

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

DATE: Tuesday, October 25, 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

DIRECTOR ABSENT: William Rogers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Superintendent John Cerna, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching Patty Schmella, Executive Director of Personnel and HR Jeanette Ozuna, Margaret Ambrose, Donald Peters, Dave Andrews, David Palmer, Debbie Whitney, Jennifer Sanderson, Jan Vivian, Erinne Steinmetz, Susan Rice, Teri Martin, Ray Martin, Patrisia Diaz, Frank Harris, Kim VanAlstine, Katrina Walsey, Diane Sampson, Jackie Arellano, Leslie M. Snyder, Anastasia Sanchez, Patrisia Diaz, Brenda Mallonee, 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, member of the Community Safety Network, addressed the Board to invite them and the community to the Graffiti Paint-Out on Saturday, October 29th from 9 am to 12 pm. Anyone interested in helping are to meet at Pioneer Park. She also will need people to help barbeque at 11:00 am.

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 Macias moved to approve the consent agenda, and Director Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of September 27, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

APPROVAL OF NEW STAFF RECOMMENDED

Approval to hire Lana Huffman, a fourth grade teacher for Valley View Elementary School.

APPROVAL OF THE FINAL BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2011

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND PAYROLL

▪ General Fund X-Cycle WARRANTS No. 174759-174760	10/10/11	\$13,836.77
General Fund WARRANTS No. 174761-174911	10/31/11	\$639,261.56
▪ Capital Projects Fund WARRANTS No. 1462-1462	10/31/11	\$51,792.00
▪ ASB Fund X-Cycle WARRANTS No. 12447-12447	10/10/11	\$309.35
ASB Fund WARRANTS No. 12447-12474	10/31/11	\$23,840.41
Transportation Vehicle Fund WARRANTS No. 28-28	10/31/11	\$125,998.90
▪ Payroll Warrant No. 174912-174990 174991-175031	10/31/11	\$2,281,177.58

REPORTS

STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Salvador Amezcua from Garfield Elementary School and Alexis Mendoza from the Toppenish Middle School were recognized for outstanding academics and citizenship. Leslie Snyder, a paraprofessional at the Toppenish Middle School, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month and Garfield First Grade team as the Professional Learning Community of the Month. The team consists of Jennifer Sanderson, Erinne Steinmetz and Jan Vivian.

ENERGY GRANT APPLICATION

David Palmer, Schneider Electric, provided an update on the Energy Savings Performance grant which included brief background information on the Investment Grade Audit authorized by the Board in September of 2010. He also spoke about the new OSPI grant program and scoring system and the next steps, which included preparing a resolution of intent to apply for the grant. This resolution must be approved at the January Board meeting and submitted to Schneider Electric who will prepare the grant for submittal to OPSI on February 17. Award notices will be announced March 2, 2012.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment – October

The actual head count for the month of October is 3,645 students, which is an increase (↑) of 65 students from last month. The FTE count is 3,520.84 students reflecting an increase (↑) of 63.88 FTE students. The bilingual count decreased (↓) by 121 students and is at 1,124, which represents 30.26% of the student population.

The special education count, including birth to two years, is at 432 students, which is an increase (↑) of 28 students from last month, and represents 11.85% of the student population. The student count for the Washington Web Academy is 153 students, and 86 students for the Computer Academy of Toppenish Schools.

NAFIS

Director Maryrose Gonzalez provided a detailed report of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools Conference she and Superintendent Cerna attended. First session included a conference orientation about the basics of impact aid. Impact aid was passed in 1950 and formed to make up the lost local tax base to school districts located on federal properties. It is a loss due to people who work on federal properties and not subject to local property taxes; people who work for the military; people who reside on Indian trust/treaty lands; national parks and federal prisons. As of this fiscal year, there are about 275,000 federally connected children and about 1000+ jobs supported by the Impact Aid Program in Washington State alone; and we are one of the 54 districts that are receiving this aid. A presentation was also given by a school district in Arizona on the success they've encountered through the assistance of impact aid. Their test scores and graduation rate improved due to construction which made a significant difference in their learning environment. "Listen up if you want to get paid" was a session that was more for the accountant. It was a rough overview of the new application procedures for impact aid and the types of information that is expected to submit a complete application. Judy Schneider gave an excellent presentation about how Congress works. It was more of a hands-on exercise about how a bill is introduced or how a piece of legislation gets submitted. Impact Aid Advocacy 101 covered and reiterated much of what was covered in the state meeting about what type of information would be helpful to share with the representatives.

