



MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 8, 2006
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 Al Talley. The Board and audience recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. President Talley 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:

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

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

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION

Director Merrill read a proclamation honoring National Classified School Employee Week, March 13-17, 2006.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Black River High School principal Larry Dobson introduced Tony Silvestrin, Southeast King County Public Health Educator. Mr. Silvestrin shared the concept behind a second year federal grant referred to as "The Guy's Group." The consortium is an enhanced male involvement program focusing on the prevention of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The Guy's Group was formed because of an identified and growing gap in the achievement of high school males. Data used to identify the gap included sixth grade ITBS, ninth grade ITED, and seventh and tenth grade WASL scores. Information collected over the years from instructional staff included number of failing grades, discipline referrals and "general disengagement" that appeared to be affecting more males than females.

“The Guy’s Group” curriculum consists of 10 sessions which focus on birth control, effective communication, relationships and family. The program gives each student an opportunity at the end of the course to express how they have learned and enjoyed the class. Mr. Silvestrin praised the teacher role models that have made the program the success it is today. He stated the demand for the class is far greater than staff available and hopes someday it can expand to middle schools.

“GOOD NEWS”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Talley and Board members read the following “good news” announcements:

- More than 35 Renton High School students recently showed up before the start of the school day to voluntarily take the American High School Math Exam, a national mathematics competition designed to identify, recognize and reward excellence in mathematics. Six Renton High students placed in the top five percent of students tested; three of those students were ranked in the top one percent of the exams and have qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam in April with a chance to move on to participate in the International Mathematical Olympiad to be held this year in Slovenia.
- The Hazen High School Concert Choir was recently selected as one of 12 high school choirs to sing at the annual "Best in the Northwest" choral festival held at the University of Portland. Choirs were accepted based on their size and quality of literature being performed. This prestigious festival has choirs competing from Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
- Dimmitt math and science teacher Tracey Edou recently hosted a parents' night to allow students to show off their culminating science projects on waste management. Students worked for four weeks on their projects about landfills, recycling, composting, hazardous waste and wastewater. These projects followed workshops presented by King County Solid Waste and the Pacific Science Center, and a visit the Renton Wastewater Treatment Facility. Tracey

spent last summer working with the Washington Forest Protection Agency and Weyerhaeuser, learning about conservation, composting and waste management. Student science projects were funded by a mini-grant from Weyerhaeuser. That company, along with representatives from King County Solid Waste, attended the science fair. Student presentations are on display at the Renton Wastewater Treatment Facility.

- Erin Goldmann, a contract student working with Karen Piche at Sartori Education Center, recently landed a job with Microsoft as a program tester, working to find glitches in software. Erin learned to work on computers and software through Paul Scott's Computer Technology Program at Sartori.
- Chuck Tiernan, of Renton Technical College, recently received a copy of the board's Good News announcements and took interest in students who won the SkillsUSA computer skills competition. He passed the information on to the college's scholarship administrator to look for opportunities to offer funding for students to participate in the college's technology program.
- Nelsen Middle School is hosting an induction ceremony tonight to welcome 87 students into the school's National Junior Honor Society. Those students will bring the total number of students in Nelsen's Honor Society to 178. Membership in the Honor Society is based on outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. The school expects hundreds of family and community members to attend the ceremony.
- Hazen High School students in the vocal and instrumental programs recently competed at the Soundview Region solo and ensemble contest. Hazen musicians competed against nine other area high schools. Several groups and soloists were chosen to go on to state competition to be held in April at Central Washington University.
 - Divina Voce (winner for the 2nd year in a row) - Large Women's Ensemble

