

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, February 11, 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 PRESENTATIONS

Executive Director Randy Matheson reported the recent Maintenance and Operations Levy passed with 65.17% "yes" votes. He stated the turnout exceeded the normal pattern and congratulated the Citizens for Renton Schools Committee for their extensive efforts. Mr. Matheson presented Renton High School senior, Elaine Pang, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her arduous commitment to phone banks and recruiting volunteers.

Mr. Matheson also presented certificates to co-chairs of the Citizens Committee for Renton Schools, Anne Rittenhouse and Marcie Maxwell. He thanked them for their dedicated service and steadfast support of the Renton School District. President Maxwell thanked Mr. Matheson for his fine work publicizing the election to the community.

Assistant Superintendent Rich Moore introduced Steve Marcotte and Diane Supler of the Washington Finance Officers Association. Mr. Marcotte presented Renton School District the GFOA "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting." The intent of the program is to enhance access to the public for financial records. Mr. Moore thanked the Business Office staff for their hard work in preparing this extensive report.

Mr. Moore also presented the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) "Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting" award. He stated the Renton School District strives to provide financial management at this level of achievement.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Jay Leviton announced this week as Career and Technical Education week. He introduced Carolann Hughes and Tim Culler, members of the Information Technology/Business Management Advisory Committee members. Mr. Leviton indicated students had made presentations to every service club in the area sharing their programs and skills. Ms. Hughes commented she was impressed with the advanced curriculum that students were receiving. Mr. Culler stated he is responsible for building articulation agreements with local community colleges to ensure students earn college credits. The program encourages students to further their education.

#### "GOOD NEWS" ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships, released the names of four finalists for the coveted award. Three seniors from Hazen High School and one from Lindbergh High School were selected.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the PSAT, a test that serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.3 million entrants each year — and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

Only 15,000 semifinalists advance to finalist standing. Selection is based on the student's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, school recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

These finalists compete for financial scholarships that could total as much as \$2,500 for an individual student.

- Divina Voce, a select, small 11-member ensemble of talented young women at Hazen High School, have been selected to be part of the “New Works, New Hope” concert, sponsored by the Seattle Composers Alliance and Gilda's Club of Seattle. The concert is scheduled for May 6 at Benaroya Hall in the Nordstrom Recital Hall.

A local composer is currently working with the students to write a piece for the performance. This is an excellent opportunity for students to participate in a program that introduces them to the composing process. Information on ticket availability will soon be released.

- Working with the American Red Cross, students, staff and parents at Kennydale Elementary School and Nelsen Middle School recently completed First Aid and CPR training through the School Safety Initiative pilot program. The Red Cross sites cooperation of the district and the two schools as *“the most successful programs of the nine pilot sites. nationwide.”* Lindbergh High School will join the program this year.

Here's some of what the partnership has been able to accomplish so far:

***Kennydale:***

- 101 third graders completed First Aid for Children Today course.
- 69 fifth graders completed Basic Aid Training course.
- 221 students participated in disaster education presentations.
- 12 staff members participated in CPR/First Aid training.
- 9 parents participated in CPR/First Aid training.

***Nelsen:***

- 327 sixth graders trained in Adult, Infant and Child CPR/First Aid.
- 437 students participated in disaster education presentations.
- Students raised more than \$250 for the Red Cross Measles Initiative.

- Bryn Mawr students are participating in an exciting reading incentive program designed by Heifer International, to motivate students to read more and

give back to the world community. Bryn Mawr students will raise money for Read To Feed by writing letters to community and business leaders explaining the program and asking for donations or pledges. Each child should earn about \$15 by reading twenty minutes, five nights a week for the duration of the challenge.

The school's goal is to raise \$5,000 for the Read To Feed Challenge: enough to sponsor an entire Heifer International "ark" of animals that will provide animals and training to as many as 30 families around the world.

Heifer International is a non-profit organization that has helped more than four million impoverished families in 128 countries move away from poverty to self-reliance by offering a "living gift" of an animal, along with training in animal care, good agricultural practices and community development.

