

**TOPPENISH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 202  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 26, 2011

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** District Office - Board Conference Room  
306 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, WA 98948

**PRESENT:** Maryrose Gonzalez, Richard Lommers, William Rogers and Rick Schutz

**MEMBER EXCUSED:** Gonzalo Macias

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Superintendent John M. Cerna, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching Patty Schmella, Executive Director of Personnel and HR Jeanette Ozuna, Doris Dorr, Shawn Myers, Deborah Crinzi, Dave Andrews, Charles Murphy, Teri Martin, Anastasia Sanchez, Argelia Alaniz, Brenda Mallonee, Mike Ayling, Patty Diaz, Dawn Weddle, Matt Piper, Lucy Reynolds, Parker Reynolds, Patricia Sweezy, Shawna Emch, Donna Barr, Laura Avendaño, Karen Avendaño, Jonathan Avendaño, Arturo Avendaño, Janie Lopez, Barb Moses, Diane Sampson, Isamar Gutierrez, Alicia Gutierrez, Trevor Greene, Debbie Dougherty, Robert Roybal, Karen Wells, Angela Soto, Eligio Jimenez, Recording Secretary Danelia Arellano, and others

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Schutz called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**COMMUNITY INPUT**

Diane Sampson addressed the Board regarding the Lets Draw the Line Campaign. She provided brief background information regarding the campaign and invited the Board to the April 28 event at the Toppenish High School.

**ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA**

President Schutz called for a motion to adopt the school board agenda. Director Rogers moved to adopt the agenda, and Director Lommers seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

President Schutz called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Lommers moved to approve the consent agenda, and Director Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the March 22, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### **APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION LETTER**

Approval of Ruben L. Prieto's letter of resignation effective April 1, 2011.

### **APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST**

Approval of Monica Saldivar's maternity leave of absence request; 6/13/11 to 8/19/2011.

### **APPROVAL OF EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS**

- Formal permission granted for two students who attended the Washington State Indian Education Association Conference, April 17-20, 2011 in Tulalip, WA. Verbal approval was obtained by President Schutz on 4/14/11.
- Permission granted for Jeane Williamson to take a group of four migrant students from the Toppenish High School to attend the NW Renewable Energy Institute to observe the Wind Turbine Program. This trip will take place May 5-6, 2011 in Vancouver, WA.
- Permission granted for Lola Ceja to take 20 high school students to the Adelante Con Educación Conference at the University of Washington in Seattle, May 13-14, 2011.

### **APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS**

- Formal permission granted for the Toppenish High School English Department to take 23 students to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, April 22-25, 2011. Verbal approval was obtained by President Schutz on 4/13/11.
- Permission granted for Rose Miller to take a group of seven students from the Toppenish High School to participate in the Yakama Language Bowl in Pendleton, Oregon, April 27, 2011. This trip is financed by ASB.
- Permission granted for Geordy Nelson to take two students from the Toppenish High School to compete in the Family Career & Community Leaders of America National Conference, July 8-14, 2011 in Anaheim, CA.

### **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2-11 REDUCTION IN FORCE 2010-2011**

Approval of Resolution No. 2-11 Reduction in Force, which authorizes the Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent to decide how many and which classified employee positions will be subject to the reduction in force.

### **APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2011**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND PAYROLL**

- |   |         |              |
|---|---------|--------------|
| ▪ General Fund X-Cycle<br>Warrant No. 173229-173229 | 3/31/11 | \$5,088.78   |
| ▪ General Fund<br>Warrant No. 173285-173471         | 4/29/11 | \$712,231.98 |
| ▪ ASB Fund<br>Warrant No. 12319-12332               | 4/29/11 | \$14,633.96  |

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND PAYROLL (cont.)**

▪ Transportation Fund Warrant No. 25-25	3/31/11	\$64,103.44
▪ Transportation Fund Warrant No. 26-26	3/31/11	\$65,249.75
▪ Transportation Fund X-Cycle Warrant No. 27-27	4/22/11	\$65,249.75
▪ Capital Projects Fund Warrant No. 1441-1442	4/29/11	\$17,903.01
▪ Payroll Warrant No. 173230-173284 173472-173512	4/29/11	\$2,225,676.58

**REPORTS**

**RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS OF THE MONTH**

The students recognized for outstanding academics and citizenship for the month of April are Karen Avendaño from the Toppenish Preschool and Parker Reynolds from the Lincoln Elementary School. The classified employee of the month recognized for exemplary relationships with students and staff is Argelia Alaniz, a paraprofessional at the Toppenish High School. The fifth grade team at Kirkwood Elementary School was recognized as the Professional Learning Community of the Month for exemplary collaboration in increasing student learning. The team consists of Donna Barr, Shawna Emch, and Patricia Sweesy.

**PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Superintendent Cerna honored Doris Dorr, a physical education teacher from the Toppenish High School, with the People Who Make a Difference Award for the outstanding work she is doing with the afterschool weight loss program. Through this program, Mrs. Dorr has 'helped obese girls earn confidence, poise, and self-assurance in a life of potential neglect, abuse and dysfunction.' Mrs. Dorr was honored with the Unsung Hero for Youth Award by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education on April 1 in San Diego, California.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Enrollment Report-April**

Superintendent Cerna gave the enrollment report for April. The actual head count for the month of April is 3,544 students, which is a decrease (↓) of 11 students from last month. The FTE count is 3,529.16 students reflecting a decrease (↓) of 11.62 FTE students. The bilingual count decreased (↓) by 9 students and is at 1,157, which represents 32.65% of the student population. The special education count, including birth to two years, is at 464 students, same count as last month, and represents 13.09% of the student population. The student count for the Washington Web Academy is 138 students and 186 students for the Computer Academy of Toppenish Schools.

### **SIG Grant Award - \$1.97 million**

Superintendent Cerna reported he and the following people; Patty Schmella, Jeanette Ozuna, Debbie Crinzi, Dawn Weddle, Liz Hockens and Patty Diaz worked on the School Improvement Grant for Valley View Elementary School. He said this year's grant was much more difficult to write than last year. However, the time spent on writing the grant was well worth it because we are going to receive \$1.97 million dollars to transform Valley View Elementary School. Mr. Cerna said we already received approval from OSPI on the plan, which will be presented to the staff at Valley View in the near future. Mrs. Ozuna has also been diligently working with the Union on creating a Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Audit Exit Conference**

Superintendent Cerna reported the Audit Exit Conference went really well; no audit exceptions or findings were filed.

### **Senate and House Budget**

Business Manager Dave Andrews reported the House, Senate and Governor's budgets were released today and he provided a summary comparing the House and the Senate budgets. The net loss for the district according to the House budget is \$1,669,323 and according to the Senate's version it is \$1,624,733.

### **Office of Civil Rights Complaint**

Superintendent Cerna reported the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) complaint filed against the District was closed. The OCR is conducting a statewide compliance review that will address the issue raised in the complaint filed against our District. The complaint alleged that our District was violating Title IX by failing to provide female students equal opportunities to participate in interscholastic athletics compared with opportunities that are provided to male students.

### **Washington, DC Visitation (NAFIS)**

President Schutz and Superintendent Cerna attended the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools Conference (NAFIS) in Washington, DC. President Schutz said the conference was good and they had a good meeting at the "Hill". He said the positive news is that Impact Aid is not on the table for elimination. They are working together on legislation to fully fund it. The response was positive; everyone understands the need to keep Impact Aid funding.

Superintendent Cerna reported they also had an opportunity to meet with the National Migrant Director. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the rules and regulations for migrant funds which have been very stringent since the early 80's. He said they asked the Director to consider taking a look at some of the parameters and loosening some of the strings. Under the current parameters, nothing has changed in the last 30 years. The migrant students are still dropping out; over 50% nationwide. Mr. Cerna said the funds need to be provided for enhancement programs for all students, not just migrant students. An invitation to visit our District was extended to them and they said they would visit us.

### **WSIEA – WA State Indian Education Association Conference**

Superintendent Cerna reported he attended the Washington State Indian Education Association Conference. He said overall the conference was very good and he learned something new about the culture. He said he doesn't plan to attend as many conferences next year. One of the reasons he is attending several of the conferences this year is to understand his responsibilities as superintendent.

### **Achievement Award for Toppenish High School, April 27, Lincoln High School, Tacoma**

Superintendent Cerna informed that Mrs. Schmella, Mr. Greene and he are driving to Tacoma after the Board meeting tonight. They will be attending the ceremony honoring the Toppenish High School with the Washington Achievement Award for the Language Arts Program.

### **WIIN Grant – Eligible for three more grants at \$25,000 each**

Superintendent Cerna reported the District is eligible for three more Washington Improvement Implementation grants. We would have been eligible for four, but since Valley View Elementary was awarded the School Improvement Grant, they are no longer eligible.

