



School Board Highlights

Prosser Consolidated School District #116

The following occurred at the school board meeting of August 4, 2009:

ACTION ITEMS

- Inter-local Agreement with City of Prosser: Gang Intervention Services Following approval by the Prosser City Council to provide gang intervention services for the school district by Alex Santillanes and Ernie Chapin for the 2009/2010 school year, the board approved the agreement.
- State and Federal Program Application Approval An extensive list of state and federal program funding was presented to the board. The budgets were prepared in collaboration with building principals and all applications were submitted to OSPI for approval. The board approved the applications and budgets as presented.
- Educational Support Personnel of Prosser Contract Ratification Negotiations were completed July 20, 2009 with an agreement pending ratification by the board which was approved.
- Policy No. 6213: Reimbursement for Travel Expenses – FIRST READING Following an explanation of changes to the district's policy regarding travel and a change to per diem meal reimbursements in lieu of actual expenses, the board approved the first reading following several questions and clarifications. The policy will come before the board at the August 18 meeting.
- ESD 123/Columbia Basin Education Foundation and Washington Parent Information Resource Center Grant The Prosser School District was awarded a \$5,000 grant from ESD 123 to increase and enhance its parent involvement activities under an existing program. A Parent Information Resource Center will be created and funds will be used to provide computers, supplies, informational literature, classes and training for parents with childcare. The board approved receipt of the grant.

CONSENT ITEMS

The following items on the consent agenda were approved by the board:

Minutes from previous meetings were approved.

2009/2010 Grandview Auto Class Cooperative Educational Service - To provide auto classes to Prosser High School students.

2009/2010 Benton Franklin Juvenile Justice Center Contract – To provide outreach services, family counseling, assessment and treat referrals, monitoring of petitions and other services as needed. The fee for the coming school year is \$7,870 with funding through the General Fund.

VOUCHERS

General Fund vouchers totaling \$114,458.27 were approved by the board.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Math and Science Coaching Demonstration Program Award Mary Snitily, Curriculum Director, said the district received a state funded grant for a mathematics coach for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 school years. The Prosser district was one of nine selected for the grant from 51 districts that applied.
- Procedure 3243P: Housel Middle School Athletic/Activities Code Deanna Flores, Principal at HMS and Kristal Cole, Athletic Director at HMS, reviewed changes in procedures at the school regarding academic, citizenship and major conduct violations. The goal is to help prepare middle school students for higher standards which are required at the high school level while retaining necessary flexibility considering the student age. The revised procedures will be given to parents on back to school night.
- Staffing Update Superintendent Dr. Ray Tolcacher told the board that all certificated positions have been filled except for a .5 Special Education teacher at Prosser Heights Elementary and a full time secondary teacher at Prosser Falls. Classified openings include Special Education paraeducators at Whitstran Elementary and Prosser High School, a Food Service meal accounting position, a paraeducator at Prosser Heights Elementary and a Migrant Home Visitor.
- Budget Update Dr. Tolcacher said the administration is moving ahead with the proposed budget reductions that have been presented to the board. A public hearing on the final budget is scheduled for August 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Keene-Riverview Elementary prior to the next regular board meeting.
- Additional Special Education Services Dr. Syndi Duehn, Interim Special Services Director, told the board the district is working with ESD 123 to put together a consortium of specialists to work with students. They will include a Speech Language Pathologist, a benefits specialist, a job carver, a coach and an Autism specialist. Dr. Tolcacher noted the district already has an autism specialist but would like to have two. Dr. Duehn noted that instructional techniques designed for autistic students are very effective with others as well. A special effort is being developed on transitioning special education students into the workforce upon completion of school.
- Substitutes Dr. Tolcacher said the district is predicting a severe shortage of substitute teachers for the coming year. Work has been done to fine tune the substitute calling system and the district will be utilizing all available qualified applicants for substitute teachers to address the anticipated ongoing shortage.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Policy No. 1116: Student Representation to the Board of Directors Dr. Tolcacher told the board a draft policy is nearly complete to provide a student from one of the high schools to act as a student representative on the board and would like a board member to speak to interested students. Board members present felt the selection should be done through an interview process from applicants and requested the policy be brought before the board at the August 18 meeting for first reading.
- Board Retreat Regarding Yearly Goals Board members will be contacted regarding a date for the retreat, most likely on a weekend morning, prior to the beginning of the school year.

REPORTS

Curriculum Director's Report- Mary Snitily said summer WASL testing for reading and writing will be at the high school next week. Final WASL scores from the previous school year are not yet available but letters to affected parents concerning the district's Adequate Yearly Progress will be going out between now and August 18.

Business Manager's Report- Craig Reynolds clarified a question regarding a voucher at the last meeting.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Tolcacher reported on attending an Autism conference in the Tri-Cities August 6 and 7. He also advised the board on Washington State House Bill 1824 which requires adoption of policies for the management of concussions and head injuries in youth sports. The new law, which went into effect in July, requires all coaches to receive appropriate training and parents and students will have to sign a form acknowledging receipt of required information. The new law requires the district to have the signed compliance documentation by all non-school sports organizations with children under 18 using district facilities. Parents, coaches and children will have the same requirements as the school district. Tolcacher noted this is yet another example of an unfunded mandate that consumes district resources.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Public Budget Hearing.....August 18, 2009 at Keene-Riverview Elementary – 6:00 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting.....August 18, 2009 at Keene-Riverview Elementary – 7:00 p.m.



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