

MINUTES
of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the ENUMCLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT #216
6:30 p.m.
January 8, 2018

I – PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Bryan Stanwood, President of the Board of Directors, at 6:30 p.m. at Westwood Elementary School.

B. Roll Call:

All board members were present, excluding Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. McGann, who were excused. Student representative, Foster Barnhart, was also excused.

II – WORK BOARD STUDY SESSION

A. Westwood Elementary School Presentation

Mr. Meyer opened the meeting by welcoming the board and audience to Westwood and describing Westwood’s presentation as being packed with many students and educators. He updated the board on the elementary school’s theme for the year, “Learning Pits,” derived from James Nottingham’s *The Learning Challenge*. This theme was chosen because learning is not always fun for students, especially when facing struggles, and becoming stuck in certain areas. The “Learning Pits” theme encompasses encouraging students to identify their learning pits (places they feel stuck) and recognize resources to assist in growing and improving through those struggles. The staff and students at Westwood have also been working under the motto “If it doesn’t challenge you, it doesn’t change you,” recognizing that these learning pits are an essential and unavoidable area in the education process.

Mr. Meyer then invited two students to present to the board. Morgan displayed a piece of artwork that she created which illustrated her view on what a learning pit looked like, and Isabelle described a learning pit in math that she was able to work through by asking for help and not giving up! After thanking the two students, Mr. Meyer proudly expressed that the team of educators at Westwood Elementary are dedicated, do not quit, and work tirelessly for their students. He then invited ILC teachers Elizabeth Harkness and Shannon Poulin to present with one of their students, Aaron.

Mrs. Harkness and Mrs. Poulin described images and videos showing the special and individualized lessons for their classes while their student, Aaron, assisted in flipping through each slide. Videos showed students using visual supports to increase behavioral skills, reading, and independence, as well as hands-on learning based on individual learning needs and interests. Photos revealed students participating in the “community helpers” unit, learning about doctors, and participating in cooking class which occurs each Friday!

Mrs. Willis and student, Brielle, then took the stage to describe how the ILC rooms concentrate on the equality of teaching and teaching the whole child based on individualized needs. Mrs. Willis used Brielle as an example of success. Brielle is a nonverbal student who was able to learn 10 letters last year, and each of the letters in her name! Mrs. Willis explained that her classroom doesn't just focus on classroom learning, but listening skills and life skills as well. The students are even taken to the pool to learn the life skill of swimming. Her goal is not to just meet the basic needs of the students, but to get the students prepared for a transition into the general education classroom and the community.

Mrs. Hogue and student, Julian, took time to show photos of differentiated math instruction in the ILC and general education settings for their classroom, as well as students in the computer lab and during lunch. Like Mrs. Willis's classroom, Mrs. Hogue's students also participate in off-campus outings for educational purposes. The students have had lessons take place at the grocery store and they also take trips to the pool. A learning pit that Julian is working through is putting on his own shoes and socks after swimming!

Mr. Meyer thanked his ILC team for presenting and gave kudos to each for establishing great relationships with their students, creating goals and challenging learning. He then invited teacher Kolleen Bourdage to present her classroom's "Genius Hour" project.

Mrs. Bourdage described that "Genius Hour" is a movement/idea that began at Google: if you allow people to work on something that interests them, productivity will go up. In her classroom, Mrs. Bourdage uses this idea in her teaching. Her students are given a period of time each week to work on a project of their choosing. This project must begin with a question. The question must drive extensive research, and when answered, must be presented with both a written and a visual project/display. Using this type of lesson, her students are focused on learning a topic that interests them, while also learning the necessary tools of research, finding credible sources, writing, and presenting. The written portion of the product also helps students to practice the different genres of writing that may be seen on their state assessments. Mrs. Bourdage invited two students to describe their "Genius Hour" projects.

Ryker presented a tri-fold poster of information pertaining to his project on MIG welding. He used many props to support his presentation, including a welding brush, helmet/mask, gloves, and wire, and was able to describe the importance of each.