- Janel Jones - Mezzo Soprano
 - Kassi Parker - Soprano
 - Thomas Webber - 1st Alternate Bass
 - Rebecca Croft - 2nd Alternate Mezzo Soprano
 - Jeff Maison - Trumpet
 - Ally Williams - 1st Alternate Clarinet
 - Sarah Hudson - 1st Alternate Piano
- Students in the horticultural program at Black River High School recently took part in a project sponsored by the Seattle Audubon Society to restore parts of the Black River Channel. A small population of salmon continues to find their way up and downstream along the waters of the Channel and many other wildlife, including otters, coyotes and numerous bird species including the Great Blue Heron, have been spotted in the area. Students involved in the project removed invasive plants such as blackberry bushes to allow wildlife to move through the area more freely. Students also planted trees and shrubbery, installed a drip irrigation system and more. Students involved in the project said they now have a renewed sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment.
 - Teachers and staff in the district are making good use of the infusion of technology made possible thanks to voter approval of the 2004 technology and construction bond measure. Renton is consistently in the top five districts in the state using United Streaming Digital Video, a digital video library of more than 40,000 educational videos and video clips. More than 70 percent of school districts in Washington subscribe to the service. However, Renton staff at times throughout the year has been the top user of the service, with nearly 20,000 digital videos/clips viewed through the new Presentation Stations.

CONSENT AGENDA
ITEMS A-H w/addendum
Approved

By motion from Maxwell and second by Poff, the Board approved the following consent agenda, Items A-H with addendum. The addendum deletion is a change order that will come back to the Board at a later date. Vote 5-0.

- A. Minutes
 - 1. Minutes of the February 15, 2006 Regular Meeting
 - 2. Minutes of the February 15, 2006 Study Session

- B. Warrants
 - 1. Capital Projects Fund
 - Nos. 203761-203789 inclusive - \$697,972.62
 - Nos. 203790-203826 inclusive - \$3,262,734.93
 - 2. General Fund
 - Nos. 154274-154496 inclusive - \$365,737.30
 - Nos. 154497-154724 inclusive - \$307,600.87
 - Nos. 154725-154889 inclusive - \$449,560.23
 - 3. Associated Student Body Fund
 - Nos. 426643-426666 inclusive - \$33,947.04
 - Nos. 426668-426704 inclusive - \$30,073.49

- C. Personnel Exhibits
(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.)

- D. Staff Travel
 - 1. Anna Horton to Teachers for a New Era, Washington, D.C., March 14-16, 2006
 - 2. Fred Row to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's 2006 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, March 31-April 3, 2006

- E. Purchase MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) License to Test 3,706 Students in Spring 2006

- F. Appointment of Discovery Advisory Committee Members

- G. Change Orders
 - 1. Change Order No. 10 Relating to the Lindbergh High School Commons Addition; CDK Construction Services - \$85,620.96

2. Change Order No. 3 Relating to the Nelsen Middle School Restroom Remodel Project; Biwell Construction, Inc. - \$17,851.00

H. Donations

1. \$41,607.06 from Valley Medical Center to Renton School District for Purchase of Defibrillators
2. \$1,000.00 from Pacific Life Foundation to McKnight Middle School for Purchase of Equipment in the Listening Centers in the Language Arts Classrooms
3. \$909.81 from Washington Mutual's *WaMoola for Schools* to McKnight Middle School
4. \$1,000.00 from Joe D. and Loretta Starkovich to the Renton High School Boys Basketball Team
5. \$150.00 from Eric Charbonneau (matched by Microsoft Giving Campaign) to Hazelwood Elementary School for Staff Development
6. \$100.00 from Kimberly McCallum (matched by Microsoft Giving Campaign) to Hazelwood Elementary School for Staff Development
7. \$1,784.30 from Benson Hill PTA to the Benson Hill Library
8. \$200.00 from Associated Grocer to the Renton High School Wrestling Program
9. \$100.00 from St. Andrews Lodge No. 35 F. & A.M. to the Renton High School Debate Team
10. Three Velograph computers, one Computer Service Corporation Computer and three 17" monitors from Baylis Architects to the Career and Life Skills Education Program
11. Canon BJC-240 Color Printer and a new PC-06 Color BJ cartridge from Heather Piche to the Career and Life Skills Education Program
12. \$1,460.58 from Washington Mutual's *WaMoola for Schools Program* to Nelsen Middle School's General Fund

13. Donations to the Renton Invitational Track Meet:
 - a. \$100.00 from Renton Carpenters Union 1797
 - b. \$100.00 from Apple Physical Therapy PS
 - c. \$100.00 from Michael Knutsen
 - d. \$100.00 from Tony Winmill
 - e. \$100.00 from Debra Meyerson
 - f. \$100.00 from Light Brigade
 - g. \$100.00 from Swanson & Gardner PLLC
 - h. \$50.00 from Peak Sports and Spine Physical Therapy Renton
 - i. \$50.00 from Peak Sports and Spine Physical Therapy Factoria
14. \$1,001.40 from Washington Mutual to Lindbergh High School General Fund

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE
AND DELEGATIONS
FROM THE FLOOR

There was no correspondence to be read or any delegations from the floor.

