

MINUTES
of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the ENUMCLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT #216
7:00 p.m., District Office
January 20, 2009

I — PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Cathy Dahlquist, President of the Board of Directors, at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the district office.

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

Elizabeth Burrill led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

C. Roll Call:

All board members were present.

D. Minutes:

Mr. VanHoof moved and Mr. Weyer seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of December 15, 2008 and the special board meeting January 5, 2009 as printed. Motion carried.

II — BOARD OF DIRECTORS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Board Communications:

Mr. VanHoof stated that the legislature is in session. Budget information has been in the news and the alternative to the WASL will be shared with the public tomorrow by State Superintendent Dorn. There is a lot going on in Olympia and Mr. VanHoof encouraged people to keep an eye on the news.

Mrs. Dahlquist reminded the public that the Instructional Technology and Facilities Levy Election is February 3rd and asked that people please vote and mail their ballots. Mrs. Merrill stated there would be no polls as this is strictly a mail in ballot.

Mr. Cassell shared that it was nice to be with everyone on this special day in history when the first African American president was inaugurated.

B. Black Diamond Elementary:

Mr. Nelson introduced Black Diamond Principal, Gerrie Garton. Mrs. Garton thanked the board for being gracious in letting them change presentation dates due to the weather in December and

the concern to keep families safe. She reminded the board that the board room was decorated based on the *Jolly Postman* book and their building theme was the *Jolly Principal*. Each board member had a letter and students were going to share the significance of the decorations. The first grade students had planned to sing the *Star Spangled Banner*.

Mrs. Garton introduced Megan Wolgamot and Lilly Fuentes, two of her fifth grade students, who did a beautiful job of reading the *Jolly Principal* story. At the conclusion, Mrs. Garton extended a warm invitation to the board members to come to Black Diamond Elementary for a visit and they could be “jolly board members”.

Sunrise Elementary:

Mr. Nelson introduced Chris Beals, Principal at Sunrise Elementary. Mr. Beals stated that he wanted to share the work his staff has been doing. They have been using the book *Learning by Doing* and the four questions in their teaching practice. He thought it would be helpful to see what one team of teachers is doing to put the book into action. After reviewing the four questions, Mr. Beals introduced third grade teacher, Judy Craighead. Ms. Craighead shared that she is grateful and appreciative of Mr. Beals and the board for the gift of time for staff learning. Staff has been working on implementing the math state standards and has developed a common assessment in their building. This assessment is given to the students and scored. Teacher Judy Manus was introduced to share the next step after the assessment is given. The teachers met in a seminar group and scored the tests. A spreadsheet was developed and students were sorted into three groups. Many of the students had met or exceeded targets, some were close with just a few things that required practice, and the last group needed more practice and reinforcement. The next strategy was to find a time for teachers to meet with these groups for 2 – 30 minute blocks of time for 4 weeks. With each of the three teachers taking a group, the student loved it. Nicole Leahy shared the next step which was to reassess students at the end of the four weeks. All of the groups showed improvement. She stated that this has been a process using the four questions as it helps to identify a target and make a plan. For students who were still struggling, it was recommended that they join the after school math club which meets for one hour, once a week. Continuous support is provided. Ms. Leahy shared that a student might struggle with a particular concept and then excel with the next concept. The same might happen to a student who is not struggling with most concepts and then may struggle with one. Because of this, students are not labeled in their groups as students rotate in and out.

At the conclusion of the teachers’ presentation, Mr. Beals stated that this represented the conversations that are happening across grade levels. He appreciates the teachers’ willingness to roll up their sleeves and try these strategies. He is excited by the work and has seen impressive gains. He shared that Mr. Cassell had visited the kindergarten class and ended up at a table working with seven students. It is a powerful model.

Mr. Nelson commented that Mr. Beals had been a part of our system working on literacy and asked if they had found common themes in math. Mr. Beals stated that they had found students gain an understanding of number sense. They are being intentional and are excited about their work.

Mr. Beals then shared that his building had received a license to use the Weather Station at EMS through the generosity of community members and PTA. They now have “meteorologists” in each building pod. McKenna Molieri, Jady Decker, Victor DelCampo and Gabe Larsen were introduced and shared how they use the Weather Station. The students were very comfortable and proficient in using technology to get on the internet where they accessed the Weatherbug site

and King 5 News while other students gathered the data to write up weather reports and create their own weather maps.

