

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 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

ELECTION OF BOARD  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE  
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 2004

Maxwell moved and Desmarais seconded the nomination of Joy Poff for Board Vice President. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Desmarais moved and Poff seconded the nomination of Marcie Maxwell for Board President. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

By motion from Talley and second from Merrill, the following committee assignments for the year 2004 were unanimously approved:

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Director</u>
Budget and Audit	Maxwell and Desmarais
Employee Relations & Awards	Poff and Desmarais
City of Renton Ethics	Poff
Construction Advisory	Merrill
Communities in Schools	Talley
Renton Tech. Coord. Council	Talley and Merrill
I-728 Ad Hoc Committee	Poff
Legislative Representative	Maxwell
Disciplinary Appeal Council	Desmarais, Maxwell, Poff (Alternates Merrill/Talley)

“GOOD NEWS”  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Nelsen Middle School librarian Judy Nesbitt and Lyn McKay, Music Specialist at Kennnydale Elementary School, recently earned the prestigious national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Judy and Lyn worked very hard to be able to add National Board Teacher Certification to their list of professional accomplishments. Washington has 344 teachers with national-board certification, which can take from one to three years to complete and cost \$2,300 per application. The process includes submitting portfolios, including videotapes of teaching, and tests on knowledge of subjects. Successful candidates are regarded as meeting the highest standards established for the teaching profession. Additionally, they earn a 10-year certificate; receive a \$3,500 annual stipend subject to legislative appropriation; have their state teaching credentials renewed to match the length of the national certificate; and are able to apply graduate credits earned while studying for National Board Certification to advanced degrees.
- Cascade Elementary School first-grade teacher Kourtney Campbell recently attended a school conference and afterward found her car stolen. As parent-teacher conferences were scheduled the following day, Kourtney, a second-year teacher, had all of her students’ report cards and classroom work in her car, ready to present to parents. The report cards and materials were stolen along with the car. Because her car was old, Kourtney only had liability insurance, which does not replace a stolen car. When told about Kourtney’s predicament, Idonna MacIntosh, sales manager at Lithia Hyundai of Renton, offered Kourtney the use of a car, free of charge, through the holidays.
- A third grader at Campbell Hill Elementary School, who lost his vision last year, was recently presented by local Lions Club members a special device called a BrailleNote computer and printer that will allow him to read, write and use the Internet. The gift was the result of a lot of hard work on the part of Will Wurdeman, a member of the Renton Lions Club and a former Renton teacher, and Corné Clark, an attorney who serves as the club’s vision chairman. Clark received financial support for the project from five clubs — Renton Lions, Fairwood Lions, Seattle

Rainier Lions, Renton Lady Lions and the Renton Highlands Lions. The device cost about \$6,000.

Newt Jones, president of the Renton Lions Club, who is also blind, said the device, "will change the student's life." His parents were thrilled about the gift, saying, " His attitude about losing his sight has been so good. This will help him keep up in school."

- Dimmitt Middle School students have raised over 4,720 items of food for the local food bank. In the past three years, Dimmitt's students have raised over 8,800 items of food for the food bank and 2,500 items of clothing for the Renton Clothing Bank and Salvation Army. The goal is to raise 6,000 items this year. If they make that goal school administrators will receive a pie in the face.
- Sartori had 27 students graduate today at a ceremony at Renton Technical College. That's 27 more teens with identified career pathways, education plans, and comprehensive portfolios. The students worked very hard, most overcoming adversity, to stay focused on education and graduation. The student speaker at the graduation told guests his story of leaving school to go to work to help his father pay the family's mortgage. Soon after, his father died placing even more of the household responsibilities on him. He eventually enrolled at Sartori under a contract agreement to take education serious, come to school on a regular basis and complete some of his school work on his own at home. The contract allowed him to continue to work full time to help pay family bills. Now, he has completed his high school education, surpassing his own expectations. He received an A+ Certified Computer Technician qualification, thanks to help from teacher Paul Scott. And, he was recently hired by Boeing to work on new building sites connecting computer networks and working on computers.
- According to Census Bureau figures released last week, Washington state has the sixth highest percentage in the nation of residents with high-school diplomas. The report also showed that among cities with a population of 250,000 or more, the Seattle area had the second highest percentage of high-school graduates, with more than 91 percent. The data came from the 2002 American Community Survey, which the government is testing as an annual replacement for the census "long form" sent out at the start of each decade.

