

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, September 10, 2003  
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  
Marcie Maxwell, Vice President  
Lynn Desmarais  
David Merrill  
Joy Poff

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Talley asked the Board and audience to join him in a moment of silence in recognition of the victims and families of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

“GOOD NEWS”  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- The Renton Municipal Arts Commission will hold a special award ceremony and reception on September 19 to showcase artwork from the Renton School District's Annual Student Art Exhibit. The art show, entitled “Art is the Heart of Renton,” is comprised of jury-selected student artwork.

The reception is free to the public and will feature winners of the Teen Art Contest, in collaboration with Renton Arts Teachers Bronwyn Whittredge, John Schmitz, Gary Grossman, Paulette Manson, Stephanie Wright, and Sheri Stephens. The event takes place at Carco Theatre on Friday, September 19, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., prior to the Valley Community Players season opener, Rumors, a comedy by Neil Simon.

- The Association of School Business Officials International has awarded the district's business office the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the “Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.” The award is the highest recognition for school district financial operations and is only given to school districts that have met or exceeded the standards of the program.

The nationally recognized program reviews and critiques district accounting practices and the adherence to sound principles and procedures. A district earning the Certificate of Excellence

receives enhanced credibility for the financial management of the district.

- Dimmitt Middle School has been awarded a grant from the Diversity in Technology Group to improve female students' interest and performance in Science, Math and Technology. The "Tech-Reach" grant will be used as part of an after-school program and includes computers, technical help and snacks. This is only one of the many improvement efforts taking place this year at Dimmitt. Others include:
  - More teachers hired to serve Dimmitt students, reducing class size and adding class sections
  - All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have a semester-long reading class using research-based best practices in instruction
  - One-to-one tutors will be available for students needing extra support in reading identified through additional reading assessments
  - Greater use of Accelerated Reader, a nationally recognized model for comprehensive school reform
  - Math classes have been restructured with greater emphasis on pre-algebra and algebra
  - Uniform expectations have been established requiring students to be even more responsible and accountable for their learning
  - Additional parent involvement efforts will be supported through the new Title 1 plan
- Local car dealership Bob Bridge Toyota was recently recognized in Time magazine for their work in organizing clothing drives for the Renton Clothing Bank. Last year's drive racked up great results, filling three large trucks with clothes and blankets. The organization assists nearly 500 people each month, providing free clothing and accessories to Renton children, many of whom are Renton School District students
- The Renton School District will get a visit from a 23-member delegation from our sister city in Cuautla, Jalisco, Mexico. The group will visit Talbot Hill Elementary School and the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, September 24. Members of the delegation hope to gain mutual awareness and appreciation of our different cultures while participating in educational, economic and professional exchanges.
- Communities In Schools of Renton has arranged for 60 "Day of Caring" volunteers to spend the day helping in classrooms at Bryn Mawr, Tiffany Park, Lakeridge, and Cascade elementary schools on Sept. 26. About 1,100 Day of Caring Volunteers are participating at various sites throughout King County.

Renton school volunteers are from Microsoft and will be assigned to a classroom teacher to help out in whatever way

they can. They will receive training in the morning and then disperse to their assigned schools.

- Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center manager Shana Pennington-Baird has planned a wide range of performances for the fall season. Working to fill vacancies between school performances, assemblies, and rehearsals as well as community discussion meetings hosted by the City of Renton, Shana has booked the following performances:

- **Saturday, Oct. 4th**

- 2003/2004 Season Benefit Concert: Greta Matassa

- **Saturday, Oct. 11th**

- Book-It Repertory Theatre presents: Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

- **Saturday, Oct 18th**

- Rainier Symphony

- **Sunday, Oct. 19th**

- Allied Arts presents: Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra Family Concert- Adam Stern, conductor, soloists- Rosa Lee, piano, Marta Zekan, narrator.

- **Monday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Monday Night Jazz Series

- **Wednesday, Oct. 29th**

- Renton High School Fall Concert

- Renton High has received \$703 from Washington Mutual as part of the "WaMoola for Schools" program. Washington Mutual financial centers donate \$1 to local schools for each new checking account they open. Last year they donated over \$4.1 million to local schools.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Assistant Superintendent Hulten introduced Ed Sheppard, new curriculum director in the Department of Instruction. He noted Ed's employment history and welcomed him to the administrative team.

#### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-N

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Approved

By motion of Maxwell and second by Poff, the Board approved the following consent agenda, Items A-N, as presented. Vote 5-0.