### **Professional Learning Communities Training, May 12-13, Pasco**

Superintendent Cerna reported there are forty staff members attending the Professional Learning Communities training in Pasco, May 12-13. For most of the staff members attending, it would be their first time receiving PLC training.

### **I-3 Grant – STEM**

Superintendent Cerna reported our District is applying again to be part of an I-3 grant, which is a STEM grant (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The grant is for \$15 million dollars over five years and mainly for the Toppenish High School's engineering and biomedical program.

### **GEAR UP University of WA Grant – 6-12**

Superintendent Cerna reported we are also applying for another GEAR UP University of Washington grant for grades 6-12.

### **HEC (Higher Education Coordinating Board) State Grant - 6-12 Middle/High School; 7-12 EAGLE**

Superintendent Cerna reported we have been invited to apply for a Higher Education Coordinating Board grant again after receiving one four years ago. The participating schools for this grant would be the Toppenish Middle/High schools and EAGLE. EAGLE was not part of the grant last time.

**WASA Awards Banquet, May 5, 5:45 pm, Howard Johnson Hotel, Yakima**

Superintendent Cerna reported the WASA Awards Banquet will be on May 5 at 5:34 in Yakima. He said Patty Schmella and Director Maryrose Gonzalez will be representing him as he is scheduled to be out of town.

**SCHOOL BOARD REPORT**

Director Maryrose presented several reports and they are as follows:

On March 23, 2011, she attended the district's Resource Management Team meeting where representatives of many entities were present. This, in an attempt to openly communicate and share resources that will enrich the learning behaviors of children. It is also a place for school personnel to gain some knowledge on learning styles of students, cultures and news of what each other's' school activities are for the month. As she understands, these meetings are open to anyone or entity interested in wanting to collaborate and invest their time in adding to the school districts resources to improve a student's learning environment. She said she finds these meetings always informative.

On April 16, 2011, the Toppenish Middle School hosted a mini pow-wow from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There were vendors and the 8th grade middle school students' assisted their parents in the sales of candy, pop, fry bread and Indian tacos. There were many colorful costumes and the Yakama Nation Warriors opened up the event by presenting the colors. Arlen Washines was the master of ceremonies and on behalf of the district, she thanked them for their time in helping the kids with their event. Mrs. Gonzalez also thanked Norberta Scabbyrobe for coordinating the event and obtaining the drummers and to everyone who helped make the pow-wow happen. The event was open to the public and it's hoped that next year's pow-wow will be bigger and better.

On April 20, 2011, she attended the Toppenish School District Volunteer Appreciation luncheon. Various members of the community were honored for taking time out of their lives to lend to the children's education. The food was outstanding and the company was great. The district is proud to have such committed people and commends them for their efforts.

On April 21, 2011, she attended the Washington State School Director's regional meeting at Wapato Middle School. She attended a session on the evaluation of the Superintendent and how this process becomes a powerful tool in the continuous improvement of the teaching/learning ratio throughout the entire district. She said as directors for this district, it is our responsibility to ensure improvement in student achievement and holding the district accountable for meeting student learning expectations. This would include evaluating the superintendent realistically and on a clear and focused expectation. Information was provided about what other districts do; the framework from which superintendent standards were developed as approved by the Policy Board for Educational Administration; examples of self-appraisals that boards can use for themselves to ensure we are doing our part; examples of superintendent evaluation instruments used by boards in their evaluations of superintendent's; and model contracts.

They also received an OSPI update by Alan Burke regarding bills that were either dead, passed or submitted to the House and the Senate. Harry Frost reported that we are in a 5.1 billion deficit while working with three different budgets. Regarding LEA, it was urged upon directors to voice our concerns and support for retaining LEA. To cut the deficit, the Governor is proposing to do away with OSPI and WSSDA; other proposals were to streamline K-3 learning up to college level. It was also reported that this would be a first step to losing local control and self-governance within our districts with somebody else on the outside controlling our budgets. This is something Mrs. Gonzalez was not in favor of. They watched a video that featured Marie Sullivan who is the WSSDA Director of Governmental Relations. She reported that the house/senate are in special session and for the moment are protecting LEA. K-3 is being negotiated; there is discussion as to whether the schools will cut days or furlough staff. There will definitely be smaller budgets at least through the next school year. The top legislative priorities for school boards continue to be its opposition in LEA decreases; unfunded mandates or at least new unfunded mandates while trying to seek remedy to existing challenges with current unfunded or underfunded mandates; WSSDA will continue to be involved in collaboration efforts that will hopefully implement funding of basic education as it is our goal to be able to offer and review options to create sustainable dollars. She said overall, there was much information provided that she yet has to read. It was a good session and we had the opportunity to share cheers and jeers. It is anticipated that with further collaboration we can come out with a workable plan that will benefit the education of our students while balancing teacher's teaching, planning and preparation time without interruption. Seeking excellence is what we here at TSD are all about.