- McKnight Middle School's Associated Student Body (ASB) officers and representatives this year are participating in twice-weekly leadership classes. Staff advisor Erin Estes will direct the students to be highly involved in community service projects in addition to their regular duties. McKnight has also started a Student Diversity Committee called "Dynamic Empowerment for Building Bridges through Diversity." Nickie Travis and Sandra Polk are the advisors of the group. The committee will:
  - Identify potential leaders within the McKnight student body
  - Expose middle-school students to a more in-depth, accurate and comprehensive discovery of the history of all Americas and their struggles/stories
  - Provide leadership training opportunities for students
  - Build positive self-esteem through a variety of activities and interactions throughout the year
  - Encourage positive experiences in team building activities and the use of effective communication skills
  
- Staff in the Lindbergh Technology Education department all purchased new bicycles this year to donate to "Toys for Tots."
  
- Renton Head Start recently had over 230 people participate in their annual Family Feast event. Almost every student had at least one family member attend.
  
- Renton IKEA Performing Arts center manager Shana Pennington-Baird reports that students from Hazen and Renton High schools recently assisted with the Miss Washington and Miss Teen Washington USA Pageants held at the IPAC. More than 1,700 people visited the theatre during the weekend event and the students did a terrific job helping with all aspects of presenting the event to community and media. A segment about the theatre and the pageant will air on Evening Magazine this month.
  
- WIND STORM 2003

The following are some of the stories of how staff and students fared during the recent windstorm:

- Ray Vogel, the district's maintenance manager, worked tirelessly through the night along side Puget Sound Energy (PSE) workers to bring up power to several schools. At about 2 a.m., PSE employees were ready to move to a location outside of the school district to work on other downed power lines. Ray convinced the team instead to work on restoring power to Hazen High School. Ray and the PSE team stuck with it until power was restored at Hazen. Because of their hard work only Maplewood Elementary School remained closed the following day due to lack of power.
  
- When staff at Cascade Elementary School found themselves without power they had to work fast to ensure they had something to feed students at lunchtime. The sandwiches they picked up at McKnight Middle School were frozen and time did not allow them to be thawed at McKnight. When they arrived at Cascade, they placed the frozen sandwiches into staff cars with the engine running and cranked up the heat. They were all sufficiently thawed by the time lunch began although there was a little ice around the edges. A student teacher remarked at the end of the day that she was delighted the power outage occurred. "It gave me an opportunity to observe a professional at work handling such a situation," she said. "Now, when I'm responsible for the classroom, I'll know how to respond."
  
- Maplewood Elementary School was without power for almost two days. After learning from the power company and police that the power would not soon be restored, staff began having students with stay-at-home parents to come pick them up if they wanted to. Most parents chose to come to school and get their children. Principal Judy Busch received several notes from parents expressing their appreciation of how orderly students were dismissed and some notes from parents who were unable to pick up their children, thanking staff for taking care of the children until the parents found a cleared road to get to school.
  
- Benson Hill Elementary School lost power at about 11:30 a.m. They were able to serve hot lunches to first and second graders. Sandwiches were prepared and served to the other students by three Benson parents who came to the school to help as soon as they realized power was out. While students were waiting

for their busses the staff held a piano talent show and sing-along. Staff were most impressed in discovering how many students were accomplished pianists. What could have been a long exit process turned out to be fun. Staff stayed with the students and maintained order until the busses arrived.

- Bryn Mawr Elementary School staff were particularly grateful that the school had an emergency plan in place and that it had been rehearsed and discussed. When the electricity went out, staff immediately set in motion the emergency plans: minutes after the lights went out everyone took on their assigned role - from running communications to classrooms, monitoring hallways, getting out flashlights from emergency kits, to helping in the common areas. While enough hot food had been prepared before the blackout to serve most of the students, the rest were given peanut butter sandwiches prepared by staff members under the direction of the cook. Some teachers used the power outage to talk about electricity and our society's dependence upon it, while others made the event into a camping experience and taught students camp songs.

