

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2011

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Maryrose Gonzalez, Richard Lommers, Gonzalo Macias, and Rick Schutz

MEMBER EXCUSED: William Rogers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Superintendent John M. Cerna, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching Patty Schmella, Executive Director of Personnel and HR Jeanette Ozuna, Susan Rice, Patty Diaz, Robert Roybal, Natividad Godines, Reyna Herrera, Kai Christianson, Christian Jimenez, Terri Winckler, Doug Lieberg, Maria Villegas Gutierrez, Ingrid Lieberg, Anastasia Sanchez, Xavier Stage, Bertha Cerna, John Cerna, Micaela Cerna, Geovannie Garcia, Trevor Greene, Sean LaRoche, Rev. Enedeo Garza, Enequina Garza, Esly Garza, Alicia Anaya, Kevin Barr, Omar Zavala, Juan Alcalá, Kyle Janisch, Steven Sohapp, Yvette Vera, Charles Murphy, Barb Schell, Frank A. Chandler, Deborah Crinzi, Teri Martin, 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

No community input was provided.

ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the February 22, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

APPROVAL OF NEW STAFF RECOMMENDED

Approval to hire Bernabe Avila Cortez, a bilingual paraprofessional for Valley View Elementary School.

APPROVAL OF RETIREMENT LETTERS

- Katherine Cove, retirement effective June, 2011
- Betty Mull, retirement effective August 31, 2011

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION LETTER

Approval of Weldy Schademan's letter of resignation effective the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

- Josefina Chino, maternity leave from 4/4/11 to 5/13/11
- Tracie Crook, maternity leave from 3/23/11 to 4/25/11
- Manuela Guzman, extended maternity leave of absence through 6/10/11
- Jan Schafer, medical leave of absence from 2/22/11 to 4/11/11

APPROVAL OF EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST

Permission granted for members of the Toppenish High School Family Career and Community Leaders of America to attend the leadership conference in Wenatchee, March 22-25, 2011. This trip is financed by ASB.

APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

- Permission granted for the Indian Education Director to attend the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Advisory (SAMHSA) Council meeting, March 28-31, 2011 in Rockville, MD. All travel expenses will be provided by SAMHSA.
- Permission granted for seven administrators and their secretary who attended the Breakthrough Coach training in Wilsonville, Oregon on March 1-2, 2011. The secretaries attended one day, March 2. The WIIN grant and Title funds will be used to pay for this training. Verbal approval was obtained by President Schutz on 2/24/11.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND PAYROLL

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|
| ▪ General Fund X-Cycle
Warrant No. 172931-172931 | 3/17/11 | \$4,446.38 |
| ▪ General Fund
Warrant No. 172932-172125 | 3/31/11 | \$530,098.44 |
| ▪ General Fund
Warrant No. 172126-172126 | 3/31/11 | \$1,390.46 |

▪ ASB Fund Warrant No. 12308-12317	3/31/11	\$5,530.47
▪ ASB Fund Warrant No. 12318-12318	3/31/11	\$287.49
▪ Capital Projects Fund Warrant No. 1440-1440	3/31/11	\$1,128.12
▪ Payroll Warrant No. 173127-173188 173189-173228	3/31/11	\$2,200,513.84

REPORTS

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS OF THE MONTH

The students recognized for outstanding academics and citizenship for the month of March are Osvaldo Arias from Kirkwood Elementary School and Esly Garza from Toppenish Middle School. The educator of the month recognized for exemplary teaching and excellent relationships with students and staff is Kai Christianson, a teacher at the Toppenish Middle School. The fifth grade team at Valley View Elementary School was recognized as the Professional Learning Community of the Month for exemplary collaboration in increasing student learning. The team consists of Bertha Cerna, Angela Purdy, and Xavier Stage.

PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Douglas Lieberg gave a presentation on the history of the Books Donation Program, based out of Bellevue, which got started by his daughter in 2008 at Kirkwood Elementary School. Since the program was implemented Toppenish School District has received over 20,000 books for students to take home. The program is set up in a way that students buy a book with a ticket with the opportunity to trade it for another book once they have read it if they choose. This process is to stimulate reading and increase their reading skills. Mr. Lieberg also spoke about the potential of expanding the program in the Lower Valley using an organization from Arizona called the Reading Seed as a guide if anyone was interested.

Superintendent Cerna honored Mr. Lieberg with the People Who Make a Difference Award for providing outstanding literacy support to the students of Toppenish School District. Anastasia Sanchez commended Susan Rice for coordinating the program and keeping it alive. She has taken countless trips to Bellevue to pick-up the free books for our students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment Report-March

Superintendent Cerna gave the enrollment report for March. The actual head count for the month of March is 3,555 students, which is a decrease (↓) of 7 students from last month. The FTE count is 3,540.78 students reflecting a decrease (↓) of 8.62 FTE students. The bilingual count decreased (↓) by 11 students and is at 1,166, which represents 32.80% of the student population. The special education count, including birth to two years, is at 462 students, which is an increase (↑) of 16 students and represents 13% of the student population. The student count for the Washington Web Academy is 130 students and 185 students for the Computer Academy of Toppenish Schools.

Doris Dorr Receives National Recognition

Superintendent Cerna informed that next month he will be recognizing Doris Dorr, a physical education teacher from the Toppenish High School, who will be receiving national recognition from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education on April 1.

Board Training/Goals

Superintendent Cerna reported the Board had a successful training a week ago Saturday. They received an informative presentation on BoardDocs, which is a paperless system for the Board meetings. He said he has received information and a proposal and will be mailing a copy to the Board members next week. The Board also worked on goals and will be sending the final draft also next week.

School Improvement Grant

Superintendent Cerna reported they will be having a conference call with OSPI tomorrow at 9:30 am regarding the School Improvement Grant (SIG). This grant is worth \$3.3 million dollars and is for a three-year period. He commended and thanked the team who worked very hard on the SIG grant. The team includes Patty Schmella, Jeanette Ozuna, Deborah Crinzi, Patty Diaz, Dawn Weddle, and Liz Hockens.

Legislative Visitation

President Schutz attended the WSSDA Legislative Conference in Olympia with Superintendent Cerna and reported nothing much has changed; the budget shortfall continues to increase. The local representatives are saying there will be cuts across the board but they don't know where. President Schutz said we need to start thinking about any budget cuts that need to be made now because next year will be worse.

Superintendent Cerna said the biggest funding source for our district is LEA and kindergarten, and hopefully they will not cut those areas. He also said there is not much to say and after speaking to some of the legislative representatives we found that they don't know what to do. The state budget shortfall is \$780 million dollars and the legislature is now looking for \$5.1 billion dollars.

Breakthrough Coach – Administrator/Secretary Training

Superintendent Cerna reported all administrators and their secretaries went through Breakthrough Coaching. We are going to be doing business a little bit different. Mr. Cerna said he would like to provide an informative presentation to the Board on this new concept of Breakthrough Coaching. We are looking at saving time, being more efficient and not duplicating services. He said there are some positive strategies and some that he doesn't agree with. We will pick and choose what we want to implement. The Administrative Team will be meeting on April 8 to discuss the non-negotiables and they will spend most of the day discussing the implementation process.

Office of Civil Rights Complaint

Superintendent Cerna reported the district has formally received an Office of Civil Rights Complaint (OCR). However, they will not give us any information. There are currently thirty-nine school districts that have received this similar complaint including Zillah and Highland in the Lower Valley. They will not give any specifics other than it is a Title IX complaint and it has to do with discrimination against female athletics. Mr. Cerna said this accusation is so untrue and we are prepared with the paperwork. Brett Stauffer, Athletic Director, has done an excellent job in collecting the data. After further speaking to the person leading the investigation, she said to hold off because they may not go any further with the complaint.

