

October 11, 2005

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

A regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of the Olympia Community Unit School District Number 16 held in the Olympia Administration Office was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Brian Spaulding with the following Board members and administrators present: Brian Spaulding, Laura Cremeens, Sondra Hayes, Trena Glenn, Steve Matter, Curt Morr, Leslie Schmidgall (arrived at 7:14 p.m.); Superintendent Donald F. Hahn, Curriculum and Instruction Director/Asst. Superintendent Brad Hutchison, Business and Operations Manager Brock Butts, Technology and Media Coordinator Mary Ann Nannen, and OHS Principal Lance Thurman. Others present were Olympia parents Deb Wheeler, Troy & Brenda McAllister; community member Don Maurer; Olympia North student teachers Jamie O'Grady, Laura Dorn, and Kristine Gonzalez.

Brian Spaulding, Board president, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A **motion** was made by Steve Matter, seconded by Trena Glenn, to approve the consent agenda that included:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes (with one addition regarding the Freshman sports program), including Executive Session, from the September 12, 2005, Regular Board of Education meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes (with addition of one word) from the September 12, 2005, Public Budget Hearing
- D. Approval of Bills and Financial Reports
- E. Employed the following Education Support Personnel:
 1. Elizabeth Hendricks as Cross Category Aide/Noon Supervisor effective September 12, 2005
 2. Mindy Bachman as Classroom Aide effective September 26, 2005
 3. Tara Talbert as Individual Aide effective August 25, 2005
 4. Alka Arya-Ahlstrom as Special Education Aide effective October 3, 2005
 5. Allison Spracklen as Classroom Aide effective October 5, 2005
- F. Employed Kendra Rollins as OHS Girls Swimming Coach effective for the 2005-2006 school year
- G. Approved the increase of aide time in each First Grade classroom at Olympia West from 4 hours to 6 hours
- H. Approved the increase of part-time to full-time employment for Special Education Teacher, Megan Tyra, per the negotiated agreement and due to an added PM class effective October 11, 2005
- I. Confirmed the resignation of Carrie Lynch as Classroom Aide effective June 2, 2005

- J. Approved the change of Administrative Procedure 7:7J to add prorated health insurance for teacher aides employed after the 10th day of school

Discussion. Vote: Spaulding (aye), Cremeens (aye), Hayes (aye), Glenn (aye), Matter (aye), Morr (aye), Schmidgall (aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Recognition of Visitors

Brenda McAllister of McLean addressed the Board regarding the location of the bus stop for her Early Childhood daughter. Mrs. McAllister provided the Board with a map which showed the McAllister residence and the bus stop in question. It was noted that an aide walked with the student across the intersection to the home. Superintendent Hahn informed Mrs. McAllister that he would discuss this with Transportation Director Trent Keller and report on his findings.

Communications

A communications folder was circulated among the board members.

Tom Peffer of Gorenz & Associates, Ltd. presented the Board with the results of the 2004-2005 district audit. Mr. Peffer commended the district for creating a realistic budget and sticking with it. He also said that district administration were good fiscal managers who showed responsibility as the district rating has gone from “financial watch” in June, 2003, to “financial warning” in June, 2004, and now to “financial recognition” in June, 2005. This status is a result of the district operating the 2004-2005 school year at approximately \$1.6 million dollars less in expenses than the previous year. Mr. Peffer’s report also reflected that the district’s cost per pupil has historically operated below the state average and that there was a strengthening of fund balances, excluding transportation.

Transportation Director Trent Keller presented the Board with a report that showed reasoning for his recommendation to purchase three passenger buses and one activity bus. Mr. Keller’s report included estimated costs for the purchase and a 3-year replacement schedule for future bus replacements. During his report, Mr. Keller pointed out that “spare” buses were used not only to replace those with mechanical problems, but for many activity transportations as well. Being aware of the high fuel costs, Mr. Keller informed the Board that the past two purchases of fuel has cost \$2.19 per gallon, and that he expects the average fuel cost this fall/winter to run approximately \$2.00 per gallon.