CONSENT AGENDA  
ITEMS A-M  
Approved

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

A. Minutes

1. Minutes of the November 19, 2003 regular meeting

B. Warrants

1. Capital Projects Fund
  - Nos. 201834-201854 inclusive - \$711,903.76
  - Nos. 201855-201875 inclusive - \$152,409.45
2. Transportation Vehicle Fund
  - Nos. 920009-920009 inclusive - \$252.20
3. General Fund
  - Nos.131677-131837 inclusive - \$159,713.96
  - Nos.131838-132139 inclusive - \$448,290.42
  - Nos.132140-132457 inclusive - \$358,699.84
  - Payroll – November 26, 2003 - \$6,679,054.33
  - Nos. 440751-441237 inclusive - \$1,671,062.59
  - Direct Deposits - \$3,209,540.22

- Unissued warrants - \$1,798,451.52
- 4. Associated Student Body Fund
  - Nos. 422238-422280 inclusive - \$62,551.89
  - Nos. 422281-422325 inclusive - \$45,606.86
  - Nos. 422326-422372 inclusive - \$38,346.85
  - Nos. 422374-422399 inclusive - \$20,722.61
- 5. Private Purpose Trust
  - Nos. 700194-700194 inclusive - \$900.00
  - Nos. 700195-700195 inclusive - \$148.91
- 6. Trust
  - Electronic transfer for Trust Flex Plan - \$5,463.28
  - Electronic transfer for Trust Flex Plan - \$4,390.91
- C. Personnel Exhibits as presented, a copy of which is attached as a part of these minutes.
- D. Student Travel
  - 1. McKnight Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir to Bellevue Square
- E. Staff Travel
  - 1. Genie Fairhart to Love and Logic Institute in Las Vegas, NV
- F. Contracts and Agreements
  - 1. One-year contract Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation for 2003-2004
  - 2. 2003-2004 Addendum to the 2001-2004 Negotiated Agreement between Renton Principal's Association and the Renton School District
  - 3. 2003-2004 Amendment to Agreements for the Following Employee Groups for the 2003-2004 School Year:
    - a. Renton Assistant/Associate Superintendents
    - b. Renton Classified Managers
    - c. Renton Confidential Assistants
    - d. Renton Director's Association (RDA)
    - e. Renton Executive Director's Association
    - f. Renton Professional Technical Association (RPTA)
    - g. Renton Educational Support Personnel
- G. Approval of Stadium Food and Beverage Concessions
- H. 2003-2004 Special Pay Schedule Update
- I. Change in Established Imprest/Change Fund Amounts

- J. Architectural Modification # 4 Relating to the Highlands Elementary School Rebuild; Hutteball & Oremus Architects - \$14,786.00
- K. Architectural Modification #5 Relating to Campbell Hill Elementary School Rebuild; BCRA/Tsang - \$21,872.00
- L. Change Orders
  - 1. Change Order No. 9 Relating to Lindbergh High School Modernization Project; G. C. Finn Construction Co. - \$24,520.00
  - 2. Change Order No. 29 Relating to Campbell Hill Elementary School Rebuild; Babbit-Neuman Construction Co. - \$1,459.00
- M. Acceptance of Donations
  - 1. Ten \$100.00 Safeway Cards to Needy Families from the Holiday Relief Fund
  - 2. Ten Holiday Baskets for Renton School District Families from Renton Rotary
  - 3. Twenty \$100.00 Gift Cards to Needy Families from the Friendly Kitchen
  - 4. Microsoft Matching Funds to Hazelwood Elementary for Staff Development:
    - a. \$88.80 from Kimberly McCallum
    - b. \$1,138.48 from David Burrell
  - 5. \$1,500.00 from Fred & Ann Knack Foundation for the Fred & Ann Knack Scholarship Fund
  - 6. \$300.00 from All Kids Golf Clubs to the Lindbergh High School Golf Team
  - 7. \$20,000.00 from the Talbot Hill Educational Trust to the MicroSociety Program at Talbot Hill
  - 8. 21 Books to the McKnight Middle School Library and Accelerated Reader Quizzes from Suzie Bradford (Value \$130.00)
  - 9. 11 books to the McKnight Middle School Library from Vanessa Chodykin (Value \$190.00)
  - 10. Ten books from Sandy Simonson to the McKnight Middle School Library (Value \$38.00)
  - 11. 14 books from Lance Traicoff and Daughter Samantha to the McKnight Middle School Library (\$80.00)
  - 12. \$700.00 from Renton Park Elementary PTA to Renton Park Elementary Library
  - 13. Computer Equipment for the Science Labs at Hazen High School from WRQ, Inc. (Valued at \$3,500.00)

