

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 12, 2012

Place: Board Room – Commodore Campus

Board of Directors Present

President – Patty Fielding

Vice-President – Mary Curtis

Directors – Mike Spence, Tim Kinkead

Call to Order

5:40 p.m. – Board President Patty Fielding called the meeting to order and a quorum was recognized. Ms. Fielding noted board members received a revised agenda with item A. *Wilkes Multiage Feasibility Study* action changed from “information only” to “board decision.” Board members were in agreement to accept the revised agenda.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Faith Chapel announced Sakai Intermediate School and Science Teacher Amy Evans received a \$10,000 grant from the 3-M Corporation. Grant funds will be used to increase Sakai’s supply of Lego Mindstorms NXT robots and software.

Board Reports

No board reports.

Presentations

A. Wilkes Multiage Feasibility Study

Board President Patty Fielding prefaced the presentation with a “thank-you” on behalf of the board to Associate Superintendent Julie Goldsmith, district staff, and parents who had dedicated an incredible amount of time on this issue.

Associate Superintendent Julie Goldsmith began the presentation with a review of the history of alternative programs in the district. It was noted the pilot proposal for a “family classroom” was implemented in 1995, followed by the Commodore Options programs in 1996. The current options programs in the district were reviewed and include: Eagle Harbor High School, Odyssey 1-8, Mosaic Homeschool Partnership, Online Learning, All-Day Kindergarten, 7th Period Option, Sakai World Language – Rosetta Stone Program, and Preschool. Ms. Goldsmith also reviewed the guiding principles and guidelines for development of optional programs in the district.

In April 2011, the school board determined that due to issues of space (construction at Wilkes causing the removal of two portables) the decision about a new Multiage Program at Wilkes was delayed for a year. Updates on the status of the Options Programs were provided at the PTOCC meetings in December and February, with the school board receiving an Options update in January. The February 15, 2012 Options Open House was advertised in the local newspaper, with additional information being sent by listserv to parents about the program application process. Applications for inclusion in the Wilkes Multiage Program were due on March 23, with a lottery held March 29. Parents had until April 10 to make their final commitment to both the Wilkes Multiage and Commodore Options Programs.

Ms. Goldsmith noted in April 2011, during discussion about next steps, it was suggested that a district committee be created to review the current elementary/intermediate program design. The committee

would be comprised of parents from the selected Wilkes Options program, representatives from the PTO leadership, parents, staff, and principals of all K-6 schools. The purpose of the committee would be to develop a better understanding of parent interest in options programs and how these interests might be addressed within each neighborhood school. It was noted that while the district committee has yet to be formed, any discussion of program design or additional options needed to be wrapped into a discussion of demographics and the district budget. The district needs to look at the entire K-6 program to determine program components for each school. A demographic analysis of the district is currently underway and a board study session will be held to review the data.

The 2012 Feasibility Study continues with system implications that include: a) determination of interest and committed enrollment for the programs; b) confirmation of location and space availability; c) staffing and other logistical impacts; d) analysis of costs (start-up, transportation, ongoing expenses, and possible revenues); and e) possible scenarios for the school board's consideration. Ms. Goldsmith explained that as a result of the analysis, four scenarios related to the creation of a multiage program at Wilkes were developed. An overview of those scenarios was provided as follows: *Scenario 1* – Move forward with the Wilkes Multiage Program at both grades 1 & 2 and grades 3 & 4; *Scenario 2* – Move forward with one classroom for the 1/2 grade Multiage Program and delay the start of a 3/4 program; *Scenario 3* – Create a pilot program of two 1/2 Multiage classrooms at Wilkes; and *Scenario 4* – Do not move forward with a new Multiage Program at Wilkes. Ms. Goldsmith provided student enrollment, class size estimates, and options programs applications data related to each scenario, and noted on-going implications would include annual program review to ensure enrollment, student achievement, and budget impacts.

Following the presentation, Ms. Goldsmith noted the recommendation was to move forward with *Scenario 3* based on these conclusions: a) there is no increased staff cost; b) increased enrollment of new students into district schools (up to 9 student for a revenue of \$46,800); c) planning costs (\$2450 - \$5250) offset by new enrollment; d) minimizes the need to shift students between schools; e) provides a multiage program for most of the students in the 1st/2nd grade that applied for entrance (the majority who are currently enrolled at Wilkes). Regarding next steps in the process, the district will move forward with identifying and affirming enrollment of students interested in the program, a parent meeting will be scheduled, the planning process will be started with teachers and parents, and a timeline for activities will be developed.

Board discussion included clarification of the staffing costs included in the feasibility study noting there were program configurations not being considered that would have required an additional staffing FTE. As the lottery process had been completed, board members asked when the ambiguity about enrollment in the Wilkes multiage program becomes final. Wilkes Principal Sheryl Belt answered, noting she would be contacting families next week to confirm their interest in the program. Board members clarified that by their approval of *Scenario 3*, they would be delegating authority to district administrators to proceed with the processes to confirm the program is viable. It was further agreed the innovative multiage program option, as long as it is equitable and cost neutral, does not need to come back to the board for additional approval. Board members also requested the program costs and student achievement progress be tracked over time.

Following Ms. Goldsmith's presentation and board discussion, the floor was opened to public comment. Parent Rhett Stephens spoke, expressing his preference for *Scenario 1* based on comparison to the Odyssey Multiage Program, which offers multi-grade levels within its program. He also noted expected revenue gained by students coming into the Wilkes program from private school may not be realized if only a grade 1/2 program is offered. Citizen Jennifer McDonald asked if *Scenario 2* would be considered and response indicated the student numbers didn't work for that scenario. Ordway Teacher Boo Schneider spoke on behalf of all the innovative strategies already being implanted by creative teachers in classrooms throughout the district. Parent Susan Gleason expressed the hope that those students who don't have a parent advocating for them, for whatever reason, are getting the attention they need.

