

**Board Mtg. BURLINGTON-EDISON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 100 Nov. 28, 2011**

The Board of Directors of Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on Nov. 28, 2011 in the Board Room of the Administration Office at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: President, Bill Wallace; Vice-President, Bradley Whaley; Members, Rich Wesen, David Lowell, and Roger Howard

Staff Members Present: Laurel Browning, Superintendent; Dr. Jeff Drayer, Assistant Superintendent; K.C. Knudson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning; Joe Stewart, Finance Director; and Vicki Kelley, Deputy Board Secretary

At approximately 7:00 p.m., the regular meeting was called to order by President Wallace.

CALL TO ORDER

This month the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Superintendent Browning.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

President Wallace opened the floor to any members of the audience who wished to address the Board. There were none.

AUDIENCE  
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Whaley moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 24, 2011 and the work session of November 14, 2011. Mr. Wesen seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Mr. Wesen moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Mr. Howard seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT  
CALENDAR

Items approved on the consent calendar are as follows:

Approval was granted for payment of warrants subject to review by the Board member designated by the Board President at the end of month. Items covered are the November 2011: General Fund Warrant Nos. 311778 through 311951; 311953 through 312006; and 312011 and 312202; Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 312007 through 312010; and Associated Student Body Fund Warrant Nos. 311952 through 311952; and 312203 through 312242.

APPROVAL OF  
WARRANTS

The attached appointments, resignations, and leaves of absence were approved/accepted.

PERSONNEL

The Board accepted the following donations:

ACCEPTANCE  
OF  
DONATIONS

- A donation from Mid-day Rotary to the Burlington-Edison High School P.E. Department in the amount of \$6,000 to be used to purchase weight room equipment.
- A donation from the Bay View PTA to Bay View Elementary in the amount of \$9,600 to be used to purchase playground equipment.
- A donation from the Bay View PTA to Bay View Elementary in the amount of \$846.10 to be used to purchase badminton net and stands.
- A donation from Soroptimist International of Burlington to the B-EHS Natural Helpers in the amount of \$750.00 to be used for payment of Natural Helper training for 33 students and 5 adults.
- A donation from the Skagit Valley Yellow Jackets to the B-EHS wrestling program in the amount of \$7,000 to be used to purchase a new wrestling mat.

President Wallace asked the Board if they had any comments. Mr. Howard attended the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Conference on November 18 and 19 in Bellevue, WA. He said it was a very good conference and he enjoyed the work sessions and interacting with other board members across the state. A couple of the break-out sessions were interesting. One was about communities overcoming economic times. He learned that 90 percent of people who vote in elections are over the age of 45 (average statistics from a survey). Mr. Howard attended another break-out session about project-based learning (the STEM program). He stated that it was interesting how students apply sciences to project-based learning.

BOARD  
MEMBER  
COMMENTS

He also heard Governor Gregoire speak about the state's budget shortfall and educational funding.

Mr. Lowell attended the WSSDA Conference and met a lot of people from all over the state and other board members. He said a lot of the other board members ran unopposed. Mr. Lowell attended the finance session about the Goldendale School District, which was an economically challenged school district, and how they implemented Stephen Covey into their curriculum.

Mr. Wesen also enjoyed the WSSDA Conference. He attended a session about how the Everett School District brought up their students' test scores and got them up to speed by paying attention to each individual student. He said there were two themes: One was the economy of schools. (Other school districts are cutting positions that we have never had. We have cut positions that other school districts are looking at.) The other was property taxes.

Mr. Wesen also attended a session on school tours. Some school boards never go into a school. Our district is proactive; e.g., new evaluations and starting to use core standards. Mr. Wesen attended the district's Spanish Language Committee meeting. He said it was nice to see high school teachers talking to grade school teachers. He also enjoyed the high school play.

BOARD  
MEMBER  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)

Mr. Whaley was unable to attend the WSSDA Conference. He went to the LU PTA meeting, and it was about planning the carnival for the next day.

Mr. Wallace acknowledged the donations that were made to the district this month. He stated that the donations are really appreciated and added up to a considerable amount, approximately \$24,000.

Mr. Wallace attended Rachael's Challenge assembly at B-EHS. The program is put on by friends and family of Rachael Scott, the first student and person shot and killed at Columbine School District (Colorado) in 1999. He said it was a very empowering program to help improve student climate at school. High school student leaders followed up the assembly presentation by discussing how they can help make a difference at their school.

Special Education Coordinator, Jeff Brown, and Mr. Wallace attended a Gates Early Learning Conference in Seattle. Bill Gates, Sr. kicked it off and talked about the importance of education from age 3 years old to third grade. Mr. Wallace learned that our district is a real leader in early education. He said he asked Mrs. Browning to have discussion with the Board about what the early learning program is in our district as the Board should understand the importance of this program. A lot of it is occurring at West View Elementary and the preschool.

Mr. Wallace watched the Veterans' Day Parade from Mr. Whaley's café. He stated he was proud of everyone in the parade especially the B-EHS band and dance team who braved the bad weather to honor our veterans.

