asked why the district would buy this piece of equipment outright instead of financing it, and keeping as much cash in the Capital Projects account as possible. Greg Lynch said that the district is not anticipating any expensive capital projects coming up, and it was thought to be a better plan not to have a monthly payment.

The motion was unanimously approved, as presented.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: (Action Items)

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The principals reported on the highlights of the first few days of school as well as the enrollment numbers from this year compared to last year at the same time.

- Seth Johnson – Principal of River Mill Elementary and Clackamas River Elementary said that the first days of school went very smoothly at both buildings. He congratulated his fantastic staff for their willingness to take on additional duties in a professional manner. River Mill Elementary held their Open House on the first day of school, and it was great. Clackamas River will hold its Open House on the 21st. Enrollment for RME was 293 last year vs. 289 this year. CRES was 317 last year vs. 306 this year. These numbers do not include the SLC classroom.
- Tina Rhue – Principal of Eagle Creek Elementary reported that their Open House will be held next Thursday at 5:30 p.m. There will be a bar-b-q hosted by the Parents’ Club. Ms. Rhue said they are very grateful for the wonderful parent helpers they have. The enrollment numbers are down 11 students this year. The Kindergarten classrooms combined have 28 students this year compared to 43 last year, which is more typical. Ms. Rhue said she believes the lack of daycare causes parents to take their children to a private preschool/kindergarten, and then return to Eagle Creek Elementary for 1st grade. Eagle Creek has also maintained their 20% Latino population, and they love their new PE teacher.
- Dan Draper – Principal of Estacada Junior High School also had a smooth start to the school year. Their Open House will be Sept. 20th at 6:30 p.m. There will be a slide show in the auditorium, and everyone is welcome to attend. Enrollment was 335 last year this compared to 333 this year.
- Scott Sullivan – Principal of Estacada High School thanked the Junior High for a great freshman class. He said they are all very well behaved. The school year has been smooth so far, and the enrollment numbers are down by 8 from last year at this time. This includes the 13 foreign exchange students that they have worked very hard to recruit.
- Gary Hatcher – Principal of Estacada Alternative High School. They are a year-around school and therefore there is no starting and stopping. They receive new students every week, and the enrollment numbers are 125 which is the same as last year this time.

- Marty Hopper – The Transportation Supervisor stated that the school year has started out well. Kindergarten routes are always a bit of a challenge during the first week or two. The school buses travel from Ripplebrook to Oregon City, Troutdale, etc. for the Special Needs students. The Transportation Dept. does a great job covering a lot of ground, and getting a lot of students to and from school each day.
- Greg Lynch – The Operations Director for the District reported that the facilities are starting to show their age. He is working on a preventative plan to address these issues. The Custodial staff is working very hard, and there were a lot of changes that had to take place this year with teachers moving from one classroom to another. The Food Service Program suffered a loss of enrollment this year, but the Summer Food Program expanded and fed over 10,000 kids. The community is starting to respond slowly but surely. Now that the public knows the Summer Food Program is going to be around, it will continue to grow. Mr. Lynch is looking forward to a good year.
- Howard Fetz – The Superintendent reported on the number of students that the District lost last year, and reports indicate that *economics* was the # 1 reason that families left. The economy has made a big impact.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT:

There were no questions about the Business Office report in the packet. Ms. Cancio said she won't start reporting on the current fiscal year until next month. The District is getting closer to meeting the projected beginning fund balance as well.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Sonja McCarty – She is wearing a dual hat tonight, and on Oct. 5th the Attorney General for Oregon is offering a Prescription Drug Summit. They are trying to put together the list of e-mail attendants. The training will begin at 7:00 a.m. in the morning and go until 9:00 p.m. There will be Tool Kits for classrooms and teachers. Ms. McCarty said she will be serving as a District Rep. at this summit, but also presenting as a Coalition member. The Coalition of Oregon is hosting the summit.

Leslie André was appointed as the School Board liaison for the Estacada Web Academy and Early College. This is becoming a mutually beneficial partnership. Ms. André said she will be working with Cyndi Rathbun, who is a member of the Charter Board, and with Charter Director, Rick Slater. She was invited to the Collins Retreat Dinner this summer and she attended the first Charter meeting on Sept. 6th. Rick Slater is working with Philip Foster Farm to build a comprehensive course to enhance the virtual courses offered by the charter school. It will be 6th – 12th grade, and hopefully the students will be able to work at the farm. There is a grant in the works to move the Lucy House across the street to the Philip Foster Farm site.

Leslie reported that the assessment of Essential Skills is required for students to meet proficiency by 2012. Currently, the OAKS test is only given to 11th graders, but they are trying to find alternatives for 12th graders to have more chances to meet the Essential Skills.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Non-Action Items)

Brent Dodrill is a community member who thanked the Board members for their service to the Community. Mr. Dodrill is serving his 2nd term on the City Council, and he said that over the years the City Council has worked very well with the School District. Mr. Dodrill said that the alley near “Big Jim’s” continues to be a unique “hang-out” for students. Although the alley is not school district property, patrons have asked the City for help. The City has removed blackberry bushes and posted

signs to keep out. This area is being regularly patrolled by the Clackamas County Sheriff's office, but if district staff could remind students that this is not the place to loiter that would be helpful. He said the City appreciates the School District's help.

Mark Luedtke – Mr. Luedtke reported that three days ago the country witnessed a remembrance of “9-11.” He said similar actions are about to take place in Estacada, and “the roof is about to fall in.” He said that the district has never met NCLB or AYP. In February 2010 ODE placed the Estacada School District in “Improvement Status” for failure to meet AYP.

Joy Plummer – Is a parent of children who have graduated. She is wondering why the District doesn't use the local cable channel for communication anymore. She said that she feels community/district communication is lacking. She would like to see the district bring back the “Key Communicator.” With regard to the budget cuts, she suggests that the Eagle Scouts are ready and willing to do projects such as making fences, bridges, etc. If principals have projects, they can call on Troop 10, and they will come work. This counts as community service for the scouts, and she can get names and numbers for us.

Laura Tegman – She is a parent of two children who attend Eagle Creek Elementary. She would like to be a member of the “Key Communicator” list also. She feels that the secretary swap seemed sudden, and the parents were uninformed. She said that had the parents been notified of this change, they could have eliminated rumors and hard feelings. She said change is hard for people. “Why does the district think swapping secretarial teams was the best answer for the children?” As a tax paying parent she feels she deserves to be informed.

Mr. Woods said he appreciates the audience for coming forward in the professional manner that they did with their concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Action Taken

1. Consent Agenda - Approved.
2. Approval of a new District Lawn Mower – Approved.

Steve Woods
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors

Howard Fetz
Superintendent

Date

Date