Mr. Beals said that these students train new students and they get to do the weather reports for two weeks at a time. He shared his appreciation for the community member who asked if there was any way for the weather station to be re-activated and now students are enjoying a new program which families can access from their homes. Mr. Beals agreed that it will be wonderful when students have the technology right in their classrooms. As he concluded his presentation, Mr. Beals asked the board if they had questions.

Mrs. Dahlquist asked about the process the teachers use when tracking the students. She thought it was interesting that some students could understand a particular concept quickly but may not understand every concept. Mrs. Dahlquist asked how the teachers felt about grouping the students by level. Ms. Leahy responded that the teachers agree all of the groups need to be heterogeneous so that students learn from each other. She explained that the leveling groups were by concept and that they never consider that the student who is behind will always be behind. Mrs. Dahlquist stated that she sees the benefit of being able to access technology in the use of the assessments and data in the spreadsheet to move more quickly with an intervention for students.

Mr. Cassell remarked that he is amazed at how quickly students become proficient on computers and that he is inspired to bring additional technology to all students. He also stated that he is pleased with the structure Sunrise has put in place and thanked Mr. Beals and the staff for all the extra effort that has gone into it.

C. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Nelson remarked that he would like to recruit the weather students at 3:30 in the morning on snow days to assist him!

Sharing that he had the great privilege of working with 24 seniors and juniors each week, Mr. Nelson said the group had just returned from a retreat where he was presented with the colorfully decorated tie he was wearing at the meeting.

Mr. Nelson stated that January is *Board Appreciation Month*. He said that it is a difficult time to be a board member as there is a lot of transition: a change in the state superintendent and a change of president as well as a fluctuating economy. Addressing the board, Mr. Nelson said the five of them volunteered to serve and he is grateful to be their superintendent. They have made an incredible commitment which goes beyond board meetings twice a month. They are constantly in communication by email and phone receiving updates and there have been more meetings in the last year than in previous years. It means time away from families and other activities and the board deserves to be appreciated. He displayed the certificate each board member was awarded using the document camera. Mrs. Dahlquist and Mr. VanHoof are serving their 4th years; Mr. Weyer and Mr. Cassell their 2nd years; and Mrs. Merrill her 18th year.

Mr. Nelson reminded everyone that the Capital Facilities and Technology Levy is on February 3rd. Nearly 40 informational presentations have been made. One of the final presentations will be on January 28th at Thunder Mt. Middle School. He encouraged people to attend if they still have questions. Jon Funfar of ECTV recently videotaped Chad Marlow and Mr. Nelson using the technology that we hope to place in the classrooms. This video can be accessed from the district website.

The State of Enumclaw School District Address is scheduled for January 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Mrs. Dahlquist will do the opening and introduce the board members. Then the Cabinet and Mr. Nelson will share and celebrate the work that has been done over the past year. There will be a picture slideshow which will include questions and answers. Magic Strings students will be performing and a high school student will be singing. After the presentation, everyone is invited to the library for refreshments and to view the tables set up by each of the buildings. Ms. Lang's Culinary Arts students are preparing the refreshments.

Mr. Nelson reported the legislature is in a long session. The governor's budget has been released with a 25% decrease in I-728 money (\$500,000) and a 33% decrease in levy equalization (\$200,000) as well as a \$100,000 loss in math/science initiatives. Using the governor's budget as a placeholder, the cabinet is beginning to look at what these cuts will mean to us. The cabinet is meeting with each building principal to discuss possible areas for adjustment. These budget issues are affecting all 295 school districts. Another decrease in student enrollment is predicted in our district. Mr. Nelson made a commitment to staff and the public to be very open and transparent in the budget process. Right now, it is a moving target and may not be until June that the legislature ends. It puts us in a difficult position. Administration will be cautious about how they discuss the budget remembering that 85% of the budget is for staffing. Mr. Nelson shared some of this information in the *Connection* in the paper.

After concluding his communication, Mrs. Dahlquist told the government students they could be signed out at 8:00 p.m.

