

MINUTES

RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Kohlwes Education Center, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Joy Poff. The Board and audience recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. President Poff announced that the meeting was being audio tape recorded and that the agenda background materials are available in the Superintendent's Office after 4:00 p.m. the Friday preceding the Board meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joy Poff, President
Lynn Desmarais, Vice President
Marcie Maxwell
David Merrill
Al Talley

Dr. Dolores Gibbons, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Directors

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Director Talley read a proclamation in Recognition of Rotary International Day, February 25, 2005. Dr. Gibbons stated this date is the 100th birthday of Rotary International and will be celebrated around the world. The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self" and inspires members to provide humanitarian service and promote good will and peace in the world. Locally, there are 100 members in the Renton Rotary Club.

President Poff read a proclamation celebrating February 2005 as Black History Month. She encouraged the district to join in honoring the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultures and traditions of African-Americans.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Director Leviton announced February 13-19, 2005 is National Career and Technical Education Week. He stated the Career and Technical students in Renton have been performing a variety of community service activities over the last few months.

The Hazen High School students held a clothing drive in the fall of 2004 to provide resources for the Renton Clothes Bank. They collected over 1,800 pieces of clothing and involved many students, parents and community members in the campaign. Collection boxes were placed in each Career and Life Skills classroom and advertisements and flyers were distributed.

Lindbergh High CLSE freshman students produced sports programs for various Lindbergh teams. They designed and published the handouts raising money for the freshman class. Some CLSE students wrote to servicemen in Iraq. Letters written and responses were shared with the Board and audience.

Renton High CLSE students volunteered their computer skills to the elderly at The Lodge at Eagle Ridge. The residents of the retirement home appreciated learning how to use the new technology and invited the students to return. Both the young "teachers" and their older "students" benefited from their time together.

Director Leviton complimented the relatively new staff for the wonderful job they are doing.

**"GOOD NEWS"
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Poff and Board members read the following "good news" announcements:

- Four district high school students have been named National Merit finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Hazen High School seniors Sandry Ray, Brian Smith and Yang Yang, and Lindbergh High School senior Janette Siu, have all received Certificates of Merit and are among only 8,000 students nationwide that are being considered for scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, a test that serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.3 million entrants nationwide each year. This year, 16,400 semifinalists were considered for the finalist slots.
- Hazen High School senior Trevor Gunderson was recently recognized by Qwest Communications for his dedication to schools and community. Trevor was part of

Qwest and Seattle Seahawks Leadership Challenge, a leadership development program for high school football players to promote and inspire involvement in charitable causes. The recognition also came with a check for \$500. The money matched Trevor's contribution of time spent volunteering at Sierra Heights Elementary School. Trevor recently presented the money to Sierra Heights.

- Louis Kinley, a junior at Lindbergh High School, and Kyle Koch, a sophomore at Renton High School, recently qualified for the State SkillsUSA computer maintenance competition. The two placed in the top seven in the regional competition, where they spent three hours taking written tests on computer technician skills and rotated through four hands-on troubleshooting workstations. They were scored on their accuracy and amount of time to solve problems. The two now will compete for a chance at the National SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City. The SkillsUSA Championship is the showcase for the best career and technical students in the nation.
- Hazen High School senior Brynn Stenslie recently won her second straight Seamount League all-around gymnastics championship. She also added to her second consecutive vault title, scoring 9.3 out of a possible 10. Brynn was the 2004 state and regional gymnastics champion, and maintains a 3.9 grade-point average.
- Misty Brewder, an English as a Second Language (ESL) specialist, is offering parents at Sierra Heights Elementary School an eight-week course to help improve their English skills and increase parent involvement at the school. Participants are learning basic conversation skills, as well as other topics including employment, transportation, health, and recreation. About 35 parents signed up for the class which continues through March.
- Fifth-graders at Kennydale Elementary School are participating in the Block-Kids contest, sponsored by the National Association of Women in Construction. Association members first offer a presentation then give students building blocks and other supplies, and have them design, create, and build individual projects. The projects are judged by a panel including association members, the architect of the new Kennydale Elementary School, the Mayor of Renton and others. Students are awarded prizes at the end of the event and can advance

to another level of competition. The program promotes interest, education, and training for careers in the building industry.

