



MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 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 PROCLAMATION

Director Maxwell read a proclamation in honor of American Education Week, November 13-19, 2005. The proclamation stated that American Education Week was first observed December 4-10, 1921 as an opportunity to focus public support on our nation's schools.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Noddings, principal of Nelsen Middle School and Nishiwaki delegation chairperson for 2005, introduced the student Nishiwaki delegation and teacher Sheri Stephens who coordinated the trip. He stated it is a very competitive process to be accepted on the delegation as the students must write essays and are interviewed by a panel of teachers and administrators. The students shared stories of their experiences on this special cultural trip. They all expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to visit another country and make new friends.

“GOOD NEWS”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Members of the Renton High School Concert Band recently performed at the YWCA Isabel Colman Pierce Award Luncheon at the Elliott Grand Hyatt in Seattle. The band was there to honor Sally Jewell, graduate of Renton High School Class of 1978 and Chief Operating Officer at Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI). As a student at Renton, Sally played piccolo and bassoon in the school band. Sally is a 2003 National Engineering Leadership Award Winner and former president of Washington Mutual Bank's Commercial Banking Group.
- The district has been awarded a Boeing grant for \$25,000 to provide training for elementary teachers to assist in implementing new science curriculum materials. The grant will aid in providing effective and sustained science-related professional development activities for elementary teachers; enhance the science content knowledge of elementary teachers; implement quality inquiry-based science curriculum and instruction so that all students receive opportunities to become scientifically literate; and coordinate curriculum, instruction, and student assessment with the district adopted science courses of study and statewide assessments.
- Students in Kati Peter's Japanese language class at Renton High School recently made 1,000 origami paper cranes as a project to offer comfort to eight-year-old Mari Anderson, a Woodinville girl critically injured by a drunk driver. About 120 students in Renton High's five Japanese classes took part in the project. The students study the language and culture of Japan through music, art, food and more. The origami cranes are hung near a sick or injured person: The thought is that all the love and energy that went into creating them will be transferred to the person in need. The students delivered the cranes to Mari last Sunday.
- Dimmitt Middle School was awarded a \$500 grant from the Mix-It-Up project to be used to purchase literature as part of a student-awareness assembly about tolerance. Students will create presentations and offer information on tolerance as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly in January and another assembly in the spring. Mix It Up is a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center's tolerance programs. The Law Center, located in Montgomery, Alabama, offers

tolerance education programs to schools throughout the U.S.

- Students at Cascade Elementary School will share their January 10 assembly with the Seattle Mariners Moose and maybe a few players. The assembly will emphasize the D.R.E.A.M. team principles: staying Drug free, Respect for yourself and others, Education, Attitude, and Motivation.
- The Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center (IPAC) presented nearly 400 events last school year, hosting choirs, orchestras, bands, training sessions, speakers, church groups, international groups and Grammy-awarding winning performers. The anticipation is that more performances will be presented at IPAC this year. One of the upcoming performances is the Renton Players at Renton High School who open their student-run production on Friday, Nov. 18th at 7:30pm.

RECESS

At 7:27 p.m. a 5-minute recess was called so the Board and audience could visit with the Nishiwaki student delegation. The meeting reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEMS A-J

Approved

By motion from Desmarais and second by Maxwell, the Board approved the following consent agenda, Items A-J. Vote 5-0.

A. Minutes

1. Minutes of the October 26, 2005 Regular Meeting

B. Warrants

1. Capital Projects Fund
Nos. 203500-203540 inclusive - \$2,348,117.21
2. General Fund
Nos. 151141-151387 inclusive - \$416,944.88
Nos. 151388-151625 inclusive - \$408,579.79
Nos. 151628-151842 inclusive - \$235,446.86
Payroll Ending October 31, 2005 - \$7,253,780.13
Nos. 46503A-47014 inclusive - \$1,849,661.64
Direct Deposits - \$3,377,862.35
Unissued Warrants - \$2,031,995.14
3. Associated Student Body Fund
Nos. 426063-426105 inclusive - \$41,083.30
Nos. 426106-426140 inclusive - \$21,898.58
Nos. 426142-426185 inclusive - \$76,427.18