- Dimmitt Middle School recently held their first Family Reading Night to celebrate reading together. The fun-filled evening featured a guest reader, tips on improving reading skills, free books, literature related giveaways, games and activities as well pizza, pop and desserts. Students, parents, siblings, and community members attended.
- Lakeridge Elementary School recently hosted a Reading Night. Fifth- and third-grade students shared the stage with Ted Hutchinson, an extraordinary African folktale storyteller and singer.
- Tiffany Park Elementary School staff recently welcomed fourth-grade teacher Zurhra Milyeva (sorah mill-yea-va) from Uzbekistan. Zurha, traveling with her 16-year-old daughter, is a visiting teacher working through the International Education Exchange program visiting several classrooms throughout the district.
- Interns from Family Medical are teaching students at Talbot Hill Elementary School anti-smoking lessons through a program called Tar Wars. Tar Wars is a tobacco-free education program for fourth- and fifth-grade students. The program is designed to teach kids about the short-term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, the cost associated

with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market their products to youth. A poster contest is conducted at the school, state, and national level to reinforce the Tar Wars message.

- Renton Rotary has named their Teachers of the Month:

-**Maxine Matthew** teaches fifth-grade at Maplewood Heights Elementary School. Maxine has been with the district since 1969. She holds a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from University of Washington.

-**Joan Frank** teaches first grade at Tiffany Park Elementary School. Joan has been with the district since 1987. She holds a Bachelors degree in Social Science from University of Northern Iowa.

-**Stephanie Pender** teaches Science at Dimmitt Middle School. Stephanie has worked for the district since 1996. She holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Western Washington University and a Masters degree in Educational Teaching from Seattle University.

CONSENT AGENDA  
ITEMS A-I w/addendum  
Approved

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

A. Minutes

1. Minutes of the January 28, 2004 Regular Meeting

B. Warrants

1. Capital Projects Fund  
Nos. 201929-201967 inclusive - \$645,693.04
2. General Fund  
Nos. 133312-133469 inclusive - \$277,402.51  
Nos. 133471-133666 inclusive - \$353,000.03  
January 30, 2004 Payroll - \$6,329,783.42  
Nos. 441720-442187 inclusive - \$1,612,821.82  
Direct Deposits - \$3,020,119.42  
Unissued Warrants - \$1,696,842.18
3. Associated Student Body Fund

Nos. 422587-422616 inclusive - \$14,246.71

Nos. 422617-422636 inclusive - \$13,377.66

- C. Personnel Exhibits as presented, a copy of which is attached as a part of these minutes.
  
- D. Staff Travel
  - 1. Jane Sawyer to Herff Jones Tour Yearbook Plant in Logan, Utah
  - 2. Dolores Gibbons to 2004 Annual AASA Conference in San Francisco, CA
  
- E. Student Travel
  - 1. H.O.M.E. Program students to Cam Lann Medieval Village
  - 2. H.O.M.E. Program students to Pioneer Farm Museum in Eatonville, WA
  
- F. Settlement Agreement and Release with Levernier Construction, Inc.
  
- G. Easement and Bill of Sale Requests for Lindbergh High School
  
- H. Change Orders
  - 1. Change Order No. 11 Relating to Lindbergh High School Modernization; G. C. Finn Construction Co. - \$90,726.00
  - 2. Change Orders Nos. 27-32 Relating to Highlands Elementary School Rebuild; G. C. Finn Construction Co. – (\$56,450.00)
  
- I. Donations
  - 1. \$201.00 from Microsoft Giving Campaign (Suzanne Taylor) to Renton Park Elementary
  - 2. \$10.00 from Kim Komoto to Lindbergh High School Cheer Squad
  - 3. \$1,725.00 from Hazelwood PTA to Hazelwood Elementary for Technology Training
  - 4. \$1,178.58 to Hazelwood Elementary from Microsoft Giving Campaign (David Burrell) for Supplies
  - 5. \$88.80 to Hazelwood Elementary from Microsoft Giving Campaign (Kimberly McCallum) for Supplies
  - 6. 20 Books Valued at \$80.00 from the Samantha Traicoff family to McKnight Middle School Library

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE  
AND DELEGATIONS  
FROM THE FLOOR

There was no correspondence for reading and no delegations from the floor.