Director Lommers reported he also attended the same WSSDA Regional workshop Director Gonzalez attended and because she did an excellent job in summarizing the workshops he would not add to that report. Director Lommers thanked Mrs. Weddle for the invitation to tour the Toppenish Middle School, and for the question and answer time they had. Lastly, Director Lommers encouraged the Board to consider the BoardDocs program. He has done some research and found that there are some districts that have tried to run their own program especially if they have a qualified technical team and found that it is not worthwhile. He spoke with Wapato School District's Board members and they are very pleased with BoardDocs. The Superintendent at Wapato has told Mr. Cerna that she is in favor of the program. Director Rogers said even though he wasn't at the presentation provided, he has had an opportunity to read all the documentation provided by Mr. Cerna. At this time, his concern is the cost in light of the District's financial situation. Mrs. Ozuna informed that TransACT is providing a similar program that is much less expensive and will look into it for the Board. The cost with TransACT is about \$1,800 a year compared to \$6,000 a year with BoardDocs.

### **GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Barb Moses, Principal Intern, presented highlights of Garfield Elementary School Improvement Plan. She reported in reading they continue to use the Walk to Read model, and they have moved from using DIBEL's to DIBEL's Next, which is similar to DIBEL's but it is based on a composite score. The composite score is built by fluency, accuracy, vocabulary and comprehension, which gives a better picture of where the student is at. In Math, they are continuing the implementation of First Steps, a diagnostic program. Sasha Hammond from ESD 105 is providing ongoing professional development and support to our teachers. The WIIN Center is also helping align our programs to the new common core standards.

In writing, Garfield is going forward with Step Up to Writing. Students are doing really well with this program, which has a major focus on handwriting and penmanship; students are seeing more success in their writing and are taking pride in their work. In the area of Family Involvement, they have family nights every month. She said the PTO has great leadership and continues to gain strength and momentum. They have seen an increase in involvement with volunteers. This year, Garfield had about a 95% attendance at its Spring Conferences as a result of our teachers doing home visits and calling parents at home. In Technology, there are a lot of Workshops on Demand going on such as Excel, SMART notebook software, library internet research, PowerPoint and Mobi Slate training. Garfield is also working on research based instructional strategies. As a result of losing our instructional coaches in math and reading, we now have lead teachers. There is one lead teacher per grade level that facilitates the Professional Learning Communities. She said they also started Data Binders a new idea shared by Lincoln Elementary, which show each student's progress throughout the different subject areas. She informed they are also continuing with GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition and Design), a program designed to help English Language Learners but is serving all students. Garfield is working on the Marzano High Yield Strategies. With these strategies teachers start by setting objectives and providing feedback, then move to cues, questions and advance organizers. Now they are into reinforcing effort and providing recognition. Mrs. Moses extended an invitation to the Board to visit Garfield Elementary School.

### **TOPPENISH HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Charles Murphy, Principal Intern, presented the Toppenish High School Improvement Plan. He reported Toppenish High School is a recipient of the 2010 Washington Achievement Award due to the Language Arts Program. Mr. Murphy shared the mission statement and the beliefs and the School Improvement Goals which are as follows: Reading - Student reading HSPE scores will increase from 67.2% to 70% in 2011; Writing - Student writing HSPE scores will increase from 80.1% to 83% in 2011. Math - 100% of our students will show measurable and statistically significant gains in math performance as measured yearly by either MAPs or another test. Science - Looking at adopting new curriculum with Project Lead the Way. Technology- Trying to increase technology usage by integrating technology with the advisory classes. Family Involvement- Toppenish High School will continue to seek opportunities for student and family engagement during and after school.

