

MINUTES
RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 10, 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 PROCLAMATIONS

President Maxwell read a proclamation for School Retirees Appreciation Week, March 15-21, 2004.

President Maxwell also read the proclamation in recognition of Classified Employees Week, March 8-12, 2004.

“GOOD NEWS”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Students in Renton High School's Physics II class recently placed second in the American Society of Civil Engineers' Bridge Building Competition. Bridges were constructed out of Popsicle sticks, glue and cable. The final product underwent strength testing using a hydraulic load press, applying incremental loads until the bridges shattered. The contest gave students opportunities to witness first-hand some engineering techniques that are used in real-world applications and offered a valuable introduction to structural and transportation engineering opportunities.
- A Campbell Hill Elementary School third-grader recently won the Mark of Distinction award at the 17th annual Paul Robeson Scholar-Athlete Awards ceremony. The award program recognizes student athletes who earn a 3.0 GPA or higher while participating in athletics. The award is named in honor of Paul Robeson an internationally acclaimed actor and singer and brilliant scholar athlete.

Also at the event, another Campbell Hill third-grader stood alone before the crowd of more than 600 to sing a-cappella “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

- A Dimmitt Middle School student will represent Renton in the Regional Spelling Bee for King and Snohomish Counties on March 21, at Town Hall, 9th & Seneca in Seattle. The Spelling Bee is open to the public.
- Renton High School's boys basketball team placed fourth in the Class 3A state championship, beating Clarkston 68-60. The team is comprised of more than just good basketball players, they are also excellent students. Six of the players are in advanced Math Analyses class; another two are enrolled in Geometry. Coach Rick Comer places a high premium on academics; ensuring students are as good in the classroom as they are on the basketball court.
- Renton High School boys basketball coach Rick Comer has been named Coach of the Year by The Seattle Times. Rick, in his sixth year of coaching, managed the boys team into the state tournament for the past two years, after a 26-year absence. Under Rick's guidance, the team finished the regular season with a record of 23 wins and 2 losses, and placed fourth in the state championships.
- About 30 students at Hazen High School are involved in Earth Service Corp, a YMCA-based service-learning program for teens. The program develops leadership skills, offers environmental education and practices, and cross-cultural awareness. This diverse group of Hazen students attend leadership conferences and environmental symposiums, as well as working in the community on clean-up, recycling and replanting projects. A small group of these students will spend part of their Spring Break in Southern California working with Habitat for Humanity and participating in beach clean-ups.
- Nelsen Middle School will soon host its annual Nifty Nelsen Night organized by teachers, staff, parents and community members. The night is a chance for the school to celebrate students working hard, attending school regularly and completing assignments. Students who wish to attend must first obtain a ticket from a teacher after reading books in the Accelerated Reader program and testing their reading level. Students can look forward to dancing, cookie baking, arts and crafts, Karaoke, pizza and pop, games, movie, hair and nail treatments, computer lab and an open gym.
- African American students involved in Hazen High School's "It's Your Choice, Leadership

Development & Training Institute” are celebrating their accomplishments at an Achievement Award dinner tonight. Students participating in the training and leadership enterprise learn financial planning; communication skills; responsibilities and commitments to themselves, their school work and families; and, methods to better their relationships. The program is designed by business owner and former Hazen parent Sheila Houston to empower, engage, encourage, and enlighten youth.

- Nelsen Middle School will induct more than 100 students into the National Junior Honor Society on March 30 and 31. Students qualifying for the honor must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA, and show leadership, scholarship and citizenship qualities.
- Art students in Renton High School’s Creative and Visual Arts class have been awarded a grant to host an Artist in Residence during the last weeks of March. Artist Mauricio Robalino will work with students creating a collaborative work of art, meet the state’s learning requirements in art, and create a mural to be unveiled during a community ceremony on April 5. The grant was provided by The Washington State Arts Commission and matched by the Renton School District and the Renton High School Excellence in Education Fund.
- The Reading Buddy program at Dimmitt Middle School continues to be successful in helping middle school students become more responsible while teaching Thomson School preschool students to read. Every month, more than 40 Dimmitt students walk to nearby Thomson to sit down with a preschool student for more than an hour and read a favorite book.
- Long-time Renton schools superintendent Gary Kohlwes was recently nominated for the Jefferson Award for helping define the concept of service to the region. The Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Sen. Robert Taft Jr. to honor individuals for their sacrifice and accomplishments in service. The program started in Washington state in 1977. Although Gary was not one of the few selected for this year’s award, he was recognized by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the American Institute for Public Service as someone who does extraordinary things for other people, his community, and his nation.
- Students at Sierra Heights Elementary School recently participated in a reading challenge, which would allow students who read the most books to wear pajamas to

school and be served a pancake breakfast by principal Nanci Davis and parents in the PTA. Students in Sondra Fosness' second-grade class read a total of 171 hours, and Ms. Lindsey Stubrud's fourth-grade class read 207 hours. The entire school read over 250 hours in just three days. For their accomplishments, students also enjoyed Nanci singing Karaoke during lunchtime.

