



SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Prosser Consolidated School District #116

At the school board meeting of Jan. 6, 2009 the following occurred:

ACTION ITEMS:

The Board of Directors approved:

- **School Improvement/School-Wide Plans** for Keene-Riverview, Whitstran and Prosser Heights Elementary schools and Housel Middle School. Such plans are required to use federal and state program dollars, with the exception of some special funding, for the use of all students in these schools. School wide plans are updated annually by site teams and are available at the curriculum office for public review.
- After a lengthy discussion regarding national and local economic concerns and pending state cuts in funding for K-12 education, passage of **Resolution 01-09** to remove a bond issue from a March 10, 2009 ballot which would fund construction of a new high school facility. The board addressed several questions and considered input from three community members who were in attendance. Dr. RayTolcacher stressed the project was not being abandoned and said the Citizens for Quality Education campaign committee would be continuing to inform the community as to the needs for a new high school. The resolution was passed by unanimous roll call vote of all board members.
- **ESD 105 contract for autistic consulting services** which will provide eight days of consulting services at \$825 per day for special needs students with autism. The services will be provided by Sharon Loudon, Autism Education Coordinator for ESD 105. She is a highly qualified special education teacher with an extensive reputation in autism issues and will provide training for Prosser School District staff in dealing with these issues.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- **Prosser Memorial Hospital Emergency Room Remodel**—Keith Sattler, chairman of the PMH Foundation and consultant Kevin Wallace explained the need for an expansion and remodel of the emergency room department at the hospital. They reviewed the increasing use of the facility, up 85-90% since 2000, and the benefit it provides not only the community in general but to students in local schools. The presenters said an endorsement of their efforts by the school district would add momentum to their efforts to raise the necessary funding without going to the hospital district for funding through a bond issue. They also asked the school district to help disseminate information through staff and students regarding the needs and issues. While the Board would have no problem endorsing their efforts, a review of school district policies regarding information distribution will need to be reviewed to assure compliance with established policy. The request will receive further consideration at a future board meeting.
- The **School Improvement/School-Wide Plan for Whitstran Elementary** was presented by Principal Sally Juzeler. She noted that while Whitstran did not make Adequate Yearly Progress according to WASL testing, the school continues to show improvement in test scores with improvement from grade to grade. Reviewing student achievement using the MAPS testing system, students are at or above the MAPS average in reading. She stressed that her staff is focused on three issues when developing their curriculum and teaching techniques: what to we expect them to learn?, how will we know when they have learned it?, and how will we respond when they don't get it? Following the presentation, Dr. Tolcacher noted that the number of schools not making AYP this year is staggering. However Prosser schools continue to show continued improvement in test scores thanks to the emphasis placed on staff development and implementation of the best possible instructional practices throughout the district.
- **Columbia Basin College classes in Prosser:** Dr. Tolcacher said CBC is still committed to using PHS facilities in the future when a new high school facility is built. CBC will be offering three different classes in the remainder of this school year. An English as a Second Language (ESL) class parents and others in the district begins January 12, 2009. A class in command Spanish for local business owners to learn the basics of communicating with customers in Spanish and a GED class will begin soon.

CONSENT ITEMS:

The Board approved the following items on the consent agenda including previous meeting minutes:

- **Certificated Personnel:** Michael Denny was approved as Head Wrestling Coach at Housel Middle School. Tracy Mills was approved as the 7th Grade Girls C Squad Basketball Coach at Housel Middle School.
- **Classified Personnel:** Leslie Erickson was hired as a One-on-One Paraeducator at Keene-Riverview. Shawn Van Winkle and Justin Kelley were hired as Assistant Girls Basketball Coaches at Housel Middle School.
- **Contracts/Agreements:** A new contract with Rocky Jackson, Attorney at Law, who provides legal services to the district. The contract reflects a change in his company name. Fees remain as approved in February 2008.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Proposed State Budget Impact on Prosser School District:** Dr. Tolcacher said he and Craig Reynolds were still analyzing the potential effects of reduced state funding for K-12 education. So far the state has cut funding to Prosser by \$43,168 for the current school year. Under the Governor's proposed budget, Prosser would lose \$511,784 in levy equalization money and \$263,906 in funding provided by voter approved I-728 funds for the 2009-2010 school year. The effect will be greatest on smaller districts like Prosser. Dr. Tolcacher said it will be critical for the district to keep in touch with the legislature during the coming weeks as they struggle with the state budget for the next two years.

REPORTS:

Business Manager's Report: Craig Reynolds reviewed the November 2008 report and noted expenditures were in line with the projected budget.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Tolcacher said he had spoken with the offices of our federal legislators Doc Hastings, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell about Prosser's application for federal stimulus money for a new high school. The application was submitted by Tridec in the Tri-Cities. He recommended the board not attend an upcoming WSSDA/CEL workshop on January 30 and 31 due to budget and other considerations. The Board will be attending the annual Board Workshop at ESD 123 in Pasco January 15 and the WSSDA Legislative Conference February 8 and 9, 2009.

Board Member Reports: The Board recognized the Transportation Department for outstanding school bus inspections in 2008 and expressed appreciation for the fine job the Maintenance Department had done in clearing snow and ice around school facilities this winter.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- January 20, 2009— Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Keene-Riverview Elementary



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