#### A. Minutes

1. Minutes of the August 27, 2003 Regular Meeting

2. Minutes of the August 27, 2003 Public Hearing
- B. Warrants
1. Capital Projects Fund
    - Nos. 201644-201644 inclusive - \$5,435.65
    - Nos. 201645-201682 inclusive - \$557,077.95
  2. General Fund
    - Nos.122350-122560 inclusive - \$235,177.31
    - Nos.130038-130066 inclusive - \$13,108.44 (03/04)
    - Nos.122561-122699 inclusive - \$270,517.91
    - Nos.130067-130088 inclusive - \$16,501.98 (03/04)
    - Payroll - August 29, 2003 - \$5,944,805.36
    - Nos. 439385-439730 inclusive - \$1,454,083.92
    - Direct deposits - \$2,888,319.12
    - Unissued Warrants - \$1,602,402.32
  3. Associated Student Body Fund
    - Nos. 421865-421876 inclusive - \$16,300.74
    - Nos. 421877-421885 inclusive - \$6,126.08
  4. Trust
    - Electronic transfer for Trust Flex - \$3,276.18
- C. Personnel Exhibits as presented, a copy of which is attached as a part of these minutes.
- D. Staff Travel
1. Dolores Gibbons to AASA Fall Committee Forum, Phoenix, Arizona
- E. Student Travel
1. Lindbergh High School Cheerleaders to National Cheerleading Competition in Dallas, TX,
  2. Hazelwood Elementary Fifth Graders to "Mountains to the Sound" on Tiger Mountain
- F. Contracts and Agreements
1. Interagency Agreement between Seattle Mental Health and Renton School District for 2003-2004
- G. Approval to Declare Surplus, Obsolete Textbooks and Library Books
- H. Approval to Bid for Stadium Food and Beverage Concessions
- I. Approval to Bid for Carbonated and Non-Carbonated Vending Machines
- J. Resolution No. 1-03/04, Declaring that Space Available in a Contiguous District Does Not Meet the Needs of the District

- K. Resolution No. 2-03/04, Authorizing Superintendent's Authority to Bill Hulten and, in his Absence, Kathryn Fantasia, During Superintendent's Absence from the District
- L. Approval of Educational Specifications from Advance Planning and Research for Architecture (APRA) on Renton School District Modernizations and Construction
- M. Change Orders 90 and 91 Relating to the Renton High School Remodel Project- Levernier Construction, Inc. - \$163,518.00
- N. Acceptance of Donations
  - 1. \$3,500.00 from Highlands PTA to Highlands Elementary for the Accelerated Reader and Book Club Program

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE  
AND DELEGATIONS  
FROM THE FLOOR

There was no correspondence for reading or any delegations from the floor.

APPROVAL OF POLICY  
4302 – NOTIFICATION OF  
THREATS OF VIOLENCE  
OR HARM  
Approved – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Executive Director Matheson presented the first reading of Policy 4302. He stated since the Columbine incident in 1999, the District has been working with WSSDA to increase the scope of this policy. The policy states if anyone knows or hears of a potential threat, they must notify staff immediately. By motion from Poff and second by Desmarais, Policy 4302 Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm was approved for the first reading. Vote 5-0.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ELECTIONS  
RESOLUTION 3-03/04  
Approved

Dr. Gibbons stated the residency of a Board of Director candidate has been challenged. Resolution 3-03/04 gives the Superintendent authorization to proceed with legal action, if necessary. By motion from Maxwell and second by Poff, the Board approved Resolution #3-03/04. Vote 5-0.

OPENING OF SCHOOL  
2003/2004 REPORT

Personnel – Assistant Superintendent Hulten stated the recruiting process began in the spring. There are 75 new hires and 150 new contracts. As of today, there are only nine certificated positions to be filled.

Elementary – Associate Superintendent Risdon stated the opening of school was very smooth with 6,123 elementary students. She anticipates the District will be over projections on October 1. The average class sizes are:

- |                |   |      |
|----------------|---|------|
| - Kindergarten | - | 20   |
| - Grades 1-3   | - | 22   |
| - Grades 4-5   | - | 26.3 |

Secondary – Executive Director Pappas reviewed the enrollment at the middle and high schools. He anticipates we will be very close to projections.

Stories – Superintendent Gibbons acknowledged that all of the Executive Team was out at schools on the first day of school. They witnessed good will and cheer among students and staff. She stated the PTA connections at the buildings are wonderful.

#### NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Fantasia reviewed recent developments in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. The focal points are proficiency, assessment and learning for all students. NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress elements consist of:

- All students “proficient” within 12 years
- Separate, measurable goals required in reading and mathematics (State uniform bars)
- Must provide separate, measurable objectives/disaggregated data and goals for:
  - All children
  - Racial/Ethnic Groups
  - Disabled/Ethnic Groups
  - Limited English Proficient (ELL)
  - Disadvantaged (Low Income)

She stated schools that receive federal Title I through X funding are affected. If a school doesn’t meet AYP two years in a row they are considered a School in Improvement and must give parents the option to attend an alternate school within the district with transportation provided. Space is not a reason to deny Choice according to federal law. For the 2003-2004 school year, Dimmitt Middle School fell into that category. (A detailed description of the NCLB requirements is attached.)

#### ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no additional delegations from the floor.

#### INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Desmarais attended the Communities in Schools of Renton Kick-Off dinner, the Benson Hill open house and chaperoned Nelsen 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the Puyallup Fair.

Merrill also attended the Benson Hill open house and assisted at a Lindbergh High School football game.

Poff shared a comment from a new teacher who thought the Renton School District was very supportive of its teachers.

Maxwell was present at the Kennydale and Earlington neighborhood picnics and the Sierra Heights PTA picnic. She met with Eastside School Board legislative representatives and attended the Chamber of Commerce community relations committee meeting.

President Talley attended the H.O.M.E. Program and Benson Hill open houses, the Mentor Kick-Off dinner and a Communities in Schools of Renton board meeting.

RECESS

At 8:21 p.m. a recess was called for 15 minutes for an executive session on legal matters with no action following.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:41 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 September 24, 2003 at the Kohlwe Education Center.

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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.