



School Board Highlights

Prosser Consolidated School District #116

The following occurred at the school board meeting of July 7, 2009:

BUDGET STUDY SESSION

A budget study session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. to provide the board an update on planning for the 2009/2010 district budget. Dr. Ray Tolcacher, Superintendent, told the board that many of the proposed budget reductions presented to the board in May are in place for the coming school year. He reviewed various areas of reductions and reported that June projections for state revenue were showing a decline. Just how that may affect the district has yet to be determined. The next forecast will be in September.

Dr. Tolcacher read a letter from the Department of Social and Health Services regarding early release of high risk juvenile offenders due to state budget cuts. The impact of this action on the district is not yet known but could be a challenge under current funding restrictions.

Dr. Tolcacher said the Administrative Team had gone through every position and activity in the district in making the proposed budget reductions with the goal of maximizing the board's direction of academic improvement while minimizing the negative impact on personnel and programs. He also recommended placing any additional funding back into reserves to minimize future reductions in staffing and programs.

Business Manager Craig Reynolds said the district is projecting a \$2.4 million dollar fund balance reserve at the end of the 2008/2009 fiscal year. Reynolds said he would like to have another Budget Study Session in two weeks and the exact date will be determined soon.

Two of the district's 5th grade teachers addressed the board regarding the proposed elimination of the 5th Grade Camp Wooten program. They reviewed ways of raising the necessary money to maintain the program at minimal cost to the district. Dr. Tolcacher noted there are other issues and challenges, in addition to the cost, which need to be considered is deciding whether to continue the program.

Several members of the district's classified staff addressed the board regarding their concerns about reductions in staffing hours.

The Budget Study Session was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. and the regular board meeting was called to order.

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution No. 06-09: Surplus of 1978 Ford Pickup – Vocational Department At the previous board meeting, the board approved the purchase of a 2006 Dodge pickup for use by the vocational department. The 1978 Ford does not pass WSP inspection. The board approved action to surplus the vehicle.
- Prosser Education Association 2009-2010 Contract Ratification: The board ratified the contract for the 2009/2010 school year.
- Aficio MP171 Copier Lease for Keene-Riverview Elementary: A 48 month lease for \$60 per month was approved for a replacement copy machine for office use. It replaces a six year old copier which needs constant maintenance. The cost will be provided by the building budget and added to the current lease agreement with Pacific Office Automation.

- Appointment of Interim Director of Special Services: The board approved the appointment of Dr. Syndi Duehn, the current Dean of Instruction at Prosser Falls High School, to the position of Interim Special Services Director for the 2009/2010 school year. She brings significant experience as a special education teacher.
- State and Federal Program Application Approval: Curriculum Director Mary Snitily reported the Highly Capable Program Grant application requires board approval before being submitted. Funds from this grant support educational program options for students who demonstrate academic abilities beyond the norm. The funding in the amount of \$24,711 supports the Open Door Program at Housel Middle School for students in grades 6-8. The board approved the application.
- Vouchers: General Fund vouchers in the amount of \$62,449.25, a Capital Projects Fund voucher in the amount of \$40,471.71 and ASB fund vouchers in the amount of \$24,019.29 were approved.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Certificated Personnel: Rhonda Talbert was approved as the Life Skills Special Education teacher at Keene-Riverview Elementary for the 2009/2010 school year. Dawn Fitzgerald was approved as the Resource Room Special Education teacher at Housel Middle School for the 2009/2010 school year. Anna Fazzari resigned her position as the Assistant Principal at Prosser High School effective June 23, 2009. Randall Walker was approved as the Life Skills Special Education teacher at Prosser High School for the 2009/2010 school year.

Contracts/Agreements: Western States Insurance provides risk management and local services and assists with insurance claims and insurance related information. The fee is \$5,000 for the 2009/2010 school year.

Each year the Prosser School District Special Education Department contracts for vision services with ESD 123. These services are provided to our visually impaired students. For the coming school year, a teacher of the visually impaired will provide nine days of services at \$460 per day for a total of \$4,140 with funding through the Special Education budget.

Renewal of the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) license will enable the district to continue with computerized assessment of students in reading and mathematics. MAP tests are used to measure growth in student learning for individual students, classrooms, schools and the district. Students in grades 2-10 are tested in the fall and spring. Results provide accurate and immediate scores to assist teachers in planning instructional programs, place new students appropriately and screen students for special programs. The license fee is \$19,276.50 with funding through the district.

The original \$4,500 contract with ESD 123, 21st Century contract was amended to provide an additional \$4,000 for student services in math, reading and English.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the prior meeting were presented.

Volunteer Coaches: The following personnel have been approved as volunteer coaches in the Prosser School District: Karla Blakney, Danielle Palacios and Allison Taylor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Low Income Housing:** Dr. Tolcacher discussed with the board the proposed low income housing development in our area. And the potential impact additional students may have on already strained classroom space. He sought direction from the board to begin discussions with Catholic Family Charities, the developer, about potential mitigation of any impact to the district regarding classroom space. The board felt the discussions should be held with the developer to assess possible impact on student classroom space.
- **Change to the "School to Community Connection" Newsletter:** Dr. Tolcacher reported the district has been publishing through commercial printing the district newsletter four times a year. In keeping with cost reduction efforts, the district is looking at a more cost effective way to deliver school district news and information. Cormac Thompson told the board the district will begin publishing the newsletter in an electronic format on the district's websites beginning in August. A minimal number of hard copies will be produced and distributed around the community for those without internet access. The newsletters will also be available in Spanish.

REPORTS

Curriculum Director's Report- Mary Snitily reported her department is finishing writing grant applications for the coming school year.

Business Manager's Report- Craig Reynolds reviewed the May financial reports and noted a reduction in spending compared to budget expectations.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Tolcacher reported on safety issues with some playground equipment at Keene-Riverview and Prosser Heights Elementary schools and said some repairs would be undertaken.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Regular Board Meeting.....July 21, 2009, Keene-Riverview Elementary, 7:00 p.m.
- Budget Study Session.....To Be Determined



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