- Erika Buechler, a 2004 Hazen High School graduate, has been named to the dean's list at Carroll College in Helena, Montana for the 2004 fall semester. A student must receive a 3.5 grade-point-average or better and take at least 12 credits to make the list. Carroll College is nationally ranked for academic quality as a regional liberal arts college.
- Lindbergh High School junior Derek Gress made two picnic tables and four benches for the school as part of his Eagle Scout project. Derek received financial help for materials from community members, family and the Lindbergh ASB. The new furniture is being used by students and staff in the library courtyard and will also be used in the new commons area once construction is completed.
- Tiffany Park Elementary School is hosting their first annual Family Math Night for students in kindergarten through third grade. The evening will include math-related strategy games and other activities involving number sense and arithmetic skills. Each student will take home copies of games, game markers, and a deck of cards, donated by local business partners Freddie's Club and Diamond Lil's. The idea came about as part of the school's participation in the Math Helping Corps, a state funded grant program that provides staff with professional development opportunities. Campbell Hill will host a similar Family Math Night. This will be the fourth year Campbell Hill will host such an event.
- McKnight Middle School is hosting a special event for Spanish-speaking families. A seminar entitled, "Engaging the Spanish Speaking Community" hosted by Jose Velasquez, the English Language Learner program advisor for the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland. The evening presentation will be entirely in Spanish. Mr. Velasquez will offer the same presentation earlier in the day in English. The presentations will focus on ways staff, families and community members can more effectively work with the growing Spanish speaking community.

- State Representatives Judy Clibborn and Fred Jarrett and Senator Brian Weinstein will host a Town Hall meeting at Kennydale Elementary School on March 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. The meeting does not have a formal agenda: the purpose is to have an open conversation with constituents. Each elected official will speak briefly about what is going on in the Legislature, and the audience will have opportunities to respond and ask questions. Everyone is invited.
- Fourth- and fifth-grade students involved in Renton's Salmon in the Classroom project have been invited to team up with their counterparts in Ireland to exchange letters and e-mail about their classroom experiments and activities. Protocol for communication on the cross-continent experiments is being worked out; however, there is a lot of enthusiasm for learning and sharing both here in Renton and in Ireland. Renton's Salmon in the Classroom project allows students to learn about salmon ecology and our need for a clean environment. The science unit includes a field trip to the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.
- Dimmitt Middle School staff specialist Carolyn Parnell has published a book entitled, *Still My Tremblin' Soul*, a story set in Selma, Alabama about a young woman who is clairvoyant, but runs from her gift - right into the arms of voodoo. The book is published by Peanut Butter and Classic Day Publishing: Carolyn is selling the book herself.
- Renton Rotary has selected their Teachers of the Month for February. Teachers selected for the honor are treated to lunch with Rotary members and presented \$100 to be used for supplies, classroom improvements or instructional materials. The recipients are:

Karen Soine, a fourth-grade teacher at Cascade Elementary School. Karen holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Occidental College, and a master's in teaching education from Seattle University. She has taught in Renton since 1995.

Julie Randall, a kindergarten teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School. Julie holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from University of Idaho. She has taught in the district since 1992.

Mark Sabo, a business teacher at Hazen High School. Mark holds a bachelor's degree in accounting/business from Western Washington University. He has worked in the district since 1997.

- Rotary Club of Renton has selected their students of the month for February. The club selects students of the month based on their application and an interview conducted by members of the Rotary. Students selected for the honor are:

Brynn Stenslie, a senior at Hazen High School. Brynn is co-captain of the gymnastics team, and has won several awards in state and regional competitions. She is a member of the National Honor Society and plans to attend a four-year college or university.

Kellie Dee Manatad, a senior at Lindbergh High School. Kellie enjoys reading, shopping, and volunteering. She is involved in the Link Crew, choir, and president of the Key-Club. She has received the St. Anthony's Youth Group Program award, and YMCA Teen Council award. Kellie enjoys helping younger children and being a role model. She plans to study math or science at the University of Washington.