D. Climate Survey Report:

Mr. Nelson began by sharing that Mrs. Garton put together several options for the Climate Survey while at district office. After she became principal at Black Diamond Elementary, Mrs. Lockyer took the lead in the process which developed a survey for staff, students and parents/community members.

Mrs. Lockyer began by sharing the board room technology set-up is for use in staff trainings which are held here in the board room. It provides a central place for the use of the technology.

Stating that Zoomerang was the tool chosen for the survey, Mrs. Lockyer said there was an overwhelming response on the survey. The climate surveys will continue in the future. Synthesizing the data was a project. She shared what we do well and can celebrate: 1) The district hires well qualified professionals to improve student learning; 2) Parents feel welcome in the district; 3) Children feel safe in school; 4) Communication; and 5) Complaints are handled effectively. The areas of improvement were as follows: 1) Need for technology; 2) Facility improvement; 3) Curriculum and supplies; 4) Behavior interfering with the education of students (this was not shown as a thread but showed in the comment area); 5) Class choices; and 6) Communication. These threads will be built into the school improvement plans next year. Mrs. Lockyer asked if anyone had questions.

Mrs. Merrill responded that she is thrilled that we've done the survey. Mrs. Lockyer stated that it has been an interesting and productive journey. It will be interesting to watch the threads over the years. Mr. Cassell said it was reassuring to get this information and see the need for additional technology which confirms the board's target in facilities and technology. He thanked those who took the time to complete the survey.

Mrs. Dahlquist asked if anyone present wished to address the board as a whole.

III — HEARING OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AS A WHOLE

No one wished to address the board.

IV — ADMINISTRATION/BUSINESS

A. Payroll and Vouchers:

Mr. Stocker presented the list of top ten expenditures in the district as follows: Puget Sound Energy, City of Enumclaw, Food Services of America, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Puyallup School District, NW ESD 189, Associated Petroleum, Overlake Hospital Medical Center, Brooks Powers Group, and Speech Connection.

After reviewing all vouchers, Mr. Cassell moved and Mrs. Merrill seconded to approve payroll and general fund vouchers #44395 through #44585 in the amount of \$432,923.06; associated student body fund vouchers #19324 through #19384 in the amount of \$57,303.25; and ratification of the general fund payroll warrant issue for December in the amount of \$2,873,492.26. Motion carried.

B. Consent Agenda:

1. Donation of \$1,000 from the Qwest Foundation to Kibler Elementary due to Peggy Laush's volunteer work to be used for student support materials/activities
2. Donation of \$17,000 from Anita & David Cummings to Black Diamond Elementary to purchase technology
3. Personnel Report

The consent agenda was presented by Mrs. Dahlquist.

With gratefulness and appreciation for all the gifts our district receives, Mrs. Merrill moved and Mr. VanHoof seconded a motion to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Donation of \$1,000 from the Qwest Foundation to Kibler Elementary due to Peggy Laush's volunteer work to be used for student support materials/activities
2. Donation of \$17,000 from Anita & David Cummings to Black Diamond Elementary to purchase technology
3. Personnel Report

Employment with the district will be conditional upon the district's receipt of a criminal conviction history record that is clear of any convictions, adjudications, protective orders, final decisions or criminal charges in accordance with Washington State Law.

Classified:

A. Resignation:

1. Jennifer Stroh, LPN, Westwood, effective 1/1/2009
2. Marjorie Ledford, kitchen assistant, Westwood, effective 1/5/2009

- B. Rehire:
 - 1. Kathryn Adderson, paraeducator, Kibler, effective 1/8/2009
 - 2. Tina Rosenthal, health room professional, Kibler, effective 1/8/2009
- C. Non-Continuing Probation Period:
 - 1. Susan Hobbs, ECEAP Lead Teacher, Black Diamond, effective 12/1/2008

Mrs. Dahlquist called for questions. Motion carried.

C. District Goals Update:

With the decision to update the public on board goals every few months, Mr. Nelson explained that the goal sheets have been color-coded to show whether the item has been completed, is in process, or has yet to begin. The website will be updated with the color-coded goals after the board meeting.

