



## SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Prosser Consolidated School District #116

At the school board meeting of December 2, 2008 the following occurred:

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### The Board of Directors approved:

- Adoption of Resolution 10-08, by unanimous vote, to submit to district voters at a special election on March 10, 2009, a proposition authorizing the district to issue \$47,600,000 of general obligation bonds for 20 years to pay costs to construct and equip a new high school on a site owned by the district adjacent to Art Fiker Stadium. The new facility would replace the existing Prosser High School with an estimated tax rate of \$3.55 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- Second and final reading of Policy No. 6250 regarding usage of cellular telephones.
- Policy No. 5010: Non-discrimination and Affirmative Action—First Reading.
- Prosser High School Improvement Plan as required by State Board of Education. The plan is data driven, promotes a positive impact on student learning and includes a continuous improvement process.
- Three year agreement with AIG Retirement Services to administer 403(b) plans, known as Tax Sheltered Annuities, which are voluntary contributions made by employees for retirement purposes. The use of a Third Party Administrator is being widely used by school districts due to IRS regulatory complexity.
- Jeff Christoferson was hired as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Prosser High School.
- Personal Service contract with Riverside D.J. to provide music for Christmas Ball at Prosser High School.
- 2008-2011 ALSCO Service Agreement to provide linen and supplies to the Transportation Department.
- Personal Service agreements with Ernie Chapin for presentations at the November Natural Helper's Camp and with Buck and Elizabeth to provide four songwriting workshops, four recordings, an assembly and more in January 2009.
- Current accounts payable vouchers totaling \$91,379.04.

### INFORMATION ITEMS:

#### • School Improvement/School Wide Plans: Housel Middle School

Deanna Flores, Principal at Housel Middle School, reviewed 6th, 7th and 8th grade Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) graphs in Reading and Math and additional data related to Writing and Science. The focus on improvement and use of Literacy and Numeracy coaches for reading and math was explained along with an outline of the School Improvement Plan. A detailed 40 page document covering this information was presented to the Board.

#### • School Improvement Plan: Prosser High School

Kevin Lusk, Principal at Prosser High School, reviewed WASL results for 2007/2008 in Reading, Writing, Math and Science. In addition, AYP results for 10th grade Hispanic students and Low Income students in 10th grade were reviewed. An action plan covering school goals, development of further connections with students, interventions to improve student performance and school culture activities was presented.

- Mary Snitily, Curriculum Director, presented information regarding a new effort by the State Board of Education, known as CORE 24, which outlines new proposed requirements for high school graduation beginning with the Class of 2013. A statewide Implementation Task Force will meet throughout 2009 to receive input from school districts regarding the proposed changes. If implemented as proposed, the plan will have a significant impact on Prosser High School in regards to scheduling and staffing.
- Prior to considering action on a proposed bond issue resolution, the Board heard from Chad Cowan of D.A. Davidson & Co. who reviewed bond tax rates and interest costs for periods of 20, 22, 25 and 30 years. It was determined that district's debt capacity would not allow a bond term longer than 22 years and would not lower that tax rate significantly but resulting in a significant interest increase. The most practical bond term was determined to be 20 years.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Kevin Lusk reported on plans for participation in the upcoming state football championship game by the Mustangs on December 6, 2008.

## REPORTS:

**Curriculum Director's Report:** Mary Snitily thanked Dr. Syndi Duehn for the work she did on the accreditation project for Prosser Falls High School. Word was received this week that Prosser Falls will receive a 6 year-term accreditation from the state. The district will be giving the WASL to all 9th graders this year in March and April. The Board was invited to visit the Curriculum & Technology office.

**Business Manager's Report:** Craig Reynolds requested an additional board meeting for Dec. 23 at 12:00 Noon to approve accounts payable vouchers and payroll warrants. He reported that the E-rate filing window was now open. The federal program provides funding for technology related equipment used throughout the district.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Tolcacher reminded those present that the next community Gang Task Force meeting would be held December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Prosser Fire Station meeting room. The district Administrative Team and School Board will hold a Holiday Social on Thursday, December 11, from 5:00—6:30 p.m. at the Sixth Street Coffee Shop with costs paid personally by those attending.

**Board Member Reports:** Warren Barmore reported on an excellent Washington State School Directors Association conference Nov. 20-22, 2008 and noted that Board Vice-President Kay Brader was elected to the WSSDA board for a three year term. Kay Brader thanked Dr. Tolcacher for presenting a well received Gang Intervention workshop at the conference. Win Taylor noted the possible loss of local control of school districts, an issue being pushed at the federal level, was a topic of concern among those attending the conference.

## UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- December 16, 2008 - Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Keene-Riverview Elementary MPR



**Prosser School District**

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