POLICIES 4000, 4020, 4040,  
4230 and 4260 – First Reading  
Approved

Randy Matheson reviewed each of the following policies and procedures with the Board.

- Policy 4000 Public Information Program
- Policy 4020 Confidential Communications
- Policy 4040 Public Access to District Records
- Policy 4230 Distribution of Materials
- Policy 4260 Use of School Facilities

By motion of Poff and second by Desmarais, the above policies were approved with edits for the first reading. Unanimous vote.

RENUMBERED POLICIES  
1240, 6260 and 6265 – First Reading  
Approved

Mr. Matheson stated the following policies were revised and moved to a more appropriate series.

- Policy 1240 Committees (old 4110)
- Policy 6260 Cooperative Programs with Other Districts and Public Agencies (old 4320)
- Policy 6265 Cooperation with Private and Parochial Schools and Daycare Agencies (old 4330)

By motion from Poff and second by Talley, the Board unanimously approved the renumbered policies for the first reading.

RESCIND OLD POLICY  
SERIES 1000 AND POLICIES  
4110, 4120 AND 4237  
Approved

Mr. Matheson indicated the old Policy Series 1000 and Policies 4110, 4120 and 4237 have been incorporated into other policies. After discussion, Desmarais moved and Poff seconded to approve to rescind old Policy Series 1000 and Policies 4110, 4120 and 4237. Unanimous vote.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Fantasia and Executive Director Kay Herman updated the Board on the NCLB law. They recently attended the annual OSPI conference where new updates were revealed. The testing requirements continue to change and are very extensive. They reviewed the key features of NCLB and AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) requirements along with State policies. Out of the 296 school districts in Washington, 123 did not make AYP. At this time, there are 51 schools in "School Improvement." (A complete Power Point presentation is included as part of these minutes.) Dr. Fantasia reported there are grave concerns about making AYP with the special education and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) required criteria.

Ms. Hermann reviewed the AYP timelines for districts and states and requirements that must be met. In preparation for the Fall of 2004 the following guidelines will be implemented:

- continuous emphasis on improving student achievement
- increasing graduation rate
- refining assessment procedures
- expanding data analysis skills
- continue efforts to attract and maintain highly qualified staff

The Board thanked Dr. Fantasia and Ms. Hermann for the detailed presentation.

## INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Dr. Gibbons expressed her thanks for the wonderful support of the community and Citizens for Renton Schools Committee members and their work to ensure the levy passage. She had a meeting with the American Red Cross and they are very interested in looking for more partnerships with the Renton School District. She attended Dr. Terry Bergeson's Superintendent's Advisory Committee meeting and discussed the legal consequences of NCLB. She thanked Ros Robinson, special education director, and Executive Director Hermann for arranging the special education tour at various locations for school board members.

Merrill attended the special education tour and expressed his appreciation. He attended at RTCC

meeting and was present at a student appeal hearing. He participated in a workshop focused on WASL Science Training and shared some of the training components.

Poff was also present at the special education tour and the student hearing. She also attended a CACI meeting.

Desmarais was at the student hearing and the special education tour, also. She was present at a PTA Council meeting, in addition.

Talley observed the Kennydale talent show and mentored students at Kennydale and McKnight. He attended meetings of the Communities in Schools of Renton board, Special Education Advisory Committee, RTCC and the Building and Maintenance Advisory Committee.

President Maxwell was at the PTA Council meeting, Chamber of Commerce Community Development Committee, and Citizens for Renton Schools meetings. She also interviewed students for the Rotary Student of the Month. She attended the WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference and met with legislators.

## RECESS

At 9:18 p.m. a recess was called for 30 minutes for an executive session on legal, personnel and negotiation matters with no action following.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 9:40 p.m. Poff moved and Desmarais seconded to adjourn the executive session and the regular meeting of the Board. Unanimous vote. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 25, 2004 at Cascade 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.