Superintendent Donald Hahn reported that the district currently has 35 students enrolled at the Bloomington Area Vocational Center with the highest amount of students participating in metals and cosmetology. He informed the Board that the district’s cost per student to attend an AVC is approximately \$950.00 per year. Mr. Hahn also reviewed the Regional Alternative School Programs annual report with the Board which showed a significant increase in the number of students (throughout DeWitt, Livingston,

& McLean counties) enrolled in the SAVE program. He pointed out that there were more Freshman and Sophomore students enrolled in alternative programs than in the past.

Superintendent Hahn shared a letter with the Board from an Olympia resident who pointed out that the current Board policy still states that the district offers both a full-day and half-day Kindergarten program. The resident also expressed a desire to see full-day Kindergarten re-established, stating that the Board should look at 1st grade reading test results to see if half-day Kindergarten has had any impact on test scores. Mr. Hahn pointed out that time spent in Kindergarten has sometimes made an impact on scores up through 4th grade, but that scores usually even out past 4th grade. The Board noted that the current policy regarding the Kindergarten program must be revised. They also noted that this subject would be one that would be reviewed at their next planning session.

Superintendent Hahn previously distributed copies of the IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards) Report to Members to the Board. Mr. Hahn asked the Board to review these reports and be ready for a brief discussion at the November Board of Education meeting.

Committee Reports

Board member Steve Matter reported that the Building and Grounds Committee, consisting of Dr. Brock Butts, Steve Matter and Curt Morr, had met and that Dr. Butts is preparing a 2-5 year plan which would prioritize current and future needs. These projects will be discussed at a Board of Education planning session in January, 2006.

Superintendent Hahn reported that the Policy Committee, consisting of Mr. Hahn, Sondra Hayes and Trena Glenn, had met and recommended the final changes to the early graduation policy and to policies 2:160, 3:60, 4:170, 6:300, 7:190, and 7:325. Mr. Hahn informed the Board that the Policy Committee will be meeting again to review further changes as recommended by the IASB.

On behalf of the Education Committee, consisting of Assistant Superintendent Brad Hutchison, Laura Cremeens and Trena Glenn, Mr. Hutchison shared with the Board a school-parent compact and a parent involvement plan with a comparison to the current Board policy regarding parental involvement. Mr. Hutchison also shared the new federal guideline for parental right to request their child's classroom teacher's qualifications. Olympia's current policy will need to include this federal guideline.

Administrative Reports

Assistant Superintendent Brad Hutchison shared a copy of the final teacher evaluation instrument with the Board. This instrument, in accordance with section 5.12.4 of the teachers' contractual agreement, is now being implemented and will utilize four main domains from which both teachers and administrators will work to improve instruction. Mr. Hutchison also pointed out the many Olympia professional development

opportunities available this fall, noting that over 30 administrators and teachers had signed up to participate in a Leadership Training Academy on October 19. Mr. Hutchison reported that participation in the free/reduced lunch program is used to determine federal grant allocations. This program also ensures that students are receiving needed nutrition. At this time, data shows that one out of every four Olympia students qualify for the free/reduced lunch program.

Technology and Media Director Mary Ann Nannen informed the Board that Olympia did meet the deadline for compliance with the statewide Student Information System, a system being implemented to comply with the requirements of No Child Left Behind. Mrs. Nannen reported that special education teachers received extensive training for a new software product that will assist students with reading and writing skills. Regular education teachers have also been involved in this training in order to assist lower achieving students. She also informed the Board that OHS will continue to use NovaNet this year. NovaNet is a program that provides special education curriculum opportunities and credit recovery possibilities.

Mrs. Nannen shared with the Board that Olympia's new website has received many positive comments. She also reported that most of the general technology needs have now been met throughout the district.

Business and Operations Manager Brock Butts presented the Board with a summary of a five-year energy costs savings generated by the installation of the Geo-Thermal system at OHMS. To date, this system has saved the district approximately \$250,000.

Dr. Butts also reported that preliminary preparations for the 2005 tax levy indicate no increase (and possibly a decrease) in the aggregate 2005 equalized assessed value of property in the Olympia school district. He informed the Board that the tentative levy will be presented to the Board at the November Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Butts informed the Board that the district will be accepting sealed bids for the Stanford Elementary building on November 1, 2005. The results of the bidding process will be presented to the Board, also at the November Board of Education meeting.

