

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

DATE: Tuesday, September 27, 2011

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Richard Lommers, Gonzalo Macias, William Rogers, and Rick Schutz

DIRECTOR ABSENT: Maryrose Gonzalez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Superintendent John Cerna, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching Patty Schmella, Dave Andrews, Susan Rice, Debbie Whitney, Debbie Crinzi, Maria Magana, Domingo Ramirez, LeAnn Straehle, Donald Peters, Patty Diaz, Eligio Jimenez, Barb Moses, Teri Martin, Doris Dorr, Jackie Arellano, Patricia Sweesy, Donna Barr, Janell Kegley, Jeannie Ferguson, Robert Ferguson, Diane Sampson, Robert Roybal, Terri Winckler, Cecilia Chavez, Frank Harris, Trevor Greene, Michael Romero, Debbie Dougherty, Dawn Weddle, and others

PUBLIC HEARING BOARD DIRECTOR REDISTRICTING

President Schutz opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. The Board reviewed two proposals which included modifications to the School Board District Director boundaries. The revision to the district boundaries were a result of the 2010 census. All Board members were in agreement to select Proposal No. 2. Formal action took place under Action Items. President Schutz opened the hearing for community input and then closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

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, reported that she received an award for her leadership in the "Lets Draw the Line" campaign to reduce underage drinking. She said the award was not just for her but dedicated it to the Leadership Class at the Toppenish High School and the Community of Toppenish. She also stated her grandson Brandon Sampson is the student representative for CSN and he is working on organizing a Toppenish Community Graffiti Paint-Out on October the 29th from 9 am to 12 pm. Anyone interested in helping are to meet at Pioneer Park.

ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA

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

- Revised Agenda with Payroll Amount
- Addition of Consent Agenda Item: New Staff Recommended
- Addition of Consent Agenda Item: Letter of Resignation

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of August 23, 2011 and September 15, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

APPROVAL OF NEW STAFF RECOMMENDED

- Judy Miller, a kindergarten teacher for Kirkwood Elementary School
- Stephen Pyeatt, math teacher for the Toppenish High School
- Sara Sainsbury, a first grade teacher for Valley View Elementary School
- Jesus Sandoval, an English teacher for EAGLE High School
- Ryan Wood, a science teacher for the Toppenish Middle School

APPROVAL OF LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

- Jose Godina
- Jody Hutchinson

APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

- Marcia Stauffer, family illness leave of absence from 9/26/11 to 10/7/11
- Melisa Turner, maternity leave of absence request from 8/22/11 to 9/16/11

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 8-11 DECLARATION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Resolution 8-11 Declaration of Surplus Equipment authorizes the Transportation Department to surplus a 1986 School Bus that is in fair condition and no longer used by the District.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 10-11 DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Resolution 10-11 Declaration of Surplus Property which authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching to surplus text books that are in poor condition and no longer being used by the District.

APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

- Permission granted for a Board Director to attend the National Indian Education Association Conference, October 26-30, 2011 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Permission granted for a Preschool teacher, who is also an NIEA board member, to attend the National Indian Education Association Conference, October 25-30, 2011 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Travel expenses are covered by NIEA.
- Permission granted for a five people (staff/parents) to attend the National Indian Education Association Conference, October 25-30, 2011 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2011

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND PAYROLL

▪ General Fund ACCRUALS WARRANTS No. 174463-174613	9/30/11	\$ 928,237.27
▪ General Fund ACCRUALS WARRANTS No. 174614-174614	9/30/11	\$ 127,322.00
▪ General Fund CURRENT WARRANTS No. 174615-174661	9/30/11	\$ 214,839.97
▪ General Fund CURRENT WARRANTS No. 174662-174662	9/30/11	\$ 7,836.77
▪ Capital Projects Fund ACCRUALS WARRANTS No. 1455-1461	9/30/11	\$ 197,124.85
▪ ASB Fund ACCRUALS WARRANTS No. 12429-12443	9/30/11	\$ 14,917.01
▪ ASB Fund CURRENT WARRANTS No. 12444-12446	9/30/11	\$ 368.24
▪ Payroll Warrant No. 174663-174720 174721-174758	9/30/11	\$ 2,219,526.46

REPORTS

STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Jocelyn Santacruz from Kirkwood Elementary School and **Domingo Ramirez** from the Toppenish High School were recognized for outstanding academics and citizenship. Two staff members from Valley View Elementary School were recognized for exemplary relationships with students and staff. **Jeannie Ferguson**, a cook, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month and **Janell Kegley**, a kindergarten teacher, was recognized as the Educator of the Month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment – September

The actual head count for the month of September is 3,580 students. The FTE count is 3,567.93 students. The bilingual count is at 1,224, which represents 34.19% of the student population. The special education count, including birth to two years, is at 395 students and represents 11.03% of the student population. The student count for the Washington Web Academy is 144 students, and 71 students for the Computer Academy of Toppenish Schools.