Yaochiem Chao, a senior at Renton High School. Yaochiem writes and edits for the school newspaper, "The Talking Stick." He is involved in his church where he prepares lessons for Sunday school students, and enjoys tennis, basketball and playing videogames in his spare time. Yaochiem plans to study dentistry at either Seattle Pacific University or the University of Washington.

STUDENT ARTWORK

Superintendent Gibbons displayed for the Board of Directors and audience a very large mural made by Tiffany Park Elementary kindergartners. The artwork was entitled "Snow Play" and depicted youngsters having fun in the snow. The student artwork was appreciated by everyone.

RECESS

At 7:40 p.m. a recess was called for 10 minutes. At 7:50 p.m. the Board meeting reconvened.

CONSENT AGENDA
ITEMS A-K
Approved

By motion from Maxwell and second by Desmarais, the Board approved the following consent agenda, Items A-K. Unanimous vote.

- A. Minutes
 - 1. Minutes of the January 26, 2005 Regular Meeting

- B. Warrants
 - 1. Capital Projects Fund
 - Nos. 202750-202797 inclusive - \$1,305,661.61
 - 2. General Fund
 - Nos. 143461-143677 inclusive - \$270,380.65
 - Nos. 143678-143859 inclusive - \$388,522.03
 - Payroll Ending January 31, 2005 - \$6,719,475.34
 - Nos. 447307-447795 inclusive - \$1,728,562.51
 - Direct Deposits - \$3,173,029.52
 - Unissued Warrants - \$1,817,883.31
 - 3. Associated Student Body Fund
 - Nos. 424555-424592 inclusive - \$46,029.38
 - Nos. 424593-424633 inclusive - \$34,442.31

- C. Personnel Exhibits (a copy of which is attached as part of these minutes)

- D. Student Travel
 - 1. Renton High School "Tribes Project" Students to Chicago, ILL, February 19-27, 2005 to Perform and Attend Workshops
 - 2. Hazen High School ESL Students to Boston, Massachusetts, April 9-13, 2005 to Study US History
 - 3. Talbot Hill Microsociety Ecology Group to Cedar Hills Landfill and Cedar River Park, March 15, 2005

- E. Staff Travel
 - 1. Lauren Daugherty to American String Teacher Association Conference in Reno, Nevada, February 23-26, 2005

- F. Contracts and Agreements
 - 1. Agreement between Pacific Lutheran University and Renton School District for Special Education Academy for General Education Teachers to Earn their Special Education Endorsement

- G. Resolution 13-04/05 Space Available in Contiguous Districts for Kenndale Elementary
- H. Resolution 14-04/05 Space Available in Contiguous Districts for Renton Park Elementary
- I. Change Orders
 - 1. Change Order No. 30 Relating to Campbell Hill Elementary School Rebuild; Babbit Neuman Construction Co.- (\$7,184.00)
 - 2. Change Order No. 5 Relating to Hazelwood Elementary School Replacement Project; Berschauer Phillips - \$45,825.00
- J. Resolution 15-04/05 Acceptance of Campbell Hill Elementary Project as Complete
- K. Acceptance of Donations
 - 1. \$1,175.04 from Talbot Hill Elementary PTA to Talbot Hill Elementary for New Walkie Talkies
 - 2. Various Articles for Special Needs Classroom (Valued at \$363.92) from Connie Kapioski
 - 3. Panasonic DP-150 Copy Machine and Toner Cartridge (Valued at \$1,650.00) from Ms. Jane Bell and Quality Business Systems to the GEAR-UP Project
 - 4. Bach Trumpet and Music Stand (Valued at \$450-\$500) from Karen Adler to the Renton School District Music Program
 - 5. \$1,070.00 from Staples Computer Recycling Program to the Summer School Fund

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE
AND DELEGATIONS FROM
THE FLOOR

Recording secretary, Jan LaFontaine, read a card sent to the Board of Directors from the Talbot Hill Tigers thanking them for their support of a musical instrument donation.