OHS Principal Lance Thurman presented the graduation requirements to the board which included the early graduation requirements as recommended by the Policy Committee. Mr. Thurman pointed out that applications for early graduation must now be submitted by June 1 of each school year. Mr. Thurman also submitted to the Board a list of students who have requested early graduation.

Superintendent Don Hahn presented to the Board a comparison of the September 30, 2004 enrollment to the September 30, 2005 enrollment which shows an increase in this year's enrollment. He also presented the 2005-2006 OAC (Olympia Advisory Council) membership list and schedule of meetings. Mr. Hahn shared that contact had been made to all Olympia villages and civic organizations, and that he expected OAC representation from many of these groups.

Principals' Reports were shared in the Board packets. These reports highlighted the events happening during the fall season, activity enrollment, and general school information for parents.

Other Business

None

Action Items

A **motion** was made by Les Schmidgall, seconded by Sondra Hayes, to approve the Auditor's Report for the 2004-2005 school year as presented by Tom Peffer of Gorenz & Associates, Ltd.

Discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.
Schmidgall (aye), Hayes (aye), Spaulding (aye), Cremeens (aye), Glenn (aye), Matter (aye), Morr (aye)

A **motion** was made by Laura Cremeens, seconded by Sondra Hayes, to approve the Administrative recommendation for Early Graducation as presented by OHS Principal, Lance Thurman.

Discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.
Cremeens (aye), Hayes (aye), Spaulding (aye), Glenn (aye), Matter (aye), Morr (aye), Schmidgall (aye)

A **motion** was made by Trena Glenn, seconded by Les Schmidgall, to approve the 2005-2006 OAC Member List and Schedule as presented by Superintendent Don Hahn.

Discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.
Glenn (aye), Schmidgall (aye), Spaulding (aye), Cremeens (aye), Hayes (aye), Matter (aye), Morr (aye)

A **motion** was made by Steve Matter, seconded by Brian Spaulding, to approve the final changes to Board policies 2:160 (with the deletion of one word), 3:60, 4:170 (with the deletion of one sentence), 6:300, 7:190, and 7:325 as recommended by Superintendent Don Hahn and the Policy Committee.

Discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.
Matter (aye), Spaulding (aye), Cremeens (aye), Hayes (aye), Glenn (aye), Morr (aye), Schmidgall (aye)

A **motion** was made by Laura Cremeens, seconded by Curt Morr, to approve the seeking of bids for the purchase of three new buses and one activity bus.

Discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.
Cremeens (aye), Morr (aye), Spaulding (aye), Hayes (aye), Glenn (aye),
Matter (aye), Schmidgall (aye)

A **motion** was made by Curt Morr, seconded by Steve Matter, to direct Superintendent Hahn to study full-day Kindergarten for future planning and to report options available by the December, 2005, Board of Education meeting.

Discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.
Morr (aye), Matter (aye), Spaulding (aye), Cremeens (aye), Hayes (aye),
Glenn (aye), Schmidgall (aye)

Executive Session

A **motion** was made by Sondra Hayes, seconded by Steve Matter, to meet in Executive Session at 10:35 p.m. to set Superintendent's salary and to discuss 2006-2007 vacancies.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A **motion** was made by Laura Cremeens, seconded by Sondra Hayes, to reconvene open session at 12:15 a.m.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Action As A Result Of Executive Session

A **motion** was made by Steve Matter, seconded by Sondra Hayes, to set the Superintendent's salary for the 2005-2006 year at 6% over his 2004-2005 salary and to set the Superintendent's salary for the 2006-2007 year at 6% above his 2005-2006 salary.

Discussion. **Vote.** Motion carried 5-2.
Matter (aye), Hayes (aye), Spaulding (aye), Cremeens (aye), Glenn (aye),
Morr (nay), Schmidgall (nay)

Adjournment

At 12:20 a.m., a **motion** was made by Sondra Hayes, seconded by Steve Matter, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPROVED:

President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Education

Executive Session Minutes
October 11, 2005

A motion was made by Sondra Hayes, seconded by Steve Matter, to meet in Executive Session at 10:35 p.m. to set Superintendent's salary and to discuss 2006-2007 vacancies.

A motion was made by Laura Cremeens, seconded by Sondra Hayes, to reconvene open session at 12:15 a.m.