



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Board Executive Session, 6:30 PM

The board met in executive session at 6:30 PM in the district board room to hear an appeal of a student's expulsion. Board members Anne Golden, Mary Jo Geidl, and Cindy Meyer were present, as were Superintendent Rich Carter, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan, and Assistant Superintendent Linda Boggs. The executive session concluded at 7:25 PM.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
7:30 PM

PRESENT:

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Anne Golden, President
Toni Rudnick, Vice President
Max Carrera, New Board Member
Mary Jo Geidl
Jim Lehmann, New Board Member
Cindy Meyer

ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Richard Carter, Superintendent
Dr. Bill Jordan, Deputy Superintendent
Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent
Pat Johnston, Business Manager

AUDIENCE

There was an audience for the regular board meeting of approximately 40, parents, administrators, and staff; no representative from the media was present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular board meeting was called to order in the district board room at 7:30 PM by Board President Anne Golden.

II. FLAG SALUTE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The flag salute and pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Bill Jordan, Deputy Superintendent.

III. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS MAX CARRERA AND JIM LEHMANN, AND RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBER ANNE GOLDEN

Walla Walla County Superior Court Judge Donald Schacht administered the oath of office individually to new board members Max Carrera and Jim Lehmann and re-elected board member Anne Golden. He then congratulated the new and re-elected board members, Mrs. Golden welcomed Mr. Carrera and Dr. Lehmann to the board, and all received a round of applause.

IV. ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Rudnick moved, and Mrs. Meyer seconded, approval of the agenda as presented; the motion carried.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Meyer moved that the consent agenda items be approved or authorized as appropriate, including items # 1-3: 1) Personnel Report and Out of State Travel; 2) Carl Perkins Vocational Grant Application; and 3) Payment of December Bills and Payroll. Mrs. Geidl seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of November 20, 2007, Minutes

Mrs. Geidl moved, and Mrs. Meyer seconded, approval of the November 20 regular board meeting minutes. The motion carried.

VII. SPECIAL PROGRAMS1. Sharpstein Choir

Approximately 50 fourth and fifth graders from the Sharpstein choir entertained the board and audience with several songs of the season. They were applauded heartily and Mrs. Golden thanked them for coming and sharing their inspiring music. Mrs. Boggs also thanked the parents for adding to their busy schedules to bring the students.

2. Presentation of National Board Certification Pins

Dr. Jordan announced his pleasure in presenting four new district recipients for National Board Certification. It is quite an honor, he said, in this state where there are 72,000 certificated employees, that about 1800 have achieved this level, including 24 in Walla Walla School District. The standard is quite rigorous, he continued, as he highlighted several of the requirements, including candidates' proof they have impacted student learning, a big achievement to accomplish this. Missy Johnson, Cathy Shafer, Matt Daly, and Casey Monahan (who was unable to be present) were called forward to receive their pins from Board President Anne Golden and Superintendent Rich Carter. Mrs. Geidl thanked the many friends and family members present in the audience to share in the recipients' prestigious award.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS1. Certification of Election

Dr. Carter read for the board record the results of the Walla Walla County November 6, 2007, general election for the Walla Walla School District: Position #3, Jim Lehmann received 3,743 votes, 53.62%; Roger Bairstow, 3,190, 45.70%; Position #4, Max Carrera, 6,062 votes, 97.62%; Position #5, Anne Golden, 6449, 97.90%. Dr. Carter congratulated the re-elected and new board members.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS - none

X. REPORTS

1. Boundary Review

Chris Gardea and Dana Jones, co-chairs of the newly formed Boundary Review Committee, gave the board a brief outline of the committee's purpose and process. With many new housing developments in the community and a larger Edison opening in 2009 capable of accommodating 200 more students, school boundaries need to be studied to ensure meeting the needs of elementary students, they began; previous studies were done in 1985 and 1995, they noted. The committee will study current and anticipated student population locations, focusing on a neighborhood school concept as desired by parents and the community, equalizing enrollment, and maintaining safety, they continued. The committee will include representation from each school community, they went on, and will begin meeting in January to develop the process. Mr. Gardea said the three phases being considered are to gather data from other school districts who have undergone this process, study enrollment in current boundaries and transportation issues, receive input from the community, develop scenarios, and finalize recommendations to the school board from that. Mrs. Jones said the focus from the beginning is recognition that the community and parents desire neighborhood schools for their students.

The co-chairs shared data regarding student population at various schools, those open enrolled or there because of overload; also to be considered is home school attendance. City and county planners (and the port?) have volunteered to work with the committee, as they estimate where growth is occurring. The co-chairs requested to have a board work session preceding the regular board meeting January 15. In response to a query from Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Jones reconfirmed that the representation from schools will include parents and that process has begun. Mrs. Jones added that another important consideration learned from other districts is provision for grandfathering opportunities for families and that will be part of the study.

Dr. Carter noted large developments occurring or planned near Taumarson near the boundary line between College Place and Walla Walla; there is some interest from College Place to study adjustments as the developments occur to make clear the boundary lines.

Dr. Carter thanked the co-chairs, saying that the project is part of Mrs. Jones' preparation for her superintendent's credential through WSU and Mr. Gardea generously volunteered for the project, Dr. Carter said and thanked them for their contributions. He reiterated there will be a work session January 15.

