

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, January 14, 2004  
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 Marcie Maxwell. The Board and audience recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. President Maxwell 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:                    Marcie Maxwell, President  
   Joy Poff, Vice President  
   Lynn Desmarais  
   David Merrill  
   Al Talley

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Gibbons read a proclamation in appreciation of the members of the Renton School District Board of Directors and proclaimed the month of January 2004 to be School Board Recognition Month in the Renton School District. Individual plaques were presented to the Board.

President Maxwell read a proclamation in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s contribution to our country and his dream as an important guiding principle in the Renton School District, and proclaimed January 19, 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

President Maxwell read a proclamation in recognition of National Mentoring Month. She presented Amy Bresslour, Renton Community Mentor Program Coordinator, and Pat Auten, Renton School District Volunteer Coordinator, with a certificate of appreciation for their efforts in this wonderful partnership with the City of Renton and community. Pat thanked the Board for their support and participation in the Mentor Program.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Hazen Marketing instructor Ray McCabe introduced two of his DECA students who gave a Power Point presentation on the "Stranger Danger" program. DECA students worked with the Renton Police Department Crime Prevention Unit to initiate a promotional campaign on Halloween safety. The "Stranger Danger" program skits appeared in assemblies before over 5,000 students and the radio clip was aired on five different radio stations during the Halloween season.

A Hazen student shared with the Board and audience a new project that Hazen DECA students recently were involved in with Junior Achievement. The Free Enterprise Project's purpose was to spread the word to students how the free enterprise systems works. The project helped students learn how the market acts and reacts under different circumstances. Students developed a game and learned how to barter by buying and selling. The project strengthened students' teaching skills and gave them the opportunity to be a role model. It was a positive experience for both the older and younger students.

"GOOD NEWS"  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Benson Hill PTA** recently sponsored two events that support building goals to increase communication between school and home and to support reading achievement:
  - Families attended a cultural awareness and Bingo for Books event. Featured presenters for the evening were Taiko drummers. Students and parents were also invited to dress in clothing that reflected their heritage. Every child who attended received at least one free book.
  - Thanks to a successful grant written by Benson Hill PTA members each Benson Hill student was given a free book during Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) week. There will be two more RIF distributions at Benson Hill during the school year.

- **Maplewood Heights Elementary School** will host their annual Book In A Bag Night tomorrow evening. Students come dressed in something comfortable, bring a pillow, sleeping bag and a good book to read. Students read silently or with a friend. Throughout the evening staff members will read their favorite book to the group. There is also a book exchange table where students can take a book and leave a book.
- **Robin Paape**, Highlands Elementary School P.E. teacher, has won the King County Physical Activity Coalition award for 2003/04. Physical education teachers were nominated from all grade levels and will receive an awards package that includes a plaque, a gift certificate and free registration to the West's Best P.E. Conference.
- **Dimmitt Middle School** recently hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee with more than 40 contestants. The final round to secure a first place winner took over 20 minutes to complete as each participant would not yield in their pursuit for glory. The first place winner, an eighth grader, will continue to study and prepare for the Regional Spelling Bee in April, where he will compete against students from the greater King and Snohomish Counties.
- **Lori Dunn**, Health and Fitness teacher at Hazen High School, **Carol Jackson**, sixth-grade Health and Foreign Language Exploratory teacher at McKnight Middle School and **Mary Trettevik**, seventh-grade PE teacher at McKnight, recently participated as members of the state health and fitness assessment leadership writing team at OSPI, the state's education department. Their extensive knowledge and expertise assisted in producing classroom-based assessments aligned with the state health and fitness essential academic learning requirements (EARLs).
- Renton Rotary has named their January Teachers of the month:  
**Catherine A. Boyle**, a fifth-grade teacher at Campbell Hill Elementary School. Catherine

earned her Bachelors degree in Comparative Literature from University of Wisconsin in 1973 and her Masters degree in Curriculum & Instruction from Lesley College in 2000. She began her career here in Renton as a substitute teacher in 1995, and began full time in 1998.