ELEMENTARY LANGUAGE
ARTS READING GRADES
ONE THROUGH FIVE
Approved – Final Reading

By motion from Poff and second by Merrill, the Elementary Language Arts Reading Grades One through Five was approved for the second and final reading. Vote 5-0.

UPDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH AND 7TH GRADE HEALTH
CURRICULUM GUIDE AND
“LIFE’S GREATEST
MIRACLE” VIDEO
Approved – 1ST Reading

Director Lander stated the new health curriculum has been updated to align with Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EARL's). Both the 6th and 7th grade instructional materials have been assembled into a Health Curriculum notebook. The Health Curriculum Notebook assists teachers with an organized, practical approach to the instructional materials. Additionally, the video “*Life’s Greatest Miracle*” is a newer version of the 1983 old classic “*Miracle of Life.*” Both materials have been approved by the District Instructional Materials Committee. By

motion from Poff and second by Desmarais, the Board approved the updated Middle School 6th and 7th Grade Health Curriculum Guide and "*Life's Greatest Miracle*" video for the first reading. Vote 5-0.

CULMINATING PROJECT PRESENTATION

Administrator on Special Assignment Stubrud presented the history and focus of the mandated Culminating Project beginning with graduating seniors of 2008. He stated the Culminating Project is one key component of the new graduation requirements. Academic skills in context of 21st century requirements consist of thinking skills, academic skills, technical skills and employability skills which combined equal comprehensive learning. Leadership for student success brings together rigorous academics, data-informed decisions, parent/community partnerships and personalized instruction.

Committees worked to put together language and direction for implementing the Culminating Project. The intent of the project is to weave together and integrate different aspects of the student's daily life and become a "living document" which can be referred to for completing the senior project. Folders were established as temporary "storage units" to house student materials. The entire high school staff is responsible for devising a structure that supports personalized learning and guidance for every student. The four-year project will become a guide for student and parents and is meant to be flexible and personalized to each individual. Completion of the project will assist students and parents in planning for a successful future.

Discussion ensued regarding communication with parents and students at an early date so they are knowledgeable and understand the concept of the project. The project is intended for students to identify a passion in their lives and become a meaningful experience.

PROPOSAL REGARDING PROGRAM
ADJUSTMENTS, CLOSURE OF
THOMSON EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER AND CLOSURE OF HONEY
DEW FOR REMODELING

Superintendent Gibbons stated Board Policy 6883 requires written analysis prior to any proposed school closure. She presented this required written analysis. The Board has had three separate study sessions (May 16 and December 14, 2005 and February 15, 2006) to review possible program adjustments and discuss closing Thomson Early Childhood Center.

Current enrollment projections are relatively flat and all indicators are that the proposed change to house Thomson kindergarten students at their neighborhood schools can be accommodated with modest boundary changes.

Executive Director Stracke stated the proposed closure of Thomson is a facility decision not a program decision. The school is in need of substantial repair and is not up to date with codes. It is not fiscally prudent to renovate Thomson and to rebuild with current ed specs would cost more than the remaining 2003 bond monies earmarked for Thomson.

Effect of Thomson Closure on Other Facilities and on the District's Educational Programs - The district is in an enviable position when the facility inventory of the entire district is taken into consideration. Due to the relatively flat enrollment growth over the last decade and the strong citizen support for capital project bonds, the district has a small window of opportunity in which a series of program and property challenges can be resolved.

