

WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 5, 2007

Board Members: Larry Swift (District #9)
Allie Joiner (District #1)
Pat Clothier (District #2)
Gail Pollock (District #3)
Bonnie Decker (District 4)
Rita Reandeau (District #6)
Sidney Weldele-Wallace (District #8)

Legal Counsel: Bonnie Terada

Superintendent: Todd Reeves

Guests: Rick Hauan, Assistant Superintendent
Carey Price, WSDAA
Lori Scheer-Matheson, Certificated staff representative
Lorana Myers, Classified staff representative
Dawn Smith, PSO representative

Recorder: Judy Smith

Interpreters: Elizabeth Morgan, Don Coates

The meeting was called to order by Larry Swift at 9:06 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Minutes from November 3, 2006, meeting

Pat Clothier moved that the minutes from the November 3, 2006, meeting be approved. Rita Reandeau seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Budget Committee Report (Pat Clothier, Board Member)

The November budget was discussed. The Governor's operational and capital budgets for the upcoming biennium were also reviewed. WSD's request for the vocational education/cafeteria/support building is included in the Governor's budget, as well as the request Minor Public Works projects.

Announcements

- *The discussion of "obesity in children" will be on an upcoming agenda.*
- *Larry Swift and Chuck McCarthy attended a Boards & Commissions meeting in November. The highlights of that meeting were discussed. An exercise from the meeting will be incorporated into a future Board meeting.*

- Staff was congratulated on their hard work in the area of GMAP (Government Management Accountability & Performance.)

The Board would like to extend their thanks to the staff for making the necessary schedule adjustments to accommodate the work in Hunter Gym.

Warren Pratt was thanked for all his hard work to make sure the projects are completed in a timely manner.

Visit to Washington D.C. (Todd Reeves, Superintendent)

(handout – Meeting with Dr. Andrew Pepin, U. S. Department of Education)
The Superintendent discussed his participation in stakeholders meetings held at the Clerc Center (Gallaudet University) in Washington D.C. During his visit he also met with Dr. Andrew Pepin with the U.S. Department of Education and several congressional delegates from Washington.

The deaf education program at WSU/Vancouver has been delayed to summer 2008.

Report on State Reform Efforts

- Texas (Allie Joiner)
 - Texas Education Agency Code (handout)
 - The need for communication was noted repeatedly throughout the above document
 - Qualifications of personnel – teachers must be proficient in a variety of language modes
 - Emphasis on the need for critical mass
 - There are many regional programs in the state of Texas
 - The Texas Education Agency and Texas School for the Deaf will be developing and adopting a memorandum of understanding
 - Draft of the Texas State Plan for Deaf Education, 2007 (handout)
 - Allie will be visiting the Texas School for the Deaf next week and update the Board at a future meeting
- California (Gail Pollock)
 - Most of their information is from the late 90's
 - Two Schools for the Deaf (Riverside and Fremont)
 - The Schools for the Deaf in California come under the Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Money has been allotted to certify interpreters statewide
- Pennsylvania (Rita Reandeu)
 - The state is moving toward reform in deaf education
 - Using the National Deaf Education Project to facilitate their reform efforts

- *Want to draft eight goals to align with the national agenda focusing on communication, access, and language*
 - *Once the goals are established specific strategies will be developed to implement the goals*
- *More emphasis given to the public schools rather than the Schools for the Deaf*
- *Pennsylvania is researching math instruction using sign language*

IPP Stakeholder Meeting Update (Allie Joiner, Pat Clothier, Todd Reeves, Heather Abraham)

- *Real time captioning was provided*
- *Many comments were made supporting WSD*
- *Good representation – very large group of attendees*
- *Some of the issues discussed at the meeting were:*
 - *Critical mass*
 - *Role models*
 - *Varieties of communication*
 - *IEPs*
 - *Interpreting guidelines*
 - *Parent groups*
 - *Early intervention*
 - *Family choice*
 - *Deaf education curriculum*
 - *Summer sports program*
 - *No substitutes when interpreter absent*
 - *Equitable after hours tutoring (no interpreter or deaf ed. teacher available)*
- *Possible solutions discussed at the meeting:*
 - *Need to have some type of clearing house for solutions*
 - *More accessible to shared reading videos*
 - *Parents need to learn how to communicate with their children*
 - *Funding for general education*
 - *Funding for hearing aids*
 - *Less financially based decisions and more children based decisions.*
 - *More Deaf adult role models*

IPP Surveys (handouts)

- *Possible Strategies for the Education of Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Deaf-Blind children*
- *Issues and Challenges in the Education of Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Deaf-Blind Children*

WSDAA and PSO will inform their members of the survey and the Superintendent will send out an email to all staff with this information. The surveys must be completed before February 15, 2007.