November 15 was Citizens' Day in the Burlington-Edison School District. Community members and leaders from various aspects of the community and two of our state legislators were in attendance. Mr. Wallace also attended, and he stated that everyone enjoyed their tour of the high school and an elementary school. Several commented on how good our facilities looked. Mr. Wallace said that attendee, Greg Davidson, CEO of Skagit Valley Hospital, commented about the opportunity for our school system to partner with doctors in residency at Skagit Valley Hospital and our high school anatomy class.

Mr. Wallace attended the WSSDA Conference. He thought it was great and stated that more discussion about the conference would occur at the board work session. The workshop he attended at the conference was put on by Northwest Securities and Trevor Carlson in which a survey was shared about how people across the state view bonds and levies. A couple of highlights: 66 percent of respondents supported new classroom technology; 64 percent supported modernizing schools; 44 percent supported construction of new schools, and 66 percent supported operating levies.

Finance Director, Joe Stewart, presented the monthly Fiscal Report and answered questions from the Board.

FISCAL REPORT

Finance Director, Joe Stewart, presented a levy resolution to the Board for adoption. He explained the levy must pass as it is critical for 20 percent of the operations budget. If it does not pass, we cannot operate. It is vital! Mrs. Browning pointed out that the verbiage in the resolution should not be "maintenance and operations" levy, but should be "replacement of educational programs and operations levy. Mr. Stewart will follow up.

ADOPTION OF  
LEVY  
RESOLUTION  
NO. 792

ADOPTION OF LEVY  
RESOLUTION  
(Continued)

Mr. Whaley said he would be in favor of passing the levy resolution if the Board committed to not levy more than we need and follow up with a resolution stating this.

Mr. Wesen moved to adopt Levy Resolution No. 792 authorizing the district to run a four-year replacement educational programs and operations levy providing for the submission of special levies of \$9,000,000 in 2012 for collection in 2013; \$9,400,000 in 2013 for collection in 2014; \$9,500,000 in 2014 for collection in 2015; and \$9,500,000 in 2015 for collection in 2016 in a special election held on February 14, 2012. Mr. Howard seconded. Motion carried.

Comments from board members are as follows:

**Mr. Wesen:** Mr. Wesen said he does not think the State will pass the proposed tax increase.

**Mr. Wesen and Mr. Howard:** They both do not believe there is anything above what we currently provide in the school district in this proposal and we will still have to cut programs. They support the levy.

**Mr. Lowell:** He thinks it is important for the public to know that we have analyzed the amount for the levy for several months. The current proposal is just to maintain current education programs in the district.

**Mr. Wallace:** Mr. Wallace supports the need of the levy. He said he thinks it is an essential investment in the education of our students. He said students get one opportunity at a quality K-12 education, and we cannot to let our students down.

**Mr. Whaley:** He stated we are asking for \$1.6M more than the previous levy. He said he did not see harm in saying we will not levy more than we need.

**Mr. Stewart:** He stated, "If we don't need the money and the State restores LEA and other funding cuts, our levy will be reduced."

**Mr. Lowell:** He said he did not think we needed another motion. He stated, "Let's do it. Contingencies are built into the program."

**Mr. Wesen and Mr. Wallace:** They said, after the recent election, the current board members will be in place for a few more years and have authority to reduce levy rates if the situation warrants.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Howard said we are all aware of the sensitivity of the community. He said he feels confident that we can tell the community that we have looked at this very closely and are not asking the community for more money than we need and that we have done our homework on this.

Mr. Whaley moved to adopt Technology Levy Resolution No. 793 authorizing the district to run a two-year technology levy in a special election to be held on February 14, 2012 to levy an additional tax to provide a total of \$800,000 for the District's Capital Projects Fund for technology improvements and equipment. Mr. Howard seconded; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF  
TECHNOLOGY  
LEVY  
RESOLUTION NO.  
793

Comments from the Board are as follows:

TECHNOLOGY  
LEVY  
(Continued)

**Mr. Lowell:** He thinks it would be wise to alert the community of the incredible need for money to update our servers that don't work.

**Mr. Whaley:** He stated that he thinks most people will understand that we need improvements.

**Mr. Howard:** He and Mr. Whaley served on the technology committee, and a lot of people spent time investigating the equipment. We are in dire need for an update of the infrastructure. He stated that we have to keep up for our students to compete and to expose students to current technology and computers. Mr. Howard said this is not an extravagant amount for this levy.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Office. There will be no work session held in December. At this meeting, we will be swearing in board members and electing officers.

NEXT REGULAR  
MEETING

The next Board tour of the year is scheduled at Allen Elementary School from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

NEXT BOARD  
TOUR

Mr. Lowell will go over the warrants this month.

WARRANTS

At approximately 8:10 p.m., Mr. Wallace announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. He stated the public was excluded due to the sensitive nature of this matter, that he anticipated the Executive Session would be no more than 20 minutes long, and that the Board will not take formal action upon return to public session.

RECESS INTO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At approximately 8:27 p.m., the meeting reconvened to public session, and no action was taken.

RECONVENED/  
NO ACTION  
TAKEN

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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Board President

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Board Secretary