There are two basic categories of programs currently being housed at Thomson Early Childhood Center: kindergarten students from Campbell Hill, Lakeridge and Bryn Mawr elementary schools and several preschool programs. While change is not an easy proposition, the current Thomson programs can be housed in other existing district buildings. The kindergarten students can be served at their newly rebuilt local neighborhood schools (Bryn Mawr,

Campbell Hill and Lakeridge) and, with some other adjustments, the preschool programs can join other district preschool programs already housed at Hillcrest.

The district also will have the full capacity of Honey Dew Elementary available after the remodel work scheduled for 2006-07 is completed. This option provides for flexibility of elementary enrollment growth for the immediate future.

Student and Staff Displacement, Transportation and Staff Reassignment – The students currently attending Thomson Early Childhood Center will have ample space at other currently operating schools. In the case of the kindergarten students, they would all be returning to completely new buildings.

The transportation of the kindergarten students would be reduced or, in some cases, eliminated as they would be attending school in their geographic neighborhood.

The preschool students are currently bussed from all areas of the district. Relocating them to the Hillcrest area would reduce some bus rides and increase others. Over all, the total transportation length of rides and cost of busses appears to be similar at Thomson and Hillcrest.

No staff members will lose their job. Some will transfer with their students. Some may choose to accept a variety of other open positions in the district. Several staff members have already offered the district their retirement letters (unrelated to transfer or job options). Since we are not reducing students and have a variety of jobs open every year, there will be no reduction in staff with this proposal. There will be some necessary reassignments.

Financial Considerations: Staff Costs, Maintenance and Operations, Potential Use of Property, Cost of Closure, Cost of Transferring Operations Elsewhere. The financial considerations for closing Thomson Early Childhood Center are modest and would be offset by using the property for a new facility for

Maintenance, Grounds, Operations and Facilities.
This proposal allows the district to avoid purchase of additional property that would be needed to solve the bus parking problem at the North 4th St. location.

The Board will have a public hearing on March 29, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kohlwes Education Center to entertain any further public input on the proposed closure of Thomson Early Childhood Center.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no additional delegations from the floor.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Dr. Gibbons stated we physically received the anticipated check from Valley Medical Center for the purchase of additional defibrillators. She shared a recent City of Renton marketing ad that appeared in the Seattle Business Monthly. She attended the annual Chamber of Commerce Business/Education Exchange function which had a great turnout. She thanked Board Director Maxwell for all our efforts in this behalf. She was present at the recent Hispanic Community event that was coordinated by Hazen High School teacher, Celeste Brady. She reviewed keynote speaker comments from the recent AASA annual conference that she attended. Finally, she participated in Cascade Elementary School's "Read Across America."

Merrill was present at a Budget Advisory Committee meeting and also read at Cascade Elementary.

Maxwell attended recent 41st and 37th Legislative District town meetings and spent half of a day at a workshop with City of Renton folks discussing neighborhoods. She was present at the Chamber Blue Ribbon Council meeting, PTA Council meeting, the State of the City address and the Chamber Business/Education Exchange. She was also a judge at the Maplewood Heights science fair. She enjoyed the Lindbergh High School Booster auction and observed Hazen students at their Constitution Convention. Maxwell also attended the Kennydale Neighborhood Leaders workshop which focused on the 40 Assets model.

Desmarais attended many Lindbergh High School parent meetings, went to her weekly mentoring and assisted in the Booster Club auction celebration. She was present at a Communities in the Schools of Renton and I-728 meetings. She also attended the State of the City luncheon.

Poff stated she agrees with the proposal to close Thomson, but it is with a heavy heart as she was involved in the original planning to open the early childhood center. She felt the center has served the community well. Poff attended the State of the City luncheon, an I-728 meeting and mentored at Talbot Hill.

Talley read at the Read Across America function at Cascade and mentored at his two schools. He attended meetings for RTCC, Chamber's Blue Ribbon Council, CISR Board, and the City of Renton Human Services Criteria. He observed the Hazen Constitution Convention and the celebration of the Hispanic parents meeting. He also attended the State of the City address.

RECESS

At 9:12 p.m. a recess was called for 15 minutes on personnel matters with no action following.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 9:30 p.m., Maxwell moved and Merrill seconded to adjourn the executive session and regular meeting of the Board. Vote 5-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 22, 2006 at the Kohlwes Education Center.

Secretary	President