The facilitators will be contacted to set up meetings with Board members in Seattle and Pasco.

Visits by Senator Brandland and Senator Fraser

Senator Dale Brandland

- Very positive visit
- Introduced to participant from our Post High School Program
- Very interested to know what WSD does in connection with WSSB (i.e. utilization of their swimming pool).

The Superintendent has also met with several other legislators including Senators Pridemore and Zarelli, Representatives Dunn, Fromhold, and Moeller. Highlights of those meetings were discussed.

Senator Karen Fraser

The Superintendent met with Senator Fraser prior to her visit to WSD. Senator Fraser and Senator Pridemore toured WSD on December 22. The visit was very positive. (handouts – 2007-2017 Capital Budget Highlights, Minor Work Projects Accomplished this year, and Capital/Biennial Budget 2007-2009 Biennium).

Internet Safety (Rick Hauan, Assistant Superintendent)

(handout – draft letter to parents/guardians regarding internet safety) The abuse of “cell based” technology was discussed. The Board will review the draft and email Rick with their comments. After the letter is sent to parents a policy will be developed and shared with the Board.

Legislative Action Planning

The most important legislative issue for WSD this session is the capital request. The long term issue is deaf education reform in Washington State. The Board will be setting up a meeting with the IPP facilitators during the later part of January.

Future meetings

- The February 2nd meeting has been cancelled
- March 2, 2007 meeting will be held as scheduled
- Larry will put together a list of legislators that are in each Board members district. The primary focus will be those dealing with the capital budget
 - Packets of information will be sent to each Board member to disseminate to individual stakeholders
 - Packets will also be given to representatives of the certificated and classified staff as well as representatives of PSO (Parent-

Staff Organization) and WSDAA (Washington School for the Deaf Alumni Association)

- *Allie Joiner will forward the information to WSAD with the request that it be posted on their website*

GMAP Presentation – Off Campus Outreach (Heather Abraham, Director of Outreach)

(Powerpoint presentation) Heather Abraham gave a presentation regarding off campus outreach activities. Activities include:

- *Early Education provider based at the North Central ESD (Wenatchee)*
- *Distance Learning*
- *Shared Reading Video Outreach Project (SRVOP)*
- *Training to Educational Interpreters*
 - *Very impressed with the Educational Interpreter Coordinator who provides support to school districts.*
 - *Larry Swift will send a congratulatory note to Denise Marychild, Educational Interpreter Coordinator for WSD.*
- *Community Education/Classes*
- *On-Campus Workshops*
- *Evaluation & Assessment*
- *Early Education & Support – Vancouver based*
- *Off-Campus Retreats*
- *Transition*
 - *Important to contact graduates to see what direction they have taken (i.e. employment, college, etc.)*
 - *David Born, Transition Specialist for WSD, will be invited to a future Board meeting.*
- *Partnerships*

Meetings have been held in several areas of the state to discuss setting up a Deaf adult role model program.

The Board asked Heather to add a chart regarding the Post High School Program. They also complimented Heather and her team on their outstanding outreach efforts.

Gail Pollock made a motion to add the following to the Board of Trustees minutes. Bonnie Decker seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved.

“The Department of Licensed Resources has concluded five years of quarterly reviews of safety conditions at the school with profuse compliments to the staff regarding its commitment and effort in changing the schools’ policies and practices promoting student safety. Therefore the Board of Trustees commends the staff and thanks each member for his or her contributions not only to making

the school a better place for children but also restoring public confidence in the school's value to the people of Washington."

Executive Session

The meeting closed at 2:15 p.m. for 30 minutes to discuss individual student and personnel issues with the Superintendent and legal counsel. The meeting reopened at 2:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Pat Clothier moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bonnie Decker seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.