

REGULAR MEETING
UMATILLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #8R, HERMISTON
November 7, 2006

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order in the Boardroom of the district office by Vice Chairman Dave Drotzmann at 7:00 PM with the following members present: Alfredo Aceves, Roger Bounds, Tom Ditton, Don Rankin, and Karen Sherman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Darce Driskel, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheri Marlow, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Mark Mulvihill, Business Manager Jim Thompson and Hermiston Herald reporter Luke Hegdal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those present.

BOARD PROCEDURES – Superintendent Darce Driskel reported one change. Item 4C, Summer School Report, will not be discussed tonight. It will be moved to the December 2006 meeting.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – There were no public statements.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mini Grant Reports – Assistant Superintendent Mark Mulvihill described the purpose of mini-grants. Teachers may apply for grants on projects to improve student achievement. Funds come from Title V funds – Innovative Programs. Some applications that showed strong merit but did not qualify as innovative were funded by Curriculum funds. We are funding 19 mini-grants this year. A complete list is included in the board packet.

District Report Cards - Assistant Superintendent Mark Mulvihill reported that six of our eight schools received Strong or Exceptional ratings. West Park and Sunset were recognized as Exceptional. Four of our five elementary schools have received Exceptional ratings in prior years. This shows continued strong performance throughout the district.

Roger Bounds asked if 40.9% of Hermiston teachers with a Masters degree or higher is a low figure? Mr. Mulvihill explained that many teachers in recent years have received their Masters but it is not a requirement.

Mr. Mulvihill also included a sheet with frequently asked questions about the report card to further clarify the report cards.

Vice Chairman Drotzmann said it speaks well of our schools that six of our eight schools scored so well.

Summer School Report – delayed until December due to illness.

COMMUNICATIONS

Oregon School Employees Association – OSEA Representative Lisa Depew reported the OSEA has been busy encouraging people to vote. Bonnie Luisi asked that Lisa send condolences to Darce and Sheri on their retirements. Lisa said it has been a pleasure working with both of them.

Hermiston Association of Teachers – HAT President Lorrie Wade reported that cold and flu season has been hitting already. HAT members have also been busy on voting issues. It is very good to hear how our report cards were--it has encouraged members to become active, and point out to the public that we

do care about students and how things are going. Uniserve (20 other locals) had a leadership retreat at Bar-M Ranch and encouraged people to work on their leadership skills. Hermiston had several teachers in attendance. HAT is pleased with the Executive Director's efforts on the state level to get businesses and others involved in these election issues. Lorrie also agreed with OSEA about losing Darce and Sheri, and let the Board know how much they appreciate these two. Their shoes will be hard to fill.

Umatilla/Morrow ESD – Heather Henslee reported that Carol Gray will be retiring as Migrant/ELL Director as of June 30, 2007. Carol has many accomplishments to her credit, including one of Oregon's largest summer school programs. Her coworker, Virginia Miller, is retiring as of December 31st. Together they have made a huge impact on Migrant/ELL education in this area. The newest Local Service Plan for 2007-08 is being worked on at the ESD. It will be shared in December with Superintendents, and shared with Boards in February. Strategic planning will be completed this month and results will be shared with the ESD Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of October 3, 2006 - A motion was made by Roger Bounds, seconded by Karen Sherman, and passed unanimously that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2006.

ACTION ITEMS

Retirement Notice of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources – Superintendent Driskel reported on the retirement plans of Assistant Superintendent Sheri Marlow effective Dec. 31st. She will continue working for the rest of the school year. Superintendent Driskel stated that Sheri has moved this position to a new level, and thanked Sheri for her service to the district and for being a tremendous team player.

A motion was made by Tom Ditton, seconded by Don Rankin, to accept the resignation of Sheri Marlow effective June 30, 2007. The motion was unanimously, but somberly, passed.

Retirement Notification of Superintendent – Sheri Marlow asked the board to approve the retirement effective March 31st, and resignation effective June 30th, for Superintendent Darce Driskel. There are not enough words this evening. Mark Mulvihill said it well – “he's the heart of the district.” He's our life-blood and we will miss this man who has given his life to this education cause and continued to build a program beyond our dreams. We appreciate all he's done.

A motion made by Tom Ditton, seconded by Alfredo Aceves, and unanimously passed to approve the resignation.

Superintendent Driskel thanked the district for giving him the opportunity to finish his career as Superintendent of this district... this is “the” district.

1st Reading – Policy JN – Student Fees, Fines and Charges - Sheri Marlow requested the Board approve the 1st reading as was discussed at the Board Work Session.

A motion made by Roger Bounds, seconded by Karen Sherman, and passed unanimously to approve the 1st Reading.

1st Reading IGDG – Student Activity Funds - Sheri Marlow requested the Board approve the 1st reading of the Student Activity Funds policy. Karen Sherman moved, seconded by Don Rankin, and unanimously passed to approve the 1st Reading.

1st Reading Policy IKFA – Early and Delayed Graduation – Sheri Marlow requested the Board approve the 1st reading of the Early and Delayed Graduation policy. It included a slight change from the Board Work Session. Roger Bounds asked a question about the last sentence – if it is for both early and delayed, should it read “these options” instead of “this option”?

Roger Bounds moved that the policy be amended to read “these options.” Alfredo Aceves seconded. The amendment passed by a vote of five in favor and one (Tom Ditton) opposed.