- A Language Arts/Social Studies class at McKnight Middle School is celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week by planning a surprise party with gifts, cards, and a cake to honor Russel McPeak, the school custodian. The students picked him as a model of doing random acts of kindness (beyond his regular job). Also - they showed random acts of kindness by helping out other students "who looked to be having a bad day."

Additionally, students wrote letters for Love Letters, Inc. which distributes mail to 1,200 children each week, all across the country. These are children who have terminal illnesses, waiting transplants, or have a debilitating disease.

- Renton Rotary has selected the March Teachers of the Month. The recipients are:

Sue Dunfield, Language Arts teacher and ASB advisor at Hazen High School. She has worked in Renton since 2001. Sue earned her Bachelors degree from Gonzaga University.

Nickie Travis teaches sixth-grade at McKnight Middle School. She began working in Renton in 2002. She earned her Bachelors degree in English from University of Washington and her Masters degree in English from Brigham Young University.

Diane Wilson teaches kindergarten at Thomson Early Childhood Center. She earned her Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education from Western State Oregon College of Education. Diane has worked in Renton since 2000.

CONSENT AGENDA
ITEMS A-K w/addendum
Approved

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

- A. Minutes
 - 1. Minutes of the February 25, 2004 Regular Meeting

- B. Warrants
 - 1. Capital Projects Fund
 - Nos. 202010-202045 inclusive - \$2,584,500.54
 - 2. General Fund
 - Nos.134090-134231 inclusive - \$143,977.65
 - Nos.134232-134418 inclusive - \$374,559.34
 - Nos.134419-134419 inclusive - \$2,000.00
 - February 27, 2004 Payroll - \$6,687,933.63
 - Nos. 442188-442672 inclusive - \$1,647,254.67
 - Direct Deposits - \$3,212,192.59
 - Unissued Warrants - \$1,828,486.37
 - 3. Associated Student Body Fund
 - Nos. 442761-422786 inclusive - \$7,766.66
 - 4. Private Purpose Trust
 - Nos. 700200-700204 inclusive - \$393.00
 - 5. Trust
 - Electronic transfer for Trust Flex - \$12,012.55
- C. Personnel Exhibits as presented, a copy of which is attached as a part of these minutes.
- D. Staff Travel
 - 1. Lauren Daugherty and Nancy Dosch to American String Teacher's Association (ASTA) National Convention and Festival in Dallas, TX on March 11-15, 2004
- E. Student Travel
 - 1. 9th Grade Hazen High School Students to REI Headquarters and Harbor Steps on March 18, 2004
 - 2. Hazelwood Elementary Third Grade Students to Tillicum Village on May 11, 2004
 - 3. Cascade Kindergarten Students to Lincoln Park and Joe Budde's House on June 4, 2004
 - 4. Hazelwood Fifth Grade Students to Pacific Science Center on June 4-5, 2004
- F. Contracts and Agreements
 - 1. Administrative Consultant Services between Renton School District and Fred Row for Special Education Support, February 9-April 16, 2004
- G. Resolution 13-03/04 Authorizing Individuals to Sign Invoices Related to Construction Projects
- H. Acceptance of Project Completion for Highlands Elementary School
- I. Approval of Construction Documents and Request Bids for the Benson Hill Elementary Rebuild

- J. Approval of Construction Documents and Request Bids for Hazelwood Elementary Rebuild

- K. Acceptance of Donations
 - 1. Stuffed Animals from Kibibi Ball (valued at \$400.00) to Lakeridge Elementary School
 - 2. \$200.00 from Washington Mutual Bank to Renton Park Elementary on Behalf of Renee Vinje's Volunteer Work at Renton Park
 - 3. Large Quantity of Binders to Maplewood Heights Elementary School from the Salvatori Family
 - 4. \$500.00 from SHOPA Kids in Need Grants Program to Benson Hill Elementary to Purchase Books
 - 5. \$200.00 from Robert Odegard, DDS, to Lindbergh High School for the Renton Invitational Track Meet
 - 6. Six books (valued at \$41.00) from the Lora Mitchell Family to McKnight Middle School
 - 7. Donations to the Highlands Mural Tile Project:
 - a. \$500 – Marcie Maxwell and Renton Community Foundation
 - b. \$50 – Torero's Restaurant
 - c. Plywood from McLendon Hardware
 - 8. Donations to the Lindbergh Renton Invitational Track Meet:
 - a. \$100.00 – Swanson and Garner, PLLC
 - b. \$100.00 – Renton Highlands Physical Therapy
 - c. \$50.00 – Bean Animal Hospital
 - d. \$200.00 – Neil Hicks, Jr.
 - e. \$100.00 – Walker's Renton Subaru
 - f. \$100.00 – Harper Engineering Co.
 - 9. \$500.00 from Maxwell Fund for Youth & Families to Renton H.S. PTA for Leadership Training
 - 10. \$1,500.00 from Maxwell Fund for Youth and Families to Renton School District for Training
 - 11. Donations from the Renton Community Foundation Circle of Giving:
 - a. \$1,000.00 to Hazen High School for Glass Kiln
 - b. \$1,000.00 to Cascade Elementary for Materials for WASL "Boot Camp"
 - c. \$218.00 to Renton Park Elementary for Giant Chess Set
 - d. \$720.00 to Lindbergh High School for Math Enrichment Program Tools and Supplies
 - e. \$1,000.00 to Sartori Education Center for Student Support Satchels "Random Act of Kindness"
 - f. \$375.00 to Lindbergh High School to Sponsor Student's Driver's Education Class
 - g. \$300.00 to Renton High School to Purchase Modems for Computers