At the conclusion of the public comment segment, Board President Patty Fielding called for a motion for approval.

Motion 59-11-12:

That the Board approves *Scenario 3* contingent on enrollment to support the program, commensurate with standards across the district, and that it is financially feasible. (Kinkead) The affirmative vote was unanimous. (Kinkead, Curtis, Spence, Fielding)

B. State Assessment Schedule Update

Director of Instructional Technology & Assessment Randi Ivancich provided information on federal and state assessments that comprise the district's current state assessment system, along with a timeline to show the testing schedule that takes place. Ms. Ivancich explained current Washington State laws that regulate student assessment systems require the following objective: a) test all public school students across the state, including student with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency; b) be administered annually in selected grades; c) measure performance based on the Essential Academic Learning Requirements – the state's learning standards; d) report on the performance of individual students, schools, and districts; e) serve as one basis of accountability for students, schools, and districts. It was noted testing is required for all students grades 3 – high school in reading, writing, math, and science. Board members suggested the chart of all the assessments and their timelines be posted on the district's website.

C. State and District Budget Update

Superintendent Faith Chapel gave board members an update on the status of state and district budgets. The April 3rd legislative update published by the Washington State School Directors' Association, the April 11th Special Edition of This Week In Olympia published by the Washington Association of School Administrators, and the most recent draft of the 2012-13 General Fund Projected Budget Gap were provided as background information for the update. Ms. Chapel noted key changes since March including funding for special education with updated projections, adjustments to utilities, water & sewer costs based on energy conservation efforts, suggested revenue adjustments with fund balance applied to 2012-13, staffing adjustments to align with decreased enrollment (including certificated, classified and transportation staff), and the preliminary estimate of the Bainbridge Schools Foundation donation. Ms. Chapel distributed the District Budget Advisory Committee's "working document" for 2012-13 budget adjustment review. The document contained the committee's efforts at reviewing staffing reductions to align to enrollment, and reduction of programs or services that were previously considered but not implemented. Reductions in the latter category included: a) elimination of custodial position (1.0 FTE); b) reduce classified staffing K-12 (office, paraeducator, etc.) by 18 – 22 hours; c) reduce or eliminate librarians Gr. 5-12 by 1.5 to 3.0 FTE; d) eliminate Gr. 5-6 Band or move outside school day; e) eliminate Gr. 7-8 athletic programs or increase fees; f) Gr. 5-8 Administrative/TOSA – elimination of .5 TOSA in Gr. 5-6, split WMS Assoc. Principal between WMS/Sakai; g) gain additional revenue from cell tower installation. Ms. Chapel noted the DBAC members spent time at the April 10th meeting discussing the reductions and began the prioritization process. The committee will continue the process at their next meeting.

D. Monthly Communications Report

Community Relations Coordinator Pam Keyes provided a summary of communication-related activities from March 2 – 30, 2012. Highlights from that summary were as follows: Community Engagement - The Communication Committee is discussing and planning appropriate engagement opportunities for specific audiences and the community-at-large. Ms. Keyes involvement with the Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council and the Just Know Coalition remain an active part of interactions. It was noted other departments also are liaisons to a variety of community organizations. Interactions not frequently reported are the responses to phone and email queries from within the community and notably from families considering a move or in the process of moving to Bainbridge. In the past four weeks, there have been six such inquiries. Emergency Preparedness – The district is updating procedures related specifically to Bomb Threats, using information provided by the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management

(DEM) among other sources. On April 25, the state will conduct their annual Drop, Cover & Hold earthquake drill. On June 5 & 6, the county is doing an extended Evergreen Earthquake Exercise. The district has discussed involvement and will appropriately participate in these activities. In coordination with the Fire Department, a community-wide emergency preparedness event also is being discussed. Voice Notification/SchoolMessenger Review – Ms. Keyes and Technology Director Randi Ivancich continue to review and research voice notification systems using a matrix of features and communication goals for comparison. A report on the outcomes of the research and review will be brought to the board later this spring. Email – There have been six email communications since the last update. Listserv communications remain an effective “pulse” regarding issues of interest to parents. As an example, the district has been able to understand and respond to feedback on the proposed weekly early release for professional development. Other items noted were the publication of the next OpenBook edition that will focus on differentiated instruction, and a survey tool that will be used to gather statistics for the annual volunteer report.

Personnel Actions

Motion 60-11-12:

That the Board approves the Personnel Actions dated April 12, 2012 as presented. (Curtis) The affirmative vote was unanimous. (Curtis, Spence, Kinkead, Fielding)

Consent Agenda

District Staff: Out of State Travel

1. Request for Board approval from Wilkes Elementary School Principal Sheryl Belt and Wilkes Teacher Mary Madison to travel to Manzanar, California on April 16 – 18, 2012, to gather information about the history of the Japanese-American Internment and the connection to Bainbridge Island community.

March 2012 Payroll

Warrant Numbers: (Payroll Warrants) 1000904 through 1000955
(Payroll AP Warrants) 171710 through 171735
TOTAL: \$2,727,038.00

Motion 61-11-12:

That the Board approves the revised Consent Agenda as presented. (Spence) The affirmative vote was unanimous. (Spence, Curtis, Kinkead, Fielding)

The following vouchers as audited and certified by the auditing officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified, as required by RCW 42.24.090, were also approved for payment.

(General Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 2004915 through 2005007 totaling \$ 233,131.83 .

(Capital Projects Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 4320 through 4329 totaling \$ 203,413.01 .

Adjournment

8:32 p.m. – Board President Patty Fielding adjourned the meeting.