14. Computer Equipment to Hazen High School from  
Jacqueline Dundon
15. \$40.00 from Kerry and Sheila Blech to Purchase  
Accelerated Reader tests for Lakeridge Elementary

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE  
AND DELEGATIONS  
FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Robert Koenig, Maplewood Heights parent, expressed his concern that according to Board policy #4200 parental visits to the classroom are limited in time length. He requested a written decision from the Board that his wife be allowed to stay longer than the usual 45 minutes during a visit to her son's classroom after the first of the year. Mr. Koenig thanked Dr. Gibbons for meeting with him earlier this month to address issues.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE  
OF HAZELWOOD ELEMENTARY  
PROJECT

Approved

Tom Marshall from McGranahan Architects presented the design development information on the new Hazelwood Elementary project. He indicated there would be trees removed, but very strict restrictions are being followed. Several meetings with staff have taken place and the staff is very happy. Dr. Gibbons said the district is working with the City of Newcastle to assist in their "across town" trail plan and ensure district liability issues are met. By motion from Poff and second by Desmarais, the Board unanimously approved the design development phase of the Hazelwood Elementary project.

ENROLLMENT REVIEW  
COMMITTEE SCOPE OF  
WORK FOR 2003/2004

Approved

Dr. Gibbons recommended that prior to decisions about the scope of work for the 2003-2004 Enrollment Review Committee, the Board examine last year's recommendations that were tabled. Specifically:

- McKnight needs four additional classrooms (two doublewide portables) to reasonably accommodate their projected student enrollment
- During the 2003-2004 school year, the District undertake a comprehensive boundary review

There was discussion about the need to order portables as soon as possible in order to have them available for the 2004-2005 school year. Other portables would be shifted from various locations for placement as needed. By motion

from Merrill and second by Talley, the Board approved moving forward with the acquisition of new portables at McKnight. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Pappas, executive director of secondary education, stated the Enrollment Review Committee would start up in January with a limited scope of work. A new expanded boundary committee will be initiated to address the boundary review process in the fall of 2004. This gives the committee a full year to research. Director Merrill felt the expanded committee should start in the spring of 2003 to allow for more time. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of when to start the expanded committee. Dr. Gibbons stated one of the challenges in qualifying for state match funds for new construction is the district must be able to claim a certain level of "unhoused" students on the state formula. "Unhoused" students may reside in portables. If the district wants to minimize the tax burden for new local taxpayers and maximize the portion the state pays for new construction, a growing district will always be using portables and will probably feel crowded during the transition just before a new building can be built. By motion from Poff and second by Talley, the 2003-2004 Enrollment Review Committee scope of work was approved. 4-0-1 with Merrill against. The new boundary review committee will be initiated in the fall of 2004.

**GRADUATION RATE  
REPORT AND GOALS**

Approved

Dr. Fantasia and Mr. Pappas gave a Power Point presentation on the graduation rate goals. They stated all school districts have Federal (No Child Left Behind) and State (Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission) requirements to report the percentage of students who graduate from high school in the standard number of years with a regular diploma. They reviewed key definitions that are critical to reporting and the variability in measurements. The formulas used were explained and the complexity of the reporting was discussed. (A copy of the presentation is attached.)

**REMMENDATION FOR CLASSES 2004-2013**

The Graduation Rate Goal is either a one-percentage point annual increase from the 2003 Graduation Rate or 73%, which ever is lower.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CLASS OF 2014**

The Graduation Rate Goal is 85 percent for each of the nine groups of students noted in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

By motion from Poff and second by Talley, the Board approved the Graduation Rate Report and Goals. Vote 4-0-1 with Merrill abstaining.