- h. \$700.00 to Tiffany Park Elementary to Purchase
Unicycling Bikes for PE Class

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE
AND DELEGATIONS
FROM THE FLOOR

Peggy Price, Newcastle Trails Committee, addressed the Board regarding trail access on the new proposed Hazelwood Elementary site. She requested the Board consider moving the student walkways to different peripherals than proposed. Mr. Stracke informed the Board that the architects and project manager have met with the Newcastle Trails Committee and the City of Newcastle on numerous occasions. The District has granted some easements to the City of Newcastle for trails already and the final documents are now at the City of Newcastle for completion.

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

By motion from Poff and second by Desmarais, the board approved the final reading of Policies 4000, 4020, 4040, 4230 and 4260. Unanimous vote.

RENUMBERED POLICIES
1240, 6260 and 6265 – Final Reading
Approved

By motion from Poff and second by Desmarais, the board approved the final reading of renumbered policies 1240, 6260 and 6265. Unanimous vote.

POLICY 3132, CHILDREN
OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES –
Second Reading
Approved

By motion from Merrill and second by Desmarais, the second reading of Policy 3132, Children of School Employees, was unanimously approved with minor edits.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTION
UPDATE

Dr. Kathryn Fantasia gave a brief presentation on how enrollment projections are done in the Renton School District. She explained the purpose of enrollment projections are for budget planning, staffing, grant applications, instructional materials and facilities planning. The projections are a team effort by the district and building administrative teams to check trends and patterns to predict enrollment. Information is also received from the City of Renton, Student Information Services and Transportation. The district uses several models when preparing the enrollment projections that historically have been very close to actual student population.

REPORT ON ESL STUDENTS/
PROGRAMS/LEGAL

Executive Director Kay Hermann reviewed the ESL Program staffing and historical growth. She stated in the 1996/97 school year ESL classes were provided in six schools. Currently, the program serves 1,303 students in 18 schools. Ms. Hermann said if a child speaks their

native language at home, state and federal guidelines require testing. Annual assessments are completed for Listening and Speaking, Reading and Writing, as well as the ITBS, ITED and WASL. Ms. Hermann indicated the definitions of proficiency used are aligned with the ELD (English Language Development) Standards and will be utilized throughout Washington. She mentioned that in Renton School District 51 different languages make up the student population.

Director Hermann indicated the current goals of the ESL Program include:

- continue training on the state testing program
- review elementary ESL model
- provide staff development
- ESL evaluation strategies

ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no additional delegations from the floor.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Dr. Gibbons stated she had the opportunity to support new chefs in the area at the RTC "Celebrity Chefs." She also attended the Renton High School Black History Extravaganza and several playoff Renton High boys basketball games. She asked the Board to consider having only one set of architectural design documents made on new projects to alleviate cost. The set would be available in the office of the superintendent prior to the board meetings. The board was agreeable.

Merrill attended a RTCC meeting, a Lindbergh High School PTA meeting and the PTA Founder's Day dinner.

Poff was also present at the Founder's Day dinner.

Desmarais was present at a parent community meeting, the Founder's Day dinner and her weekly mentoring at Nelsen. She advised the Board and audience she was assisting in planning a program for parents on March 18 at Lindbergh regarding the WASL and No Child Left Behind.

Talley attended a Communities in Schools of Renton board meeting, the Founder's Day dinner and the Black History Extravaganza. He was at his weekly mentoring at Kennydale and McKnight and was a presenter at the Commissioner's Cup for Washington State Soccer awards. He also was a participant at the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services interviews.

President Maxwell was present at a Highlands Community meeting, the Founder's Day dinner, and the Black History Extravaganza event. She was a judge at the Rotary Youth of the Month interviews (what wonderful students!) and a fifth grade orientation for McKnight parents. She also attended the East King County Legislative Representatives for School Boards meeting. She reminded the Board and audience of the Renton High School Excellence in Education awards at the City Council Chamber on March 15.

President Maxwell asked the Board to reserve March 22 at 4:00 p.m. for the Superintendent's evaluation. She distributed copies of the Oregon State Association evaluation format for the Board to review for future consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:17 p.m. Poff moved and Desmarais seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board. Unanimous vote. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 24, 2004 at Bryn Mawr Elementary School.

Secretary

President

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