



SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Prosser Consolidated School District #116

At the school board meeting of March 3, 2009 the following occurred:

ACTION ITEMS:

- GLAD Training Contracts—Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) is a model of professional development in the area of language acquisition and literacy. Originally developed to increase academic achievement for English language learners, GLAD has shown benefit for all students with increasing test scores. The board approved a contract with trainers Tricia Clary and Jarra Scott for a total of seven days in June 2009 in the amount of \$17,200 plus mileage. Funding is provided through Bilingual and Title III grant money.
- Governor's Proclamations— The board approved the governor's proclamation of Classified Employees Week, March 9—13, 2009 honoring classified employees in the district. The board approved the governor's proclamation of School Retirees Appreciation Week, March 16-22, 2009 honoring the district's retirees.
- The Consent Agenda which included the following items was approved.

Certificated Personnel— Fred Bray was recommended as the Migrant Summer School Director. Kathryn Askew will retire from her teaching position at Prosser Heights Elementary at the end of the current school year. Luanne Holden-Boushey will retire at the end of the current year from her counseling position at Prosser High School. Chris Butler and Ben Kock were hired as a .5 Assistant Softball Coaches at PHS.

Classified Personnel— Jeff Christopherson and Fred Silva were hired as a .75 Assistant Softball Coaches at PHS. Jeremiah Gannon was hired as Head Boys Tennis Coach at PHS.

Volunteer Coaches— The following have completed required paperwork to be volunteer coaches in the district: Pete Felicijan, Robert Serrano, Travis DeVore, Larry O'Brien, Ken Pitman, Al Even-son, Doug Gustafson, Jessica Harris, Artemio Rodriguez, Rachele Wiley and Ed Manus.

Minutes from previous meetings were approved.

Vouchers funded by the General Fund and Associated Student Body were approved with the exception of one General Fund voucher for clarification and later action.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Intervention Consultant Report— Ernie Chapin gave an overview of his intervention program work with students. He has focused lately on 4th grade students and also meets with students at Prosser and Prosser Falls High Schools. He reported he was spoken with most of the teachers regarding his intervention work and techniques. He thanked the board for being proactive on interventions with students.
- Legislative Update— Dr. Tolcacher said the district is getting budget information daily and it appears their visits to Olympia are paying off. Cuts to Levy Equalization money may be off the table but I-728 funding may go away. Craig Reynolds reported there is no word on Federal stimulus money as yet. Local budget planning and possible options are being studied.
- Dr. Tolcacher told the board he feels planning on the new high school project should continue although no date has been set for a bond election. The board asked what those costs would be. Further information will be available at the next meeting for consideration before proceeding.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Contract Renewal Notification— A number of contracts were discussed. Some renew automatically unless cancelled by specific dates. The largest one is with ESD 123 for instructional materials at PHS totaling \$20,000. That contract will be put on hold pending further budget planning. Other contracts ranging from no cost to \$1250 will be brought to the board later this spring for consideration.
- Cost Savings for 2008/2009 Year— Dr. Tolcacher reviewed a list of cost savings measures being implemented for the current school year. They include: superintendent review and approval of all out of district travel and all purchase orders over \$500, shopping for best possible prices, superintendent and business manager approval of all contracts, principals/secretaries will in advance approve all overtime and only if strongly justified, staff will use district vehicles in lieu of charging for personal vehicle usage, carpooling to district events/activities, no reimbursement for meals for all staff unless staying overnight, reduce paper usage and review use of classified substitutes and revise priorities for such usage.
- Volunteer Coach Timelines— Dr. Tolcacher said a couple of issues have arisen with implementation of the new district policy on volunteer coaches. Clarification is being sought with WIAA on whether a volunteer coach must go through the whole volunteer approval process if he is already a district employee. The other is whether a volunteer coach can assume duties once the process is complete but prior to formal board approval. Following a discussion with the board, a proposed change in policy language to clarify the issues will be forthcoming.

REPORTS:

Curriculum Director's Report: Mary Snitily reported on applying for a science grant in partnership with WSU and CBC, an American history grant and a grant from the migrant regional office and ESD 105 for GLAD training.

Business Manager's Report: Craig Reynolds reported old bonds were refinanced saving taxpayers \$87,000. State auditors are in the district. And a review of the January financial reports was given showing budget compliance.

Superintendent's Report: An Administrative Team meeting will be held March 4, 2009.

Board Member Reports: The board set March 25, 2009 for the annual evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Ray Tolcacher in accordance with district policy. Dr. Barmore, board president, said the board would be replying to both the Yakima Herald and Tri-City Herald regarding their recent editorials on the board's actions regarding the Prosser Wine & Food Fair request for use of Art Fiker Stadium.

Board Communications: Dr. Tim Rankin submitted a letter of resignation from the board stating he was not, as required, a registered voter when appointed to the board. The board took no formal action on the resignation.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- Regular Board Meeting, March 17, 2009 — 7:00 p.m., Keene-Riverview Elementary MPR.



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