HSPE – High School Proficiency Exam

Superintendent Cerna informed the High School Proficiency Exam is underway. Students were tested in reading and writing on March 15-17 and are scheduled to take the science test on April 12. Patty Schmella informed that math is not a state test at this time and is considered an End of Course test this year. This test which includes algebra and geometry will be completed during the last three weeks of school.

NAFIS Spring Conference, April 2-6, 2011, Washington, DC

Superintendent Cerna informed the NAFIS Conference is April 2-6 in Washington, Dc; he and President Schutz will be attending.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

No report provided this month.

EAGLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Robert Roybal, Principal, presented an overview of the School Improvement Plan for EAGLE and the development process of the plan. He said they have identified five goals based on our reading, math, writing scores. They also are looking at reducing bullying by 20%. They have a 24-day grading period followed by student-lead conferences at the end of every 24 day period. Something new they offered on the first night of the parent conferences is a job/career fair. We had over 20 local businesses including representation from colleges.

In developing the School Improvement Plan, EAGLE had an extensive compilation and review of school performance data using the WASL scores, MAP scores, HSPE/MSPE scores, and data carousel. EAGLE is also participating in the WIIN (Washington Improvement and Implementation Network) training being offered district-wide. They also looked at the math trainings and programs being implemented. Mr. Roybal said they realized that students were able to move beyond algebra and are now offering geometry. EAGLE also looked at the preparation for transition into the Accelerated Reader program and is also taking advantage of the Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) training offered by the district. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) have also been implemented at EAGLE. They completed a book review on the DuFour PLC model, and will be sending staff to the training in the Tri-Cities in May. Mr. Roybal informed communication at all levels has improved. He also said student accountability is something they are all concerned about and did a revision and standard implementation of the discipline plan. EAGLE has adopted and implemented a decision-making matrix, they have school improvement leadership teams and action teams, site council, and various active building committees.

Mr. Roybal also gave a summary of "Year 2 and Beyond Plan" which includes a high expectation belief system for students, and highly functional professional learning communities. They plan to continue with standards-based instruction in reading, writing, math and science. Their goal is to have all students reading at grade level by the end of 9th grade. They plan on continuing with the caring learning environment by offering family nights, Treaty Day Float celebration, having career/job fairs, and having motivational speakers for students.

VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Deborah Crinzi, Principal, presented a summary and highlights of the Valley View Elementary School Improvement Plan. She began by sharing the vision and mission statement. She said they are fulfilling the core subject growth plans by using data to guide instruction. They have established goals in reading, writing, math, parent involvement and school safety. Technology is used to integrate instruction. Assessments are used to help continue to look at improvement.

As a result of the staff's parent involvement commitment, all teachers belong to a committee such as literacy, science, math, safety and communications. Every committee sponsors a family night, and at every family night there are free books from the Book Donation Program.

Ms. Crinzi also reported tutoring is one of the areas that is very important to Valley View to extend learning time. They have tutoring before and after school, during recess, and even on Saturdays. Not only staff is helping with the tutoring program but also fifth graders; staff and students are helping each other and working together to increase academics. Ms. Crinzi stated alignment and accountability will now be Valley View's chant for the remainder of the year. The teachers want to align themselves vertically; they are in agreement to what and how they teaching. They are accountable for helping students achieve.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES REPORT

No report was provided this month.

