



## SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Prosser Consolidated School District #116

**At the school board meeting of Dec. 16, 2008 the following occurred:**

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **The Board of Directors approved:**

- Election of Board Officers for 2009. Dr. Warren Barmore and Kay Brader were re-elected by unanimous vote to their current positions of President and Vice-President respectively.
- Approval of Out of State Travel Request for Kay Brader to attend the Federal Relations Network meeting in Washington D.C. January 29—February 3, 2009 representing educational interests of Prosser and other districts in the 4th Congressional District. The cost is about \$2500. The board also approved Brader's appointment to the network. She abstained from the vote.
- Approval of translation services with Sara Gallegos at 16 cents per word for documents relating to district communications such as letters, transcripts, newsletters and other documents as needed.
- Approval of a gift totaling about \$10,500 from the Whitehead Foundation to provide computers and headphones for Whitstran Elementary. The equipment will be purchased by the district with reimbursement from the Foundation.
- Approval for purchase of Special Education software through Computer Automation Systems. The program will provide reporting capabilities, assessment report management for IEP's plus on-line and on-site professional development. Funding through the Special Education budget totals \$13,720.
- Resolution 11-08: Annual Cancellation of Municipal Warrants for unclaimed payments totaling \$3,212.92 issued in 2007.
- First Reading of Policy No. 6220: Bid Requirements. The new policy complies with state regulations increasing amounts of purchases requiring bids to be solicited.
- Resolution 12-08: Extending Authorization Period for Refunding of UTGO Bonds. The district has attempted to re-finance it's existing bond balance since July 2008. Credit market turmoil has made that impossible to date and this resolution allows additional time to achieve refinancing to give district taxpayers an approximate \$49,000 savings.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- The mileage reimbursement rate effective January 1, 2009 will be \$.55/mile in compliance with IRS regulations. The rate was decreased from \$.585/mile in 2008. Mileage reimbursement is covered under District Policy No. 5341.
- Business Manager Craig Reynolds updated the Board on E-Rate funding for 2009/2010 which provides technology and internet services and equipment for use throughout the district. Requests for proposals and contract renewals has been requested with the majority of funding to come through federal sources. All projects are contingent on E-Rate funding, district finances and Board approval.
- Mary Snitily reported receipt of OSPI notification regarding the Consolidated Program Review showing the district in total compliance with all government rules and regulations.
- A variety of information was presented regarding State Education Budget assumptions and possibilities. Dr. Tolcacher has received communications from Terry Bergeson, Supt. Of Public Instruction regarding budget cuts for this year. He also said there are indications that the state may be cutting funding for a variety of educational programs which would adversely affect not only Prosser but all districts in the state. While the governor was re-elected on a no new taxes policy, it is possible the State Legislature may increase taxes by Referendum. Craig Reynolds said there may be a levy equalization decrease from the state for this year as well. Intense communication with the Legislature will be necessary throughout the upcoming legislative session according to Dr. Tolcacher.

## CONSENT ITEMS:

The Board approved the consent items including minutes of the previous meeting and the following:

- **Certificated Personnel:** Judy Harwood as the .5 Non-continuing Special Education teacher at Keene-Riverview Elementary for the 2008/2009 school year. Nick Koller as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at Prosser High School.
- **Classified Personnel:** Jolene Bretthauer was hired as a special education paraeducator at Prosser Heights Elementary for 6 hours 50 minutes daily during the school year. Felipe Hurtado was hired as a groundskeeper. Mandy Ridgway was hired as a lunch duty supervisor at Housel Middle School.
- **Contracts/Agreements:** The 21st Century Program will provide services to HMS students to increase academic achievement in math and reading, increase proficiency in English and literacy level of parents. The agreement runs from Sept. 1, 2008—Aug. 31, 2009 in the amount of \$4500. An agreement was approved with Tri-Tech Skills Center. Prosser has 11 students attending and both the Kennewick and Prosser district's receive FTE credits for each student attending.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Travis Davis, Chairman of Citizens for Quality Education, the community committee to promote the bond issue for the proposed new high school, appeared before the Board and said the committee was now recommending postponing the vote to a date later than March 10, 2009. Davis said a variety of economic concerns at all levels would make that move prudent although he did say the committee's campaign would be starting officially at the first of the year to inform the community of the needs for a new facility. Dr. Tolcacher expressed concern regarding possible state cuts in education funding and its affect on the district and he also indicated that Peggy Douglass, Superintendent of the Paterson School District which sends high school students to Prosser was also concerned over the timing of the bond issue election as well. The Board indicated it would discuss the recommendation at it's next regularly scheduled meeting.

## REPORTS:

**Business Manager's Report:** Craig Reynolds reviewed September and October financial reports. Noted that November enrollment was the same as October and overall enrollment is 45 students above the budget level.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Tolcacher reminded the Board of the WSSDA Legislative Conference February 8 and 9, 2009 which the Board will attend. Reported that all administrators had received Incident Command System training through the Benton County Emergency Management Department. And he sadly noted the passing of a Prosser Falls student who suffered a fatal asthma attack prior to attending school Tuesday, December 16.

**Board Member Reports:** Kay Brader noted she has been appointed to the Finance Committee of WSSDA. Tim Rankin attended a meeting last week regarding fund raising activities at Prosser High School. He said Kevin Lusk and his administrative staff did a fine job of working with the parents and he was very pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

## UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- December 23, 2008— Special Meeting for Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll Vouchers, 12 Noon, District Office 1126 Meade Avenue, Prosser, WA.
- January 6, 2009— Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Keene-Riverview Elementary



**Prosser School District**  
1126 Meade Avenue  
Prosser, WA 99350  
509/786-3323