WSSDA Legislative Meeting

Superintendent Cerna reported he and President Schutz attended the WSSDA Legislative Assembly on Friday and Saturday (Sept. 23-24) in the Tri-Cities. He said the meeting was very interesting. Topic of discussion included a \$1.4 billion dollar budget reduction. Representative Ross Hunter from Bellevue was very negative at the meeting and said he was going after Levy Equalization which represents about 20% of our basic education budget or \$4.2 million dollars. Superintendent Cerna also reported that Superintendent Steve Myers is actively organizing Lower Valley superintendents to take turns and attend the November Special Legislative Session and rally for Levy Equalization

Legislative Education Committee to Visit District, October 4

Superintendent Cerna reported the Washington State House Education Committee will be visiting EAGLE High School and Toppenish High School on October 4. He said this is a once in a life time opportunity. There are fourteen legislators planning on attending. They will be visiting EAGLE first and then having lunch at the Toppenish High School with Project Lead the Way students and teachers followed by walk-throughs to three PLTW classrooms. Finally, at 1:45 pm they will meet with the Rivers of Culture Preschool Consortium in the high school library.

Budget Reduction (State Legislature)

Superintendent Cerna covered this topic during WSSDA Legislative Meeting.

Policy Update Costs \$5,800 - completed within a year

Superintendent Cerna reported WSSDA is able to revise our policy manuals and bring all of our policies up to date within a one year period for \$5,800. Kathleen McDonald will be the person assigned from WSSDA to revise the manuals. She has requested a time to meet with the Board, the Administrative Team and the District Executive Team.

EduPortal (2 month free trial)

Superintendent Cerna reported we need to make a decision about implementing EduPortal. A two month free trial has been offered to the district. The cost is about \$1,300 per year which is much less expensive than BoardDocs.

TEA Monthly Meeting

Superintendent Cerna reported that he, Jeanette Ozuna, Teri Winckler, and Doug Radach started their monthly TEA meetings last month. The meetings have been going really well and are very productive. They are being proactive with issues that may come up in the near future.

HU105 Grant – Total #'s

Superintendent Cerna reported we have fifteen student teachers involved in the HU105 program at Kirkwood Elementary School. The HU105 Grant is a partnership with Heritage University and ESD 105. Student teachers have to participate 18 months in the program to earn their Masters degree in teaching. Most of the teachers in the program have BA's but not necessarily in education. The program seems very successful. Mabton and Harrah School Districts implemented this program last year and their scores improved greatly.

University of Washington/GEAR UP Grant

Superintendent Cerna reported he was notified on Friday that the district was awarded the University of Washington GEAR UP Grant totaling \$1.8 million dollars over a period of six year. The grant will cover the Toppenish Middle School starting in October and two years later will roll-up to the High School.

Higher Education Grant (HEC)

Superintendent Cerna reported we were also successful in receiving the Higher Education Grant which is \$420,000 for a period of six years. He said we will probably use the University of Washington GEAR UP Grant for the Middle School and High School and use the High Education Grant for EAGLE. This grant will pay for college visitations and some of the programs implemented at the high school that will be implemented at EAGLE. Mr. Cerna said we are trying to mirror the High School schedule at EAGLE.

(i3) Investing In Innovation Grant

Superintendent Cerna reported we have not had any news on the \$50 million dollar i3 Grant. This is a partnership type STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) grant for the high school. The grant involves 14 school districts and each would get about \$400,000 a year including FTE's.

NAFIS-Impact Aid Fall Conference, October 2-4, Washington, DC

Superintendent Cerna reported he and Director Maryrose Gonzalez will be attending the NAFIS Conference in Washington, DC, October 2-4.

WSSDA Annual Conference, November 17-20, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bellevue

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

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

No report provide this month.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE REPORT

Donald Peters, PSE President, gave a brief report on the National Night Out and the State Convention. He reported thirteen individuals participated in the Toppenish National Night Out serving food. The Toppenish Police Department handed out coloring books. Fifteen backpacks full of school supplies were donated and raffled to the kids. Lastly, he reported they had the State Convention at end of July and were able to send seven people to attend leadership sessions.