In reading they continue analyzing data and progress monitoring, ELL strategies are utilized in daily lessons (GLAD/ SIOP); they teach vocabulary relevant to context/content. They are preparing students and aligning common assessments to the HSPE and are incorporating reading strategies in all content areas. In writing, they are continuing to align it to the HSPE. The English Department is meeting on a regular basis to update their common assessments and develop new writing prompts. They are also trying to pilot a new technical writing course. In math, they are using more data to improve instruction through increased and targeted professional development. In science, we are moving towards the implementation of getting more kids excited about math and science with the adoption of biomedical science classes.

Mr. Murphy lastly highlighted the strategic planning goals. He said all of the professional development is centered on individual student learning needs, and collegial research is included in professional development. The staff meets regularly and includes data driven discussions about teaching and learning. They openly share about progress, findings, success and areas for growth.

#### **PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES REPORT**

No report was provided this month.

#### **TOPPENISH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Superintendent Cerna read written report provided by Teri Winckler, TEA President. She reported this has been a very busy month. They have had a couple of meetings with district administration and are working together to solve issues. One issue they are working on is bargaining and they are pretty much on the same page. They have proposed a few language changes and are waiting for a response, which should come this week. Since receiving the SIG grant for Valley View, Mrs. Winckler has been busy answering a myriad of questions concerning this grant. She has also had a meeting with the Valley View staff regarding the SIG grant. Yesterday, two Valley View representatives, Doug Radach, and Mrs. Winckler attended a seminar sponsored by WEA regarding the SIG grant. This meeting was very informative as we had a chance to talk to the other schools in their second year of the grant. They gave us information on what they wished they had done differently. She informed that Mrs. Ozuna attended their last TEA meeting where she presented the most current information regarding evaluations, and of which the members found very helpful. Lastly, she said once again, thanks for serving the community and the children of Toppenish.

#### **NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

Toppenish High School teachers Shawn Myers, Melissa Turner, and Mike Ayling presented a report on the National Science Teachers Association Conference they attended. The group provided a handout of all the sessions they attended at the conference. Mr. Myers said he attended a few sessions on the concept of project based learning in science and technology after visiting STEM schools in Nevada and Arizona. One of the concepts he brought back from the conference is the project-based approach and is using it in his biology class to teach ecology. With this approach he is guiding and facilitating the process of learning while the students are designing and conducting experiments, doing research and writing reports centered around one common project.

Mr. Ayling thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend and said the conference reinforced a lot of the changes they making at the High School. He attended several technology sessions since that is one of his main areas of focus at the High School. He said one main things reinforced at the conference was to increase the use of technology. He said we need to keep students learning with what is going to be in their future.

Ms. Turner reported she is a first year teacher and was overwhelmed with all the information available. She said it was nice to know she has a lot of resources available when she needs them. One of the main concepts she brought back was using systems to breakdown components and showing students how they work.

Mr. Myers thanked the Board and district administration on behalf of the Science Department for the opportunity to attend the conference. Mr. Ayling recommended allowing the team to attend the next conference scheduled December 8-10, 2011 in Seattle.

### **INTRAMURAL REPORT**

Angela Soto, Intramural Coordinator, presented a summary of the goals, statistics, 2010-11 schedule, and summer plans for the Toppenish Schools Intramural (TSI) program. She reported the main goal every year is to increase participation, integrate TSI with summer school and after school programs, incorporate character education, incorporate more short term activities and recruit more site leaders. Last summer the program had over 300 students, grades 2-6 registered with the daily high of 47 students and the daily low of 24 students; average attendance was 34 students. Currently, TSI has 286 students registered with 49 students at Kirkwood, 85 at Garfield, 74 at Lincoln and 78 at Valley View. During the school year the following sports are offered Monday-Thursday for students in grades 2-5: flag football, dodge ball, volleyball, basketball, fit camp, soccer and softball. Ms. Soto extended an invitation to the Board to attend the softball tournament May 2-3 at Valley View Elementary School. Summer plans include rotating groups of students so they are in the classroom part of the time and participating in a sport the other half of the time. This year the summer camps will be shortened from six weeks to four weeks as it will be integrated with summer school.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **PROCLAMATION FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK, MAY 2-6**

Superintendent Cerna presented the Proclamation for Teacher Appreciation Week. President Schutz called for a motion to proclaim May 2-6 as Teacher Appreciation Week. Director Lommers moved to approve the proclamation, and Director Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **POLICY UPDATE – FIRST READING 5410P PERSONNEL: SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYMENT**

President Schutz called for a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 5410P Substitute Employment. Director Rogers moved to approve the first reading, and Director Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Schutz adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. with no further business.

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John M. Cerna, Secretary to the Board

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Rick Schutz, President