TOPPENISH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPORT

Terri Winckler, TEA President, reported that for the past two days the elementary teachers have been receiving GLAD training. After Spring Break they are scheduled to have four additional days of training. On March 19, the District-wide Optional Day, the elementary teachers received GLAD training specifically tied to the science kits. They also received content books relating to one of the science kits. Mrs. Winckler also reported she has had a few conversations with Jeanette Ozuna and John Cerna concerning different issues which were dealt with very quickly and professionally. They also continue to have the monthly meetings. Due to a schedule conflict Mrs. Ozuna was not able to present to the TEA morning group regarding evaluations and will probably reschedule for next month. Mrs. Winckler informed a group of science teachers attended a training in San Diego, which was provided through a grant. Mrs. Winckler spoke with two of the attendees, Shawn Myers and Doug Radach, who said the training was great, and came back with information overload. TEA is sending two people to the "RA" Assembly to hear about our legislator's proposals and vote as the Washington Education Association. Mrs. Winckler lastly reported they continue to have data days with Patty Schmella and valuable math trainings with Sasha.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY – ENGINEERING AND BIOMEDICAL VISITATIONS

Patty Schmella thanked the Board for allowing a team of four staff members to travel to Nevada and Phoenix to visit schools who have Project Lead the Way curriculum. The team included: Patty Schmella, Trevor Greene, Shawn Myers, and Dawn Weddle. The team visited two schools in Nevada and two in Phoenix.

Mr. Greene reported how amazing it was to visit a district that has 378 more schools than we have and with a levy of \$4.5 billion dollars. The team visited two of their five academies, which looked more like junior colleges. He said each building was dedicated to a different strand; they have eleven strands. Some of the recommended courses of study range from bio-tech, broadcast, journalism, construction management, engineering design, and culinary arts. When a student enters their school, they pursue a specific strand through their course of four years followed by an internship. Mr. Greene reported that in Phoenix, they visited two schools, one was called Crest. One of the concerns was that all students entering Crest have to enter into geometry. At the time, we don't have any students entering from the middle school to the high school and taking geometry. We are hoping that the engineering program we have implemented at the middle school and the Gateway to Technology that will be implemented will amplify the math skills.

Mr. Greene reported the team did visit one traditional high school, which was very large. The engineering class they offered was exactly like ours, the only difference was they had a bigger room. We also offer more classes and have more teachers teaching. Mr. Greene stated we have close to 700 students and we offer more engineering classes than any of the high schools we have visited such as Mead, Roosevelt, and Mt. Lake Terrace.

Mrs. Schmella reported an option that she has as a result of the visitations was having a follow-up visit to some of elementary and middle schools. She is interested in visiting the feeder schools and seeing what they are doing to prepare students for the high school. She is planning on taking some of her time during Spring Break to do the visits and attend a training with the Project Lead the Way Regional Directors in Arizona. She also said we have four new people signed-up at the middle school that are going to training this summer on Gateway to Technology. The two teams from the high school and middle school will then be brought together to start the alignment process.

ACTION ITEMS

2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR – SECOND READING

President Schutz called for a motion to approve the final reading of the 2011-2012 school calendar. Director Lommers moved to approve the second reading of calendar #3, and Director Macias seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

READING CURRICULUM UPDATE

Patty Schmella, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching, gave an overview of the elementary reading curriculum and the need for updating it. She said the district has been using the Open Court reading curriculum since 2002 and is due for an update after nine years. Mrs. Schmella spoke about the process of forming a Curriculum Committee with representation from all schools, and obtaining input from staff by sending a survey with three options. Option 1 was not to adopt a new curriculum and just update the material that we currently have. This option received 53 votes. Option 2 was to go with the full fledged adoption. This option received 7 votes. And Option 3, the staff member was not sure and needed more information. This option received 11 votes.

According to the survey results, the Committed agreed to request Board approval to upgrade our current series. A positive factor about the new revision is that it is aligned to all the state standards, and it is also science and social studies based. Mrs. Schmella presented the proposal to update the current series which includes the following: Cost for core curriculum is \$263,000, additional supplemental materials \$142,000, and Spanish materials for our dual language schools \$38,000.

President Schutz called for a motion to approve updating our current Open Court reading series. Director Macias moved to approve the curriculum update, and Director Lommers seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

President Schutz adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m. with no further business.

John M. Cerna, Secretary to the Board

Rick Schutz, President