Roger Bounds moved and Alfredo Aceves seconded that the board approve the policy reading as amended. It passed by a vote of five in favor and one (Tom Ditton) opposed.

Resolution #06-07-07 – Business Manager Jim Thompson noted corrections to the resolution number and that the fiscal year should read 2006-2007. The budget changes included Title III transfers; Highland Hills received a grant and this moves it to the appropriate budget area, and lastly, Hermiston High School received a Teen Parent Grant, and this appropriates those funds for use by the high school.

A motion was made by Karen Sherman, seconded by Tom Ditton, and passed unanimously that the Board of Education approve Resolution #06-07-07.

Approval of Superintendent Search – Northwest Leadership Associates - Vice Chairman Drotzmann introduced members of Northwest Leadership Associates, being proposed to conduct the search for a replacement for the Superintendent. Dr. Dennis Ray, President, was introduced by George Murdock. Dr. Ray explained they have been in existence for 7 years. They have done well over 100 superintendent searches in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Vice Chairman Drotzmann explained that the Board knew this resignation was coming, and the Board feels fortunate to have this company to assist in finding a new superintendent.

A motion was made by Karen Sherman, seconded by Don Rankin, and passed with a vote of 5 in favor, with 1 abstaining (Alfredo Aceves; because of his employment by UMESD) to hire Northwest Leadership Associates for the superintendent search.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT GROUPING

- A. Acceptance of Gifts
- B. Extra Responsibility Contracts
- C. Extra Responsibility Contract for 2005-2006
- D. Extra Duty Contracts

Roger would like Extra Responsibility item C pulled for discussion.

A motion was made by Tom Ditton, seconded by Roger Bounds, to approve items A, B, & D, and passed unanimously that the Board of Education approve the Action Items/Consent Grouping of Items A, B, and D.

Roger Bounds said he has a problem with the term “Extra Responsibility Contracts” when some of the people aren’t on Hermiston School District staff. With no change, Roger Bounds made a motion to approve item C, seconded by Don Rankin. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Calendar Update – Assistant Superintendent Mark Mulvihill reviewed the November calendar. He noted the OSBA Convention coming up this week, Friday through Sunday.

Monday the 13th is the 1st round of Education Foundation grant recipients. Many grant applications were received.

November 15th – Long Range Planning Committee meeting; four subcommittees will be reporting on the current status of their work.

Thanksgiving week –Elementary – no K-5 school that week. Monday is Trimester Transition Day with evening conferences and Tuesday conferences all day. No school on Wednesday for elementary teachers. Secondary buildings have regular school days on Monday and Tuesday, and Transition Day on Wednesday.

November 21st – Board Work Session at Hermiston High School. Superintendent Driskel reported they would like to start at 6:00 PM due to a large agenda. Board members said that would work for them.

Enrollment Report – Sheri Marlow reported we have 4,797 students currently enrolled. This is down 8 students from last month, but is still 125 more students than last year at this time.

- B. Financial Report – Business Manager Jim Thompson presented the financial report for the district.

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Board Representative –Student Board Representative Heday DeLaCruz (substituting for Ross Worstell) reported that Homecoming went well. He heard good compliments from students and staff. October 30th was the blood drive which went well. The 21st of November is the end of 1st Trimester. Student Leadership is getting ready for the canned food drive. The top 3 classes will receive prizes. In sports, our girls Cross Country team received 2nd at the state meet; Jennifer Macias received 2nd place individually, and many others performed well. The boys finished 4th overall, and there were strong performances there as well. Basketball tryouts started yesterday. The football team 1st round playoff game is against Jefferson this Friday at 7:00 PM at Kennison field.

Board of Education – Karen gave a reminder about the Ed Foundation grant awards Monday in the Board Room. The event is sponsored by Jer Pratton and refreshments will be offered. The Foundation received 42 applications this time.

Vice Chairman Drotzmann gave a reminder from Phil: At OSBA this weekend there are resolutions which our Board publicly supported (regarding association votes for resolutions and candidates being done by mail ballot). Members will have to be in attendance at the OSBA Board Meeting to vote on these proposals. The Resolution Committee meeting is at 7:30 PM. Voting will occur at the 4:00 PM Saturday business meeting.

Tom Ditton complimented Dave Drotzmann on the way he handled the meeting.

Administration – Superintendent Driskel stated he will be talking with the Board by email, as far as accommodations for the OSBA Conference coming up this weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Drotzmann called for a 10 minute recess at 7:55 PM before going into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Drotzmann called the executive session to order at 8:05 PM.
A telephone connection was established with Board Chairman Phil Hamm.

Student Expulsions ORS 332.061- Superintendent Darce Driskel presented information on recommended student expulsions.

A motion was made by Tom Ditton, seconded by Don Rankin, and passed unanimously that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of expulsion on the first two students.

After comments by the 3rd student and his mother, a motion was made by Roger Bounds, seconded by Don Rankin, and passed unanimously that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Expulsion on the third student for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.

Personnel ORS 192.660 (1) (i) - the board discussed the new Superintendent search with Northwest Leadership Associates.

Vice Chairman Drotzmann reconvened the regular meeting at 10:27 p.m.

Vice Chairman Drotzmann adjourned the regular meeting at 10:27 p.m.

Date

Chairman

Superintendent/Clerk

Secretary