2. District Update and Levy Information

Dr. Carter told the board that after one more presentation the following day, he will have presented to all schools, buildings, and departments about the Edison project, district activities, needs, and successes, and information on the levy. There are many successful and good things going on in the district, he said, and all staff are interested in knowing about them. Everyone involved will have to work hard to inform the public about the levy and the need for its success, even with the passage of the simple majority legislation, as there is a real anti-tax feeling in the community. The Citizens for Schools group is moving along at a good pace, he continued; yard signs and car window posters will be showing up soon and are available now for everyone.

The committee will meet right after the holidays to plan a rally; phone banks will occur just a few days before the ballots go out and the committee plans a low key fund raiser. Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagle has prepared the actual ballot language for the levy in compliance with regulations, and Dr. Carter read it to the board, noting the emphasis in the verbiage on its being a replacement levy, continued in all the material being distributed. Dr. Carter briefly reviewed the amount to be raised annually and the approximate rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. He also noted it is basically the same levy the district has been replacing for 40 years. Dr. Carter said the following day's presentation would be at Green Park and board members were invited to attend.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

1. Edison Project Update/Value Engineer Report and Recommendations

Architect John Evans gave the board an update on Edison project progress and status of the value engineer report. The many meetings with staff have resulted in design drawings which are 60-70% complete and expected to be 100% by February 15. These include mechanical, electrical, structural, etc. specifications and will be submitted to the value engineering firm, fulfilling the state requirement for an independent review, he said, and will authorize a call for bids. Some state funds are available for part of this process, he continued. Opening of bids is anticipated in mid-March. Mr. Evans said Mr. Cooper of Roen & Associates has a set of updated documents and several hours have been spent reviewing plans for the correct technology and support. Mr. Evans complimented the district for their very good work in this preparation and development of infrastructure, stating a conditional use permit was granted November 15. Work on the budget continues, he said, studying potential reductions to meet the designated amount.

Mr. Evans displayed the conceptual drawings of the campus, the main entry on Hobson, the back of the gym area, and overall from above. There is much natural lighting, he noted, and discussed flooring in the gym, a rubber flooring instead of wood.

Mr. Evans explained for the benefit of the two new board members that the value engineering study/report is primarily an independent review to find ways to reduce cost. The district team has reviewed it, and a variety of recommended changes were accepted and implemented and some suggestions were tweaked. At this point, Mr. Evans said, board acceptance of the recommended changes from the VE report is needed to continue, and he recommended acceptance and implementation of the report. Mrs. Geidl moved, and Dr. Lehmann seconded, to approve the recommendations of the value engineering report. The motion carried.

2. Auction of Edison Houses

Dan Johnson presented and discussed a time line and recommendation to use the sealed bid format for the removal of the Edison houses, similar to that used in the past. The time line was developed by Dr. Carter, Mrs. Johnston, Mr. Schneider, and Mr. Johnson. On January 3 and 7, walk-throughs are planned at some of the houses for the public and potential buyers and movers, then the public notice for invitation to bid will be published in the Union-Bulletin, with intent to present the bids to the school board at the regular meeting January 15. This will allow approximately eight weeks for the houses to be removed or demolished.

Mr. Johnson said there has been some request for 60-90 days to vacate the houses; a small delay might be possible, he said, but that much deviation from the time line could jeopardize the schedule. He explained that there is only one house mover in the valley to move any/all houses. Dr. Carter indicated consideration about a time line adjustment after bids are received may be made. Mr. Evans pointed out the risk of losing contingent time if much delay is allowed and the contractor is on site wanting to proceed. Dr. Carter added there will be a clause in the contract with successful bidders concerning their responsibility to move units in the time line or be responsible to pay for demolition. Mr. Johnson discussed locations of the houses and noted one would be left on site that is out of the way of the actual project for use by the contractor's crew.

Mrs. Golden asked for a vote on the time line; Mrs. Geidl moved, and Dr. Lehmann seconded, that the recommended sealed bid process and proposed time line for the project be approved. The motion carried.

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Golden opened nominations for the office of President of the Board. Mrs. Geidl nominated Mrs. Golden for President, and Mrs. Meyer seconded the motion. Mrs. Golden called for other nominations. There being none, she called for a vote and the motion carried.

Mrs. Golden opened nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board. Mrs. Golden nominated Mrs. Geidl for Vice President, and Dr. Lehmann seconded the motion. Mrs. Golden called for other nominations; there being none, she called for a vote and the motion carried.

Dr. Carter congratulated the officers and thanked Mrs. Golden for serving as President of the Board the past year and expressed appreciation for the relationship of the superintendent, the board, and the board president. He thanked Mrs. Golden for all her hard work the past year and as she begins her 21st year on the Walla Walla School Board. Dr. Carter presented Mrs. Golden with a basket of many special gifts related to her interests, quilting and sewing. Mrs. Golden thanked everyone for their help and wished each and everyone a very happy holiday.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Golden thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Minutes to be presented for board approval January 15, 2008

APPROVED:

Richard Carter, Superintendent
and Secretary of the Board
Marilyn Brown, Recorder

Anne Golden
President of the Board