Mr. Nelson wanted to update the board on a couple of items. He stated that Mr. Parker has been presenting information at board workshops which are not video-taped. Mr. Parker recently invited vendors of math curriculum to present to the math adoption committee at an all day meeting. K-12 staff are involved in the process and are very dedicated. Mr. Parker will present the curriculum chosen by staff at a board meeting and then it will be voted on by the board meeting the following month. The math adoption process will also be launched on the website. The materials are on display for the public to review. Mr. Nelson stated that over time, he hopes the public sees that we are open, honest and transparent in our processes. He also stated that Mr. Parker worked many hours over the weekend to have information prepared for the website. He gave Mr. Parker huge kudos for his efforts.

The second highlight is K-8 assessments. In response to a question regarding the assessments that have been developed and whether they are being used in all buildings, Mr. Parker stated that the PLC experts will tell us not to shortchange the building process by developing district assessments. The power is when teachers get together to see what is happening with student learning. We have to be careful that in wanting consistency, the real power of learning could be diminished. Mrs. Dahlquist asked if the teachers spend time with their colleagues in other schools. Ms. Manus responded that their target has been the state standards and the district's focus. Ms. Craighead added that the focus on literacy and reading is not an accident and that they tie into whatever curriculum is being developed. As students get deeper into a subject they are able to communicate understanding. There is a difference in knowing it and being able to communicate it. She believes she can speak for all buildings; they want children to understand and they all feel responsible for each other's learning. They are moving forward together. For some of the children it comes easier, but all children will be brought up to speed. Mr. Weyer remarked that Mr. Parker had presented at the board workshop this month and they are doing fantastic work. He loves the district assessments presented by the 3rd grade teachers and is excited about the whole program. Mr. Weyer believes it will be a great benefit to our children. He expressed his appreciation to everyone for the work being done.

Mr. Nelson remarked that common collaboration in the Professional Learning Communities could be interesting to talk about and Mr. Cassell agreed that developing best practices district-wide would be beneficial.

Mr. Nelson shared an update regarding Facilities/Technology. 18 months of work and planning came before determining to run the levy. The facilities study and survey was completed and paid for by a state grant. The needs are obvious. The Capital Facilities plan was updated and will be updated as needed to allow for possible growth. He commended the board for holding us accountable for when growth occurs.

In the area of Community Relations, the Climate Survey was just completed. The district continues to use School Messenger, the *Connection* which is embedded in the Courier Herald, and improved communication with the website. The website now includes a discussion area. We will keep these things going and grow the Climate Survey. The Executive Summary of the survey will be a cyclical piece. Continuing to use the same questions will help us to see trends. The survey will be on the website for public information.

Concluding the goal update report, Mr. Nelson reiterated that the goals will be posted on the website and credited Mr. Parker for the idea of color coding the goals.

D. General Fund Report

Mr. Stocker presented the General Fund Report.

The beginning of the year fund balance was \$3,967,246.81. Total resources available: \$18,565,563.50. Expenditures to date: \$13,505,715.60. Transfer amount to debt service for energy: \$21,344.92; inventory: \$32,120.87 and debt service: \$42,689.82. Ending fund balance: \$4,963,692.29. Unreserved balance: \$4,519,222.59. Mr. Stocker stated that we are doing a good job of managing the resources we have and will continue to monitor expenditures. We are also watching the legislature for impacts on the budget. He stated the district came in over projections on enrollment in January.

Capital Projects beginning fund balance was \$50,890.38 with an ending balance of \$21,677.39.

The Debt Service Fund beginning fund balance was \$2,207,605.22 with an ending balance of \$1,935,671.00.

ASB Fund beginning fund balance was \$354,365.85 with an ending balance of \$445,273.39.

Transportation Fund beginning fund balance was \$432,133.58 with an ending balance of \$804,367.58.

Mrs. Dahlquist asked Mr. Nelson if an executive session was necessary. He stated that a 20 minute executive session would be required to discuss personnel issues. Mrs. Dahlquist stated the board would go into executive session at 8:30 p.m.

V — EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board reconvened at 8:57 p.m. No action was taken on the personnel issues discussed in the Executive Session.

VI — BOARD PROCESS DEBRIEF

No comments on the board process debriefing.

VII — ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

President, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Director