4. Private Purpose Trust
Nos. 700324-700326 inclusive - \$365.50

- 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. Dolores Gibbons to AASA National Conference on Education, San Diego, CA, February 23-26, 2006
 2. Jeremy Kowalski to Helpdesk Solution – Administration and Configuration Training in Lindon, Utah, December 6-8, 2005
 3. Karen Mataya and Rebecca Donnelly to “LANGUAGE! Training” in Vacaville, CA, November 29-December 2, 2005

- E. Student Travel
 1. Renton High School Life Management Students to Union Gospel Mission on December 9, 2005

- F. Resolution 02/05-06 Interfund Loan from Capital Projects Fund to Debt Service Fund

- G. Approval of Easement at Kennydale Elementary with Puget Sound Energy, Inc.

- H. Approval of Easement at Hazen High School with City of Renton

- I. Change Orders
 1. Change Order No. 2 Relating to Nelsen Middle School Restroom Remodel Project; Biwell Construction - \$18,719.00
 2. Change Order No. 3 Relating to Honeydew Structural Upgrade Project; TC Quinn Construction - \$44,379.93
 3. Change Order No. 16 Relating to Hazelwood Elementary School Replacement Project; Berschauer Phillips Construction Co. - \$37,309.00
 4. Change Order No. 6 Relating to the Lindbergh High School Commons Addition; CDK Construction Services - \$35,983.15

5. Change Order Nos. 9-11 Relating to Hazen High School Renovation Phase 3B; Commercial Structures Inc. - \$214,576.13

J. Donations

1. 10 Cases of Coca-Cola (valued at \$61.80) from Coca-Cola Bottling for Dimmitt Parent Meeting/Dinner
2. Approximately 80 Pocket Dictionaries for Hazelwood Elementary Fourth Graders and Teachers (approximate value \$160.00) from Lois Dobish
3. Clarinet (valued at \$175.00) to Nelsen Music Department from Will Jones
4. \$350.00 from Lindbergh Eagles Booster Club to the Girls Basketball Program
5. \$100.00 from Schweitzer Engineering Labs, Inc. on Behalf of Laura Risley to Hazelwood Elementary School Math/Science Supplies
6. 56 Books (valued at \$200.00) to McKnight Middle School from Marion Lee
7. \$49.98 from Robert Burnett (plus Microsoft Giving Campaign matching funds) to McKnight Middle School Drama Program
8. \$100.00 from Renton Chamber of Commerce to the Hazen Music Department
9. McKnight Middle School After School Clubs:
 - a. \$24.00 from Clause & Eloise Stachowiak
 - b. \$26.00 from Samantha Inks
10. Nine books (valued at \$35.00) from Sheri and Robert Kihlman to McKnight Middle School

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE
AND DELEGATIONS
FROM THE FLOOR

Representatives from the North Renton Neighborhood Association spoke about the recent grant they received which is collaboration between the association, the City of Renton and the school district. They shared their appreciation for the beauty of the interior of the school with its classic high ceilings, wood bookshelves and majestic windows. The school and staff maintain the inside of the school with pride. The neighborhood association is concerned about some exterior conditions. They would like to work with the district to improve the exterior appearance. Superintendent Gibbons said she will contact them to set up a meeting to review potential improvement plans.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
COMMITTEE REPORT

Thomson Early Childhood Center principal Cynthia Addis reported on the research of the Early Childhood Committee.

She stated the purpose of the committee was to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations regarding school readiness programs such as all-day kindergarten and early childhood programs. Research says the first few years of life are crucial for a child's brain development. She stated high quality childcare is critical in getting children ready for school. One half of the children in King County attend pre-school. Research also states the most promising strategy for closing the achievement gap is to increase access to high-quality, center-based early childhood programs for all poor three and four-year olds.

Kindergarten research indicates 90 minutes per day of instruction for reading is required for students to become proficient in reading. Current half-day kindergarten has only 150 minutes of contact time for all instruction. Ms. Addis shared that more than 60% of kindergartners are enrolled in a full-day program in the United States today. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit most from a full-day schedule through the opportunity to spend more time engaged in meaningful learning activities.