#### RECESS

At 9:15 p.m. a 5-minute recess was called. The meeting reconvened at 9:23 p.m.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION PROCEDURES

Dr. Fantasia reviewed the curriculum development process and stated the process was not changing. The intent is for all curriculum guides to follow the same format and to be more uniform. Curriculum materials will be on display concurrent with the Board Friday packet and will remain on display in the Library Center until after the second Board meeting. The Director or designee will provide the Board with a brief summary of the recommendation at the first Board meeting. If the Board wishes more in-depth information, they will let the curriculum director know and it will be provided. This proposed format reflects the Department of Instruction's desire to present recommended curriculum and materials in a succinct, yet clear, manner. The Board of Directors expressed their gratitude for the new plan.

#### I-728 PRESENTATION

Assistant Superintendent Fantasia stated the I-728 Advisory Committee has developed two reports on the District use of the Student Achievement funds. The *I-728 Annual Report* reflects the use of funds for the school year 2002-2003. The *I-728 District Plan* is the proposed use of funds for the school year 2003-2004. The two reports reflect the District's commitment to student achievement and a focus on class size reduction as the primary use of the I-728 funding. The class size K-12 funding has increased every year since inception and continues to be the greatest percentage of use, although many new teachers have also been hired, and increased library support and staff training are also an important factor. Dr. Fantasia stated the District expended every cent of the \$2.5M received from the state. She shared that the I-728 funding for 2003/2004 will be \$9 less per FTE than was originally projected at the beginning of last year.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

F-196 YEAR-END  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Rich Moore reviewed the financial report for 2002-2003. Even though the total revenues of \$89.6 million dollars did not reach forecasted levels in some areas, the reported enrollment exceeded projection. The increase in student enrollment provided an overall increase in revenues. Due to revenues exceeding expenditures, the fund balance was increased. The budgeted ending fund balance for FY 2002-2003 was projected at \$4.5 million dollars. The actual ending fund balance for FY 2002-2003 was \$5.4 million.

Mr. Moore said the District is in good financial condition. The Business Office is preparing a new tri-fold brochure that is user-friendly to be available to community members.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS  
FROM THE FLOOR  
INFORMATION AND  
PROPOSALS

Dr. Gibbons reminded the Board of the WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference on February 8-9. President Maxwell and Superintendent Gibbons are attending. If other Board members would like to attend, notify the Superintendent's office.

Superintendent Gibbons congratulated Ms. Maxwell on her appointment to the State WSSDA Legislative Committee. She also thanked Mr. Talley for a stellar year as Board president.

Desmarais attended Lindbergh and Nelsen parent teacher conferences and the winter concerts at each of those schools, respectively. She joined Dr. Gibbons on a site visit to Maplewood Heights and also mentored at Nelsen.

Merrill attended site visits with Superintendent Gibbons at Dimmitt and Campbell Hill. He volunteered at Cascade in the Reading Library and attended a Diversity Advisory Committee meeting. He was in attendance at a Cisco Systems presentation and the Lindbergh High School choral assembly.

Poff attended the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting and the recent Renton Community Band concert. She also participated in the Headstart Candlelight Family Feast and a Renton Community Foundation

meeting. She reminded the audience that the Circle of Giving Awards would be presented on January 16 at 4:00 p.m. at the Kohlwes Education Center.

Talley mentored at Kennydale and McKnight and joined the superintendent on a site visit to Maplewood Heights. He also attended the Sartori graduation.

Maxwell was also present at the Sartori graduation, Lakeridge winter program and the Renton Rotary Youth of the Month interviews. She attended the Sea-King Counties Governor’s Affairs meeting (they endorsed the February 3, 2004 levy!) and a Budget Advisory Committee meeting. She was present at the new Aquatic Center dedication and a Highlands Neighborhood Association meeting. She invited the Board to attend the Eastside Coalition of Chambers breakfast meeting on January 7. She commented she stopped by Maplewood Heights on the recent storm day and everything was running smoothly.

RECESS

At 9:55 p.m. a recess was requested for 30 minutes regarding legal and property matters with action following. The executive session convened at 10:00 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

The regular meeting of the Board reconvened at 10:19 p.m. Poff moved to approve a Settlement Agreement and Release with Nuprecon, Inc., a subcontractor who worked on the Renton High School remodel project. Talley seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 10:20 p.m. Merrill moved and Talley seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board. Unanimous vote. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at the Kohlwes 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.