

WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 15, 2005

Board Members: Sidney Weldele-Wallace, Chair (District #8)
Holly Parker-Jensen (District #1)
Pat Clothier (District #2)
Bonnie Decker (District #4)
Duane Sommers (District #5)
Rita Reandeau (District #6)
Larry Swift (District #9)

Legal Counsel: Bonnie Terada, Legal Counsel

Superintendent: Todd Reeves

Guests: Rick Hauan, Assistant Superintendent
Lori Dunsmore, Principal
Chuck McCarthy, Financial Operations Administrator
April Rounds, Human Resources
Dana Pride, Federation representative
April McArthur, WPEA representative
Dawn Smith, PSO representative
Randy Nelson, Fiscal Technician
Kay Pedisich, Financial Analyst
Lorana Myers, Supply Officer

Recorder: Judy Smith

Interpreters: Elizabeth Morgan, Don Coates

The meeting was called to order by Sidney Weldele-Wallace, Chair, at 9:07 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Minutes from November 18, 2005 meeting

Pat Clothier made a motion to approve the November 18, 2005, Board meeting minutes and Duane Sommers seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

IPP (Institute of Public Policy) Study 2005 Update

A second draft of the IPP Study was sent to stakeholders on December 8, 2005. The second draft did not include changes made by the Superintendent (sent on November 15, 2005). The second draft was also emailed to WSD staff members and several responses were received. The Superintendent met with Annie Pennucci on Wednesday, December 14th, and the final draft should include revisions previously submitted. It is anticipated that the report will be "neutral".

Suggestions from the Board:

- *Incorporate feedback received from the Stakeholders meeting held in Seattle on November 17, 2005.*
- *The key issue of “educating Deaf and hard of hearing students is different than educating visually impaired students” was not addressed in the report.*
- *Is there any information to explain the special education costs in public schools?*
- *Transportation – What does it “really” cost public schools to transport special education students to different programs?*
- *Is the cost of auditory training for students with cochlear implants the responsibility of the school district? This is currently the subject of school litigation but many courts are siding with parents and the school district will have to pay those costs.*
- *How we structure our financing for Outreach services will be discussed in the report as our structure is very different than WSSB.*
- *The Superintendent will copy the stakeholders group on his response to Annie Pennucci.*
- *The Listen & Talk section should be expanded more.*
- *It was suggested that all interested parties should meet to discuss education for Deaf and hard of hearing children (birth to 21).*

GMAP Presentation – Academic Report

Lori Dunsmore, Principal, gave a GMAP (Government, Management, Accountability and Performance) presentation on Reading Curricula, WASL, and Staff Development.

Boards & Commissions Training

Sidney Weldele-Wallace and Todd Reeves attended a Boards & Commissions workshop on December 13, 2005. A media response and operating principles (how the Board will interact with each other) policy/procedures were discussed.

Policy & Procedures (1st Reading)

- *Salary Determination (Policy: 5208)*
 - *This policy only applies to those classified staff members who are not covered by a collective bargaining unit.*
 - *Once this policy is approved by the Board it will then go to the Director of the Department of Personnel for approval.*
- *Use of and acquisition of cellular phones, pagers, two-way radios or other similar electronic equipment (Policy: 6202)*
 - *The criteria for monitoring cell phone usage needs to be fairly administered.*
 - *Eliminate the “d” on bullet five...word should be “use”.*

These policies will be voted on at the next meeting.

Stakeholders Meeting – Debriefing from November 17, 2005

The Board agreed that the stakeholders' meeting was well received by the various attendees. Notification should include sending out a flyer one to two months prior to the meeting and then follow-up with a reminder as the meeting date gets closer. The "Structure and Communication Plan for Stakeholders Meetings" (included in the Board packet) should include a sign-up sheet for participants and add students to "Targeted Participants". It was suggested that the announcement be sent to school districts for their website and sent to special education directors in the area where the meeting will be held.

Future stakeholders meeting:

- Possible sites: Tri-Cities, Spokane (November 2006 in conjunction with the WSSDA conference), Yakima/Ellensburg, Bellingham, Tacoma
- Yakima/Ellensburg (tentative April)
- Bellingham (tentative May)

Capital Update – Scope of Work (Todd Reeves, Chuck McCarthy)

The request from SRG Architects for the Superintendent to sign a "Scope of Work" letter has been withdrawn as the intent of the letter was to outline the next steps for Minor Public Works. A site review was held recently and bids will be accepted the end of February/early March. Completion of the fencing, MacDonald cottage basement and demolition of the old Business Office should be completed by the end of July/early August.

Transportation Update (Chuck McCarthy, Lorana Myers)

An update of the issues surrounding the contract violations involving transportation for our "north" bus students was presented. An alternative means of transportation has been arranged until the issues can be resolved.

Outreach Update (Todd Reeves)

- Listen & Talk – Currently working on creating a brochure that will outline the partnership with WSD. The brochure will go out to school districts when completed. It will also be sent to other interested stakeholder groups. It was suggested that this topic be added to future Board of Trustees stakeholders' meetings.
- SRVOP – The move to the new Puget Sound ESD was delayed and SRVOP has had difficulty meeting the needs of school districts during this delay. Staff members have been traveling to various school districts throughout the state during the interim. Other site locations will be investigated in the future to see if more appropriate facilities (e.g. technology, lower costs) can be found.
- Clark College – The Superintendent will be meeting on December 16th with Special Education Directors in Clark County to see if there is interest in a vocational program for Deaf and hard of hearing students in their area. The program would possibly be based at Clark College and open to our students as well as those in local public schools.

- *Reading Curriculum – A reading curriculum for grades two to four is needed. WSD will be investigating a new curriculum entitled “Avenues” which is more structured to these grade levels and is a precursor to “High Point”, which was formally adopted last spring. The Board members agreed to give the Superintendent flexibility in purchasing these reading materials, since they are linked to our adopted curriculum.*

Executive Session

The meeting closed at 1:45 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss individual student and personnel issues with the Superintendent and Legal Counsel until 2:45 p.m. The meeting reopened at 2:45 p.m.

January Board meeting

Agenda item:

- *Board’s response to the final IPP Study report*

Adjournment

Duane Sommers moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bonnie Decker seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.