The committee's recommended goal would be for the Renton School District to provide programs and facilities that prepare children, ages 3 to 6, academically and socially for school success and create a network of support for community Early Childhood Education programs. Short term recommendations for the Renton School District Preschool Program would include creating collaborative relationships with private preschools and daycares and provide resources and support to parents whose children do not attend preschool. Further coordination of curriculum, instruction and assessment between preschool, kindergarten and first grade would be encouraged.

Short and long-term goals for kindergarten would include incorporating the capacity to build a new state-of-the-art early childhood center into the 2008 bond. Promoting legislation to fund all-day kindergarten would be paramount.

The Board shared support of the concept of tuition-free all-day kindergarten, but realize the chances of receiving adequate funding is slim.

IMPACT FEES

Approved

Assistant Superintendent Moore said for the last several months, the Renton School District has been working towards updating its long-range capital facilities plan. One component of the plan is consideration of whether the district should implement Impact fees. Impact fees are a fee charged to help offset the potential impact of new facilities necessitated by new construction.

Mr. Moore said one factor to consider as the impact fees are calculated is the projected enrollment growth and the district's ability to house the students. A concern is the potential cost of land and construction if additional facilities were required. Currently, there is very little land available for the district to acquire and develop as an educational site. With increasing construction costs, it is likely the Renton School District may present to the voters of the district a new bond proposal. One means of offsetting the cost of new construction would be assessing impact fees. Mr. Moore stated the impact fees have been calculated to be \$1,629 per single family unit and \$181 per multi-family unit. While impact fees alone will not pay for new construction, the fees collected may help offset some of the construction costs. By motion from Talley and second by Desmarais, the Board approved assessing impact fees. Vote 4-1-0 with Merrill voting "nay."

F-196 REPORT
FOR 2004/05

Mr. Moore reviewed the fiscal year 2004-05 F-196 year-end financial report. He stated the total General Fund revenues for fiscal year 2004-05 totaled \$96.9 million. The district's ending total fund balance is \$3.7 million which is slightly more than 3.7% of expenditures.

He stated even though district enrollment was 164 students less than projected, the district continues to experience an increase in students with special needs. Additionally, the students receiving free and reduced lunch now compromise 45.9% of the district population. As the district begins the budget development process for Fiscal Year 2006-2007, it will be important to analyze the increasing costs for special programs.

Mr. Moore concluded the district is financially stable and thanked the teamwork of staff to maximize available resources.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS
FROM THE FLOOR

There were no additional delegations from the floor.

INFORMATION AND
PROPOSALS

Talley mentored at Kennydale and McKnight and attended the Dimmitt Middle School production of "Unsung Heroes."

Desmarais was present at Gifted Advisory Committee and Budget Advisory Committee meetings. She joined the superintendent for site visits to Thomson, Benson Hill, Highlands and Sierra Heights. She also attended the City of Renton's Economic Forecast luncheon, mentored at Nelsen and enjoyed many Lindbergh High School football games.

President Poff was also present at the Economic Forecast luncheon. She mentored at Talbot Hill and attended a Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Maxwell was present at the Economic Forecast luncheon and a meeting hosted by Communities in Schools of Renton regarding "40 Assets." She attended a Diversity Advisory Committee meeting and a "Prosperity Partnerships" luncheon. She participated in a Region 9 PTA Legislative Roundtable and a Renton High School Excellence in Education Committee meeting. Maxwell was present at the recent WSSDA Conference.

Merrill joined fellow Board members at the Dimmitt function and joined the superintendent for a site visit to Hillcrest. He visited McKnight Middle School and observed Nelsen students doing a budgeting exercise at a Junior Achievement function in Auburn.

Dr. Gibbons shared communications to parents from teachers at Cascade Elementary. She was at the Chamber Economic Forecast luncheon and helped spearhead this year's Renton Community Foundation's "Circle of Giving" grants. The superintendent was present at the November WSSDA Conference.

Dr. Gibbons congratulated potential returning Board members Maxwell and Talley. The certification process was longer this year. The oath of office will be administered at the December 14, 2005 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 9:22 p.m. Maxwell moved and Desmarais seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board. Vote 5-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 14, 2005 at the Kohlwes Education Center.

_____ Secretary	_____ President
_____	_____
_____	_____