



## SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

### Prosser Consolidated School District #116

At the school board meeting of March 17, 2009 the following occurred:

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Policy No. 3122: Excused and Unexcused Absences—SECOND READING/Revote. Following the withdrawal of Dr. Tim Rankin from the Board, a revote was held because he was not qualified to be a board member at the time of the original 3-2 passage in which he had voted yes. The policy was approved 3-0 at this meeting.
- Consent Agenda— Approved as presented.
  - Certificated personnel actions: Corey Heitschmidt as 8th Grade Head Softball Coach at Housel Middle School, Seth Flajole as Girls Assistant Soccer Coach at HMS, Tracy Pearson as Assistant Track Coach at HMS and the resignation of Kathy Moore as a teacher at Keene-Riverview.
  - Classified Personnel actions: the resignation of Ivan Campos as an Assistant Baseball Coach at PHS, approval of Rosie Brown as 7th Grade Head Girls Softball Coach at HMS and the resignation of Alice Perkins as a One-on-One Special Education Paraeducator at HMS.
  - Jeffrey Bender, Wade Baker and Susie McFerran have completed paperwork to be volunteer coaches in the District.
  - A personal service agreement with Natalie Palomarez to provide music for the PHS Prom May 9 for \$450 with funding through the ASB budget.
  - A personal service agreement with Whitney Davis to take photos at the PHS Prom at no cost to the District. Students will order and pay for their photos.
  - Approval of the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

- PHS teachers Doug Fassler and Jason Kintner reviewed their participation in February at the United States Marine Corp Educators Workshop in San Diego. The workshop provided the opportunity to learn about military training, careers and lifestyle so they can answer student questions regarding military service in general and specifically the Marine Corps. Expenses paid by the Marine Corps.
- PHS Athletic Director Casey Gant reviewed proposed reductions in athletic schedules in the Central Washington Athletic Conference. The reductions, if approved by CWAC, will cut costs for referees and transportation without affecting varsity level schedules.
- Casey Gant told the Board the high school is sending about 100 letters per day regarding attendance issues. While it is too soon to know if the new attendance policy is working as desired, the efforts are resulting in an increased awareness by parents of the attendance policy and will be evaluated on a regular basis .
- Alan Walker reported on the 2009-2010 E-Rate project funding. Approval or denial of these projects may not occur for several months but if approved would provide 70-80% of the cost of the proposed technology related projects district wide and at individual schools.

- Dr. Ray Tolcacher told the Board definite state and federal funding information for the coming school is not yet available. It appears Levy Equalization money may remain intact but further cuts in I-728 funding by the State are likely. The District is continuing to work closely with educational organizations and state legislators on these issues.
- Dr. Tolcacher provided the Board with information on the purpose, background, scope, implementation and timelines from the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force which was passed by the State Board of Education in July 2008. The program will change graduation requirements and become fully implemented with the Class of 2016.
- Mary Snitily reported WASL testing is underway this week at Prosser High School and Prosser Falls and is going smoothly.
- Dr. Tolcacher provided the Board the OMBUDSMAN report from the State which showed only two inquiries to the state office regarding the Prosser School District. One regarded a Special Education issue and the other a discipline/suspension issue. The program was established by the governor to assist families with conflict resolution.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Board Vacancy Update/Process— Applications to fill the vacant District 2 Director position are being accepted through March 20, 2009. Applicant interviews will be held in open session Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. Evaluations of the candidates qualifications will be conducted in executive session and appointment in an open session complying with RCW 42.30.110(h).
- Small School District Consolidation— Dr. Tolcacher reported districts in ESD 123 are preparing a resolution opposing a proposal by the governor to consolidate small school districts. The state proposal would lead to loss of local control of districts and does not consider the complexities of school district operation or the negative affect on education.

### AWARDS:

- Certificates were presented to the Housel Middle School Math Team and Science Team.
- Certificates were presented to the Prosser High School Girls Basketball Team.

### REPORTS:

**Curriculum Director's Report:** Mary Snitily provided information regarding quality professional development for teachers and a cost comparison for consultants versus sending individuals to workshops. Student assessment data is used to measure the effectiveness of these programs. Much of the staff development is done with locally trained coaches in the classrooms and during early release days on Wednesdays. Dr. Tolcacher noted the district has a number of grants to fund this activity and staff development has been a high priority for some time and has been an important vehicle to improve student academic performance.

**Business Manager's Report:** Craig Reynolds reviewed the District cash flow from September 2008 to February 2009. He reported March 2009 enrollment shows 43 students above the budget projection. He also requested a special meeting for voucher approval March 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Staff Development room.

**Superintendent's Report:** No additional information given.

**Board Member Reports:**

- Win Taylor reported the U.S. Dept. of Education secretary said \$5 million would be given to schools for lasting reform. The money will be used to improve teacher quality, get good teachers into high poverty schools, set up sophisticated data systems to track student learning and boost the quality of academic standards and tests and to help struggling schools. Dr. Tolcacher said his understanding is the money will be through competitive grants and our district will have to write a plan to apply for the funding.
- Win Taylor also quoted the president from a Washington Post article, "Despite the sources that are unmatched anywhere else in the world, we have let our grades slip, our schools crumble and our teacher quality fall short and other nations outpace us. What's at stake is nothing less than the American dream." Bill Starkey said one thing that bothered him is the merit pay. He feels teachers in our area have to deal with poverty, English as a second language and English learners and that will work against them when trying to qualify for merit pay. "It's another discriminatory issue," said Dr. Tolcacher.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

- Study Session, March 18, 2009, 6:30 p.m., Keene-Riverview Elementary
- Board vacancy interviews, March 24, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Staff Development Room
- Voucher approval and Superintendent's Evaluation, March 25, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Staff Development Room
- Regular Board Meeting, April 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Keene-Riverview Elementary



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