

**TOPPENISH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 202**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

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

**PRESENT:** Maryrose Gonzalez, Richard Lommers, Gonzalo Macias, Jesse Orozco, Rick Schutz

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent John M. Cerna, Assistant Superintendent Jeanette Ozuna, Director of Human Resources Larry Davison, Sandie Alexander, Terri Winckler, Robert Roybal, Patty Diaz, Kari Breeden, Pablo Perez, Brett Stauffer, Sonia Eli, Katie Eli, Dawn Weddle, Shawn Emch, Donna Barr, Anastasia Sanchez, Laura Day, Xavier Day, Vincent Day Jr., Tucelia Day, Eric C. Franzen, Teri Martin, Virginia Sanchez, Stephanie Wood, 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**

Susan Rice, Valley View Elementary Principal, reported several staff members are using the DonorsChoose.org website to solicit donations for classroom materials, and she wanted to share the type of response the teachers have received. She provided each Board Director a copy of an encouraging letter they received from one of the donors who funded four Valley View Elementary teachers.

**ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA**

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

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of August 27, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

**B. APPROVAL OF NEW STAFF RECOMMENDED**

- Kevin Barr, .5 FTE PE/Health Teacher, EAGLE High School
- Matthew Brown, Grades 6-8 Media Teacher, Toppenish Middle School
- Artemio Chavez, First Grade Teacher, Kirkwood Elementary School
- Ira Corliss, .5 Enrichment Teacher, Kirkwood Elementary School
- Lisa Kendall, Paraprofessional (Data Assistant), Toppenish Middle School

**C. APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION LETTER**

- Verena Myers, resignation effective 8/22/13

**D. APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS**

- Jennifer Ramos, leave of absence from 9/23/13 to 9/23/14
- Noelia Soto, leave of absence during the 2013-2014 school year

**E. APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST**

Permission granted for a teacher and former student to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual NALEO National Summit on the State of Latino Education, Principle to Practice: Ensuring Access to STEM Education within the Latino Community in Washington, DC, September 30 to October 2, 2013. Hotel and flight expenses will be paid for by the National Association of Latino Elected Officials.

**F. APPROVAL OF THE MINIMUM BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENT COMPLIANCE APPLICATION**

**G. APPROVAL OF HIGHLY CAPABLE STUDENTS PROGRAM GRANT**

**H. APPROVAL OF STATE TRANSITIONAL BILINGUAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM GRANT**

**I. APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2013**

**J. APPROVAL OF USUAL AND CUSTOMARY BILLS AND PAYROLL FOR SEPTEMBER**

**K. APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND X-CYCLE Warrants No. 1481, 8/30/13, \$39,920.30**

**REPORTS**

**STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNITION**

Katie Eli from Kirkwood Elementary School and William Decoteau from the Toppenish High School were recognized for outstanding academics and citizenship for the month of September. Pablo Perez, a paraprofessional at Valley View Elementary School, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month and Kari Breeden, the health and fitness teacher at Valley View Elementary School as the Educator of the Month.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Student Enrollment**

Superintendent Cerna reported the actual head count for the month of September was 3,795 students and the FTE count was 3,776.10 students. The bilingual count was at 1,082, which represents 28.51% of the student population. The special education count, including birth to two years, was at 463 students and represents 12.20% of the student population. The student count for the following online programs is as follows:

Northwest Allprep	181
Computer Academy of Toppenish Schools	94
Skylar Academy	55

### **CTE Training (STEM Teachers)**

Superintendent Cerna reported twenty-three of our teachers participated in the CTE certification training held this past Saturday. Most of our teachers involved with STEM at the middle school or high school are going through the CTE certification. He said these teachers have made a commitment to attend training one Saturday a month for the next eight months. The GEAR UP program is funding their certification which is a contribution of almost \$56,000. Mr. Cerna said we also have a couple of teachers from Grandview, Royal City, Wapato and East Valley school districts, however more than half of the teachers being trained are from our district.

### **T/PEP Training**

Superintendent Cerna reported they are continuing with T/PEP training for teachers and principals.

### **Preschool Parking Lot**

Superintendent Cerna reported due to safety issues, the architects will be drawing up plans for a modified preschool parking lot. The preschool parking lot has become too congested with the addition of the eighty students.