**Phoebe J. Hill-Blundred** teaches at Black River High School. Phoebe began working for the Renton School District in 1998. She earned her Vocational Certification in 2000 from Central University.

**Elizabeth M. Nettles** is a third-grade teacher at Lakeridge Elementary School. Elizabeth earned her Bachelors degree in Physical Education from Seattle Pacific University in 2000 and her Masters in Education from City University in 2001. She has taught in the Renton School District since 2001.

CONSENT AGENDA  
ITEMS A-I  

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Approved

By motion of Merrill and second by Desmarais, the Board approved the following consent agenda, Items A-I, as presented. Unanimous vote.

A. Minutes

1. Minutes of the December 17, 2003 Regular Meeting

B. Warrants

1. Capital Projects Fund  
Nos. 201876-201912 inclusive - \$771,148.93
2. General Fund  
Nos.132458-132641 inclusive - \$384,164.44  
Nos.132642-132950 inclusive - \$343,556.53  
Nos.132951-132952 inclusive - \$461,743.12  
Payroll – December 30, 2003 - \$6,553,812.83  
Nos. 441238-441719 inclusive - \$1,663,659.17  
Direct Deposits - \$3,141,797.35  
Unissued warrants - \$1,748,356.31
3. Associated Student Body Fund  
Nos. 422401-422442 inclusive - \$26,596.85  
Nos. 422443-422507 inclusive - \$44,292.78
4. Private Purpose Trust

Nos. 700196-700199 inclusive - \$223.00

5. Trust

Electronic transfer for Trust Flex - \$6,178.46

Electronic transfer for Trust Flex - \$5,555.17

Electronic transfer for Hazen Script - \$3,243.80

Electronic transfer for Hazen Script - \$556.58

C. Personnel Exhibits as presented, a copy of which is attached as a part of these minutes.

D. Staff/Student Travel

1. Kathleen and Lee Bailey to Recertification Training for "Frameworks for Understanding Poverty" in Highlands, Texas

2. District Marketing Students and Staff to the National DECA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee

3. Lance Winmill to San Diego, CA, to attend Partners in Science/Murdock Trust Annual Conference

4. Renton High School GEAR-UP Students to Harborview Medical Center

5. Hazelwood Fifth Grade Students to King County Department of Natural Resources Native Plant Holding Facility in Redmond, WA,

E. Acceptance of \$4,700.00 Mini-grant for TechPrep 2003-2004

F. Appointment of New Members for the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education

G. Approval of Quit Claim Deed to King County at Benson Hill Elementary School

H. Settlement Agreement and Release with J & S Masonry

I. Acceptance of Donations

1. 56 Computers (Valued at \$400 each) to GEAR UP and the Networking Technology Programs from the City of Renton

2. One Computer Power Unit and One Complete Computer from Briere and Associates Valued at \$1,100.00
3. Four Pentium II Computers and One Sony Trinitron Color Monitor (Valued at \$4,000.00) from Jerry Fujita to the GEAR UP Program and Renton High School Science Department
4. \$506.00 from Washington Mutual Bank to Hazelwood Elementary School for Staff Development
5. \$1,750.00 from Lakeridge Elementary PTA to Lakeridge Elementary for Educational Supplemental Materials for all Grade Levels

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE  
AND DELEGATIONS  
FROM THE FLOOR

A Maplewood Heights parent, again shared his displeasure at Procedure 4200P which limits parent visitation in the classroom to one instructional period. Dr. Gibbons explained that the Board of Directors approves policies and the administrative team writes procedures. She had hoped by accommodating the parent with an extended visit that the parents needs had been met. Dr. Gibbons stated the administrative team would review the procedure to evaluate whether it warrants any changes. The parent stated he was unhappy with the response from the Board regarding his request at the December 17, 2003 Board meeting to have the procedure changed.