Louisa created her very own website surrounding the topic of the harmfulness of smoking cigarettes and vaping. She gave an overview of her three page site, describing lung diseases associated with the habits, as well as a diagram of a vape pen.

Mr. Meyer explained the importance of core classrooms and homerooms in the learning process. He then added the importance of an intervention team for reaching students at all levels of learning. He called this intervention team the MTSS umbrella system. He then invited his intervention team to present.

The intervention team at Westwood is comprised of a LAP professional, para educators, a speech pathologist, and a school psychologist. These professionals include: Rebecca Underwood, Tara Myers, Cece Shott, Susan Osborne, Andrea Unger and Jessica Kelly. The group described

themselves as a way to ensure equity at Westwood, and to assist students in working through their learning pits. Their intervention strategies are data driven and their goal is to provide additional support to students struggling in specific areas of learning. The team meets on Fridays, and also uses PLC time on Fridays to report information back to the classroom teachers to create a more cohesive intervention process.

Mr. Meyer explained that an important idea at Westwood is to ensure that students have a voice. Using a group of students to form an Associated Student Body (ASB), Westwood is able to involve students in many ways. Teachers Jackie Carel and Lee Ann Curtright are the ASB advisors and were invited to present to the board.

Mrs. Curtright explained the election process to the board, and Mrs. Carel added that each class also contributes class representatives. The ASB members get to participate in field day planning, choosing a logo for spirit wear, facilitating yearbook cover contests, food drives, assembly planning and entertainment, etc. The board members and the audience were then invited to the gym to experience student involvement in assemblies. In the gym, the board was greeted with upbeat music and a student on stage dancing. Other students then performed a skit, “Westwood’s Got Talent.”

Mr. Meyer describes the wide range of clubs offered to students at Westwood including volleyball, running, Rubik’s Cube Club, Girls on the Run Club, after school Spanish Club and the Green Team. Mrs. Sanders was invited to explain more of the Green Team to the board.

Mrs. Sanders shared that Westwood is a “green” school and this is her 7th year with the Green Team. The Green Team includes the entire 5th grade class and currently has seven ongoing projects. The focus of the team is to promote the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink” idea. To help with this, there are recycle and compost bins in the lunchroom, as well as team members to promote portion control at the salad bar to minimize waste, and a cart for items that are uneaten and remain sealed. The leftover, sealed items are then used during the second round of lunches to further reduce waste!

The next Westwood update came from Jessica Kelly, the school counselor. Ms. Kelly explained that her focus is on empathy, bullying prevention, and emotional management. She meets with students one-on-one and also gives the option of group participation. A survey is given at the beginning of the year, and she is able to gather data on student interests in different areas of support. She is also available for immediate assistance in dealing with family grievances, trouble with friends, etc. Ms. Kelly described her current program of using a goals and rewards system to track student improvements. She shared data charts of students, each showing positive trend lines and explained that goals and rewards for hitting those goals are helping students to succeed.

Mr. Meyer did a brief overview of school attendance data and took a moment to honor two educators that will be leaving Westwood at the end of the year. Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Curtright were presented with bouquets of flowers and thanked for their years of service and the impacts they have made on many students.

Mr. Meyer ended with thanking the board and handing out small gifts and cards written by students for School Board Appreciation month.

The board thanked Mr. Meyer and his staff for the presentation. Mr. Stanwood added that it warmed his heart to see the inclusion of the ILC students. Mr. Gamblin thanked Mr. Meyer for bringing the students. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Meyer for a comprehensive and realistic view of what an elementary school is like day-to-day.

B. Strategic Plan Vision

Mr. Nelson presented the board with the current strategic plan and explained that the cabinet members have been working on some changes that would allow for the plan to encompass goals for multiple years. With the board’s blessing, the cabinet will bring a more comprehensive look at the changes to the board retreat in April. The board agreed to move forward.

C. State of Ed Address

The board discussed plans for the upcoming State of Ed Address on January 18, 2018. The theme for the event is “The Tonight Show” and is expected to be informative and comical.

III — BOARD PROCESS DEBRIEF

The board debriefed the meeting.

V — ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

President, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Directors