### **HU105 Partnership Continues**

Superintendent Cerna reported Toppenish School District continues the partnership with the HU105 program through Heritage and ESD 105. There are eighteen teachers at Kirkwood Elementary School and five at Toppenish Middle School. Mr. Cerna said we have hired most of the teachers that have gone through the program with our district. An advantage of this program is that most teachers have spent 18-24 months of training in our district so when they get into the classroom they hit the road running.

### **Hosting Lower Valley Superintendents Meetings**

Superintendent Cerna reported we continue to host the Lower Valley Superintendents' Network meetings. He said he was skeptical about continuing with the meetings however, this year the first training was so good that he and Mrs. Ozuna will continue attending the meetings.

## **Middle School Renovation Plans**

Superintendent Cerna reported the architects are currently in the process of developing plans for the Toppenish Middle School renovation project. At this point we don't know how much it would cost but we do qualify for an 80% match from the State. Mr. Cerna said Mrs. Weddle has been asked to put together a committee to give the middle school staff an opportunity for their input on the renovation. Once the plans are received from the architects a meeting will be scheduled to review the plans and make modifications. Mr. Cerna said he also welcomes input from the Board on the renovation plans for the middle school.

## **School Board Policies**

Superintendent Cerna reported most of the policies have been completed and will be placed online in the near future through EduPortal. The procedures are a work in progress and a section of the 6000 series still has to be presented to the Board for approval.

## **YouthBuild Graduation**

Superintendent Cerna reported the district received a nicely framed Certificate of Appreciation from the YouthBuild Program for allowing them to use our facilities at EAGLE. The program is in its second year and is in the process of selecting students to participate in the program; most of the students will be from Toppenish. This past school year, the YouthBuild program built a house in Granger and plans to build the next house in Toppenish. Mr. Cerna said he is very pleased with this program because it literally saves the lives of some of our students.

## **Upcoming Conferences**

- WSSDA Legislative Assembly, September 19-21, Seattle Airport Marriot
- NAFIS Fall Conference, September 21-25, Washington, DC
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, October 9, 6-8:30 pm, Sunnyside
- WSSDA Annual Conference, November 21-24, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bellevue

## **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT**

Director Lommers reported due to a prior commitment, he was not able to attend the YouthBuild graduation but did have the opportunity to see the house in Granger that was built by the students. He said the kids who gave them a tour of the house were very proud and knowledgeable of what they had done. He also said it was quite an accomplishment for the students who began learning how to hold a hammer to the finish product. On another note, Director Lommers reported the latest news for the drug industry is the lacing of Pop Rock candy with crystal meth and giving it to the kids. He said this is happening all around the Valley so we need to be on the lookout for that type of candy.

Director Gonzalez said she didn't have the opportunity to see the finish product of the house but she did attend the graduation which was well attended. She said a lot of people were honored for their accomplishments and the team work aspect of the program. She is pleased that our District is participating in this type of program and hopes we continue. Director Gonzalez also said she attended the Family Night at Kirkwood Elementary School and saw a bunch of motivated parents and seems it could be a busy year.

Director Orozco reported he also went to see the house built by the students in the YouthBuild program. He said you could see the energy and excitement in the students as they responded to his questions. He said these types of positive programs change the minds of students to a whole different mindset. The kids did an awesome job.

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

No report provided this month.

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

Terri Winckler, TEA President, requested permission to post their union's contract on the district website to make it more accessible to staff. Mrs. Winckler will provide a PDF version of the contract to Mrs. Arellano who will forward it to the Technology Department for posting. Mrs. Winckler also reported they are looking at changing dental and medical insurance carriers and will be having an informational meeting for staff tomorrow at 3:15 PM at the middle school cafeteria. They are looking at Moda for health insurance and Premera for dental insurance. Mrs. Winckler said she will be attending a TPEP training at ESD 105 on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00 PM. Also, Garfield Elementary is hosting a McTeacher's Night on Thursday, September 19, 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

#### **WRITTEN REPORT: GEAR UP NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Joe Monzingo and Cassandra Martinez submitted a written summary of the GEAR UP National Conference they attended in San Francisco, CA.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

No action items presented.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Schutz adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m. with no further business.

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John Cerna, Secretary to the Board

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Rick Schutz, President