On Tuesday, the group had a meeting with Sarah Bolton, Legislative Assistant to Senator Patty Murray. The information she provided included a bill that would be introduced on October 18, 2011. Questions raised included the timely payment issue, reauthorization and budget cuts. The only advice received was to continue to advocate as to why our districts need Impact Aid funding; and to continue to relay how our district utilizes the aid. Janet George, Legislative Aide to Senator Maria Cantwell, spoke about the timely payment issue and the fact that the government is behind in payments by at least three years. Another was the fact that although some districts have not received payments, the payments that were received were deemed "overpayments" and had to be paid back. The question was, how can that be when the districts are owed? That is something school districts hope will get rectified. Senator Cantwell had a short meeting with the group and assured she is doing everything she can to see to it that Impact Aid remains within our districts as it is vital to the survival of some districts. Congressman Doc Hastings was another story altogether. After introductions, Mr. Hastings interrupted and stated that he knew why we were there and appreciated our support. However, he stated that at this time there is nothing that can be done without a budget being passed. There's nothing to indicate whether or not Impact Aid will be lost or retained. His final comment was that he will do what he can to see impact aid through when the time arrives.

Legislative Education Visitation Report

Superintendent Cerna reported the Legislative Education visitation turned out better than anticipated. He said he received many positive comments from the legislators including Representative Sharon Tomiko who stated "Toppenish was the best visit of all; you really set the stage for the rest of the trip." The Legislative Education Committee took a whirled wind tour of schools across eastern Washington from Toppenish to Spokane within a two week period.

Superintendents' Meetings on Budget Cuts

Superintendent Cerna reported the Lower Valley superintendents have been meeting regarding issues to address budget cuts. An area they are looking at is assessment. He said one of their recommendations to the legislature would be to cut back on assessment spending; there are millions of dollars being spent on assessment. He also stated the legislature wants to cut \$550 million dollars out of the \$2 billion dollars that need to be cut by next year. Hopefully by January we would have some answers.

WSSDA Annual Conference, November 17-20

Superintendent Cerna reported he and Directors Rick Schutz, Rich Lommers and Maryrose Gonzalez will be attending the WSSDA Conference in Bellevue, November 17-20.

I-3 Grant Notification in December

Superintendent Cerna reported we should be notified in December of the I-3 grant award results. He said the University of Washington thinks they have a really good chance of obtaining the grant. This is a \$50 million dollar grant over a period of five years which would greatly benefit funding our STEM program.

Gates Early Learning Meeting, October 28

Superintendent Cerna reported we have been invited to attend an Early Learning Meeting at the Gates Foundation on October 28. He said Jeanette Ozuna would be attending to represent our district. This meeting is by invitation only so we were fortunate to have been invited.

Teacher/Principal Evaluation Pilot Grant

Superintendent Cerna reported we were award the Teacher/Principal Evaluation Pilot Grant. There will be five administrators and five teachers who will be working on developing an instructional framework and evaluation tool for the district during this 2011-12 school year. ESD 105 will be facilitating the work which also includes five other school districts. The grant will pay for any travel and substitute expenses. The group will be meeting once a month.

Early School Board Meetings: November 15 and December 13

Superintendent Cerna reported the November and December Board meetings are being held early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and Christmas breaks.

Legislative Dinner, November 7, Sunnyside, 6:00 pm

Superintendent Cerna reported there would be a Legislative Dinner meeting in Sunnyside on Monday, November 7 at 6:00 pm. President Schutz, Director Gonzalez and Superintendent Cerna will be attending.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

No report provide this month.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE REPORT

Donald Peters, PSE President, reported he has been involved in the insurance issue in addition to having had some informal conversations with Jeanette Ozuna, which have resulted in positive feedback from the PSE members. He also reported that some members are going to be involved in the Kirkwood Halloween Festival.

TOPPENISH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPORT

No report provide this month.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY/PROCEDURE UPDATE – SECOND READING 7321/7321P BID REQUIREMENTS

President Schutz called for a motion to approve the final reading of the Policy and Procedure Bid Requirements. Director Lommers moved to approve the second reading, and Director Macias seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Margaret Ambrose, Title VII, Parent Committee Chair, presented the proclamation proclaiming the month of November as American Indian Heritage Month. President Schutz called for a motion to approve the American Indian Heritage Month Proclamation - November. Director Macias moved to approve the proclamation, and Director Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Superintendent Cerna presented the proclamation to proclaim November 13-19 as American Education Week. President Schutz called for a motion to approve the proclamation for American Education Week. Director Lommers moved to approve the proclamation, and Director Macias seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

President Schutz adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. with no further business.

John Cerna, Secretary to the Board

Rick Schutz, President