REA President Phyllis Silling expressed her gratitude and appreciation for all that the Renton School District Board of Directors does for the students, staff and community.

A Renton High School senior addressed the Board regarding her concern about the treatment she feels she receives at school since she protested the reading of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* last spring. She did not agree her recent one-day short-term suspension for being disrespectful to an administrator was warranted. She was disappointed that administrators have not contacted her to hear her side of the story.

The student's guardian, feels that the student has been defamed by the Renton School District in connection with recently published newspaper articles.

She stated that African-American students are given more suspensions than other ethnic groups.

She was also unhappy with the written response of January 9, 2004 she received from Superintendent Gibbons. The guardian distributed new letters to the Board and Superintendent, 1) a response to Dr. Gibbons' January 9, 2004 correspondence, and 2) a request for a hearing and investigation into the one-day suspension.

#### UPDATE ON K-5 READING ADOPTION PROCESS

Curriculum Director Ed Sheppard stated the last adoption of elementary reading materials was done in June of 1994. He stated the reading adoption committee will work over the course of the next two years. The focus of this year's work will be the development of a district vision for the closing of the gap that exists in achievement between white middle class students and students of color, poverty, and linguistic diversity, and research into current best practice in reading and curriculum and instruction. The committee is made up of at least one teacher from each elementary school, as well as district resource teachers representing the departments of instruction, special education, special programs and libraries. The committee will supply updates to the Board periodically.

#### TALBOT HILL ELEMENTARY PRESENTATION ON MICROSOCIETY AND TECHNOLOGY

Principal Sheryl Dunton and MicroSociety Coordinator Linda Butts gave a mini presentation on the MicroSociety Program at Talbot Hill. This model was implemented at Talbot Hill in 1993 and is one of 27 school reform models recognized by the US Department of Education. The program is organized into two phases. Phase I includes citizenship,

government, economics and banking. Phase II incorporates organizations, job fair and applications, and marketplaces. Students learn the ability to initiate change/take responsibility, connections to the real world and technology access and use. In 2002, Talbot Hill became a National Laboratory School and school districts from the West Coast come to observe the model in place. They have won many awards and recognitions since its inception ten years ago. Vice President Poff commented she was on the MicroSociety Board of Directors at that time and complimented the school and staff for a successful program.

#### ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Maplewood heights parent requested the Board have something in writing on Procedure 4200 at the next Board meeting.

Renton High senior requested a written response to her comments to the Board earlier in the evening. Dr. Gibbons responded that the request would need to be put in writing to avoid any misinterpretation prior to a District response.

#### INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Talley mentored at McKnight and Kennydale.

Desmarais also mentored, at Nelsen, and attended the Nelsen PTA Board meeting. She was also present at the Lindbergh High School Boosters meeting.

Poff was present at the Pavilion dedication in downtown Renton. She thanked the Business Office for the new "user-friendly" budget brochure.

Superintendent Gibbons reminded the Board of the Circle of Giving awards on Friday, January 16, at 4:00 p.m. She thanked the Maintenance Department staff for working 24/7 during the recent snowstorm. Gibbons advised the Board that current legislation is going on which addresses teacher strikes and suggested all follow news updates on the binding arbitration issue.

President Maxwell visited Kennydale with Dr. Gibbons before the holidays. She also attended the Eastside Coalition of Board of Directors Breakfast. The superintendent and Maxwell had an editorial interview with local newspapers regarding the upcoming levy. She also attended the WSSDA Legislative Committee for Washington State meeting. She will be attending the WSSDA/WASA Legislative Conference with Dr. Gibbons and REA President Silling in February. She also was present at the East Puget Sound Legislative Reps summit meeting recently.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:37 p.m. Merrill moved and Poff seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board. Unanimous vote. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2004 at Hazelwood Elementary School.

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Secretary

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President

Note: Board minutes are edited for Web publication. Patrons wishing official minutes may contact the Superintendent's Office: (425) 204-2340.