RESOLUTION 11-04/05
A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE
BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING
Approved

By motion from Merrill and second by Desmarais, the Board approved Resolution 11-04/05, a resolution of support to obtain adequate, equitable and stable basic education funding. Maxwell stated everyone needs to

focus on letting the state legislators know it is their paramount duty to fund basic education. Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 16-04/05
A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE
DISTRICTS' ALLIANCE FOR
ADEQUATE FUNDING OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Approved

By motion from Desmarais and second by Talley, the Board approved Resolution 16-04/05, a resolution of support for the efforts of the Districts' Alliance for Adequate Funding of Special Education. Superintendent Gibbons indicated that the Renton School District spends over \$2.5M annually out of local funds to support special education. Unanimous vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Maxwell reported the simple majority bill for school levies and bonds, SSJR 8202, passed out of Senate Education and is now assigned to Ways and Means. The simple majority for school levies (SHJR4205) passed out of House Education and is on its way to passing the full House. It is hopeful it will pass when it gets to the Senate so that this constitutional amendment will go before the voters.

Perkins Coie attorney Dick Prentke testified before legislators against HB1292 which addresses the ability for school districts to reject bids on construction projects.

Superintendent Gibbons indicated education may also be affected by federal level budget cuts that will reduce funds for No Child Left Behind and vocational programs.

EDUCATION FUNDING
UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Moore briefed the Board on the current status of education funding. He indicated a coalition of the 35 school district superintendents of King and Pierce Counties and Bainbridge Island have organized an effort called SAVE (Superintendents Advocating for and Valuing Education). A collaborative teleconference meeting will be held this week between the superintendents and various legislators asking for a call to action. Schools urgently need adequate, equitable and stable Basic Education funding to assist students to reach the standards they are required to reach. Unfunded mandates from the

State rob dollars intended for Basic Education and costs school districts much needed local levy dollars.

Mr. Moore stated expenditures per student as a percent of the national average have declined since the state took over “full” funding of basic education. He presented a graph that reflected since 1977 basic education funding has consistently dropped due to the many unfunded mandates imposed on school districts. A stable funding formula needs to be established that defines “basic education” and allows school districts to use their local levy dollars for:

- instructional materials
- school safety improvements
- update classroom technology needs
- teacher education to improve instruction
- interventions to help struggling students
- additional teachers to reduce class size

Mr. Moore encouraged the Board and audience to communicate with legislators and express their concerns regarding the lack of adequate education funding.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no additional delegations from the floor.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Superintendent Gibbons handed out invitations to Board members inviting them to attend a function hosted by Highline Community College and Central Washington University Board of Trustees. The purpose of the meeting is to update local Board members about current and future opportunities available to students. The reception is scheduled for March 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Gibbons stated over 60 staff members were involved in Glaser training today. This training provides foundational work for bargaining and collaboration. The attendees were very enthusiastic and anxious to put their training into use.

Merrill attended a Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Maxwell participated in Rotary of the Month interviews and joined Desmarais and Superintendent Gibbons in a conference call with Representative Zack Hudgins. She

visited with King County Council Representative Julia Patterson and will schedule a tour of some of Renton's schools for a later date. Maxwell joined a City of Renton gathering for neighborhood leaders and supported Dimmitt teachers at their McTeacher's event at a local McDonalds. Maxwell praised a recent presentation to the Renton Rotary Club by Renton High School principal Kathryn Hutchinson. Ms. Hutchinson spoke about the wonderful benefits afforded her as a recipient of a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

Poff attended the Chamber's annual Jazz in January event and an I-728 meeting. She and Maxwell also attended a Puget Sound ESD Board member dinner which discussed education funding among other topics.

Desmarais mentored at Lindbergh High School and attended a Lindbergh High School PTA meeting. She was present at Budget Advisory Committee and Communities in Schools of Renton meetings. She also supported the Lindbergh and Hazen gymnastics students.

Talley attended a CISR Board meeting and mentored at McKnight and Kennydale. He was in the audience at a Kennydale talent show which he claimed was delightful. Talley supported the Dimmitt teachers at McTeacher's night and was present at Jazz in January.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:47 p.m. Maxwell moved and Desmarais seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board. Unanimous vote. The next meeting of the Board is on February 23, 2005 at the Kohlwes Education Center at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary

President