TOPPENISH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPORT

Terri Winckler, TEA President, reported they are looking at insurance. The person they met with told them they were overpaying for their dental insurance. He thinks he can get the same or better coverage by going with a different carrier. They have another meeting scheduled later this month to talk about what he found in the analysis.

TOPPENISH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPORT (continue)

Mrs. Winckler also stated that Mr. Cerna told them that he was set out to build relationships and she really feels he is doing that. Issues are being taken care of immediately. Their meetings have taken on a different tone; both sides are being proactive instead of always being reactive. Lastly, she reported they had their first meeting with all the building representatives last month and it went very well.

JOSTEN'S RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE

Toppenish High School teachers Doris Dorr, Mike Romero, and Leann Straehle presented a report on the Jostens Renaissance National Conference they attended in Anaheim, CA. Mrs. Straehle reported on the power of the Renaissance System which changes the culture in schools. It increases test scores, raises grade point averages, improves attendance, decreases discipline referrals, enhances staff/faculty moral, and creates a positive and safe environment. The Renaissance program also guarantees teachers the right to teach and students the right to learn. What this program does is that it bridges the recognition gap by looking at the whole student body and recognizing kids in the middle and low performing or discipline problem students. The program also focuses on recognizing all staff not just faculty. Mrs. Dorr spoke about the "Hat Patrol" which instantly rewards students for doing what they are supposed to be doing in school. Students will also be signing a cap and gown pledging to graduate. On November 9 the Toppenish High School will have the privilege of hosting a Renaissance Coalition from 8:30 am to 12:00. Presenters include the founder of the Renaissance Program and Richard Parkhouse, who are dynamic speakers. The Board was encouraged to attend to see what this program has to offer. This program focuses on the elementary and middle school levels. Mr. Romero said this conference was the best conference he has ever attended. He said this program will bring new life to our whole district.

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Patty Schmella introduced Barb Moses who will be taking over the data and assessment for the district. Mrs. Moses gave a report on the multiple assessments we administer in the district, Measurement of Student Progress (MSP), High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE), Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP), Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and math and reading benchmarks (MBA) and (RBA). She presented graphs showing District results for spring 2011. The results were reported as follows: 3rd grade reading-slight increase; 4th grade reading-increased from 39% to 45%, while state decreased; 5th grade reading-maintained flat line, while the state decreased a bit; 6th grade reading-increased 10%; 7th grade reading-slight decrease; 8th grade reading-increased while the state slightly decreased; 10th grade reading-huge increase 20%; 3rd grade math-decreased and state maintained flat line; 4th grade math-flat line; 5th grade math increased 11%; 6th grade math-huge increase 16%; 7th grade math-huge increase 20%; 8th grade math-11% increase; 10th grade math-huge increase from 14% to 38.9%;

Mrs. Moses reported our MAP's testing determines students' instructional level and suggests the next steps for improvement. Throughout the district, students in grades 2-9 are taking MAPs testing in reading and math and grades 4-9 in science. We are currently working with the high school on how to use this data within the content area instruction. As for Curriculum Guides, we are aligning our curriculum to the state standards. Last year we implemented grade level teams in grades k-8; they worked throughout the summer aligning the curriculum to the state standards. They will continue to meet once a month to analyze the data. We are also blue-printing the standards.

The MBA's and the RBA's are benchmark assessments for reading and math, which are new this year. We have implemented a data warehouse system called DataDirector which allows teachers to retrieve student data, i.e., MAP's, DIBELS. It also has a Test Item Bank, which helped in developing all the math benchmark assessments for the year and we will be doing the same for reading. Mrs. Schmella said we will continue to refine the process and curriculum guides. The DataDirector will be an ongoing implementation this year. President Schutz thanked Mrs. Schmella for increasing the math scores.

ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION NO. 9-11 DISTRICT DIRECTOR REDISTRICTING

President Schutz called for a motion to approve the Redistricting Proposal No. 2 and Resolution No. 9-11 District Director Redistricting. Director Lommers moved to approve the resolution, and Director Macias seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

POLICY UPDATE 7231/7231P FEDERAL IMPACT AID

President Schutz called for a motion to approve the revisions made to Policy and Procedure 7231P Federal Impact Aid. Director Rogers moved to approve the second reading, and Director Macias seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Business Manager Dave Andrews presented the first reading of Policy and Procedure 7321 Bid Requirements and recommended approval. The main revisions included removing specific dollar amounts as required by law and adding a federal section which was recommended by a peer review. President Schutz called for a motion to approve the first reading of the Policy and Procedure Bid Requirements. Director Rogers moved to approve the first reading, and Director Lommers seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

President Schutz adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. with no further business.

John Cerna, Secretary to the Board

Rick Schutz, President