

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

**Date:** January 13, 2011

**Place:** Bainbridge High School Library

**Board of Directors Present**

Board President – Patty Fielding

Board Vice-President – Mary Curtis

Directors – John Tawresey, Mike Spence, Tim Kinkead

**Call to Order**

5:34 p.m. – Board President Patty Fielding called the meeting to order and a quorum was recognized.

**Public Comment**

Citizen Sarah Nicholson spoke about concerns related to agenda item *C. – School Options Program Report* and the proposal from the Bainbridge Island Learning Community Steering Team requesting the district consider creating a new optional program similar to the Odyssey grade 1-6 program. Ms. Nicholson’s concerns focused on the lack of financial information in the proposal. With a number of citizens having signed up to give public comment on the topic, President Fielding and Superintendent Chapel suggested it might be helpful for them to stay until the topic is addressed on the agenda, listen to the presentation on the proposal, and then make their comments. The audience members nodded agreement with this process.

Citizen Tom Greene submitted several letters to the Board regarding concerns about the curriculum materials being used in the Global Citizenship class at Bainbridge High School. Mr. Greene read the letter dated January 13, 2011 to the Board, which included two paragraphs from Censorship and Selection, a publication of the American Association of School Administrators and The American Library Association. The book is intended to guide school administrators in dealing with parents who have issue with school curricula. (Mr. Greene’s letters are available for review upon request.)

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Faith Chapel introduced Vicky Marsing, Executive Director of the Bainbridge Schools Foundation. Ms. Marsing presented to the District, a donation in the amount of \$250,000 for teachers’ salaries. The funds were raised through the Keep Island Schools Strong Campaign. It was noted the Bainbridge Schools Foundation has pledged another \$320,000 to the District by the end of the year. The Board, Superintendent and community members in attendance expressed their gratitude to the Foundation and all the Island community for their support.

Superintendent Chapel announced several certificated staff members were being recognized for earning National Board Certification, an advanced teaching credential. National Board Certification is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize an effective and accomplished teacher who meets high and rigorous standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do. This certification complements a state’s teacher license. As part of the certification process, candidates complete 10 assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certificate areas. District teachers who received National Board Certification include: Carrie Holloway, Jessica Bender, Brian Skare, and Karen Polinsky.

**Board Reports**

No board reports.

Board President Patty Fielding suggested agenda item *J. – 2010 – 2012 Collective Bargaining Agreement between Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 and Bainbridge Island Educational Support Professional Association* be moved forward on the agenda. There were no objections.

### **Presentations**

*J. – 2010 – 2012 Collective Bargaining Agreement between Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 and Bainbridge Island Educational Support Professional Association*

Director of Personnel and Transportation Cami Dombkowski provided an overview of the negotiation process that resulted in an agreement between the District and the Bainbridge Island Educational Support Professionals Association (BIESPA). Ms. Dombkowski noted she and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen, Commodore Principal Catherine Camp, and Director Peggy Paige met multiple times with the BIESPA bargaining team that included Steve Brown, Bernie Mejia, Lydia Scheiber, and Janet Shankland to negotiate revisions to the agreement that expired August 31, 2010. The BIESPA membership ratified the changes to the agreement at their January 5, 2011, with those in attendance voting 100% in favor. Board approval of the agreement is required.

**Motion 36-10-11:** That the Board approves the agreement effective September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2012 between the Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 and the Bainbridge Island Educational Support Professional Association. (Kinhead) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

*A. Policy 2162: Transitional Bilingual Instruction (Second and Final Reading)*

Executive Director Betsy Minor Reid presented Policy 2161 Transitional Bilingual Instruction for its second and final reading. She noted that changes in federal and state laws required the policy to be updated for compliance purposes. Ms. Minor Reid stated the edits to the policy suggested by board members at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting had been incorporated into the policy language.

**Motion 37-10-11:** That the Board approves the second and final reading of Policy 2162: Transitional Bilingual Instruction. (Spence) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

*B. Policy 2166: Highly Capable Students (First Reading)*

Executive Director Betsy Minor Reid presented revised Policy 2166 Highly Capable Students for board review. She explained the OSPI Consolidated Program Review process currently underway in the district required the policy to be updated for compliance purposes. In addition, Ms. Minor Reid anticipates further revision may be necessary in the future as the legislation related to the area of highly capable students changes.

**Motion 38-10-11:** That the Board approves the first reading of revised Policy 2166 Highly Capable Students. (Tawresey) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

*C. School Options Program Report*

Associate Superintendent Julie Goldsmith presented an overview of the process for consideration of a school options program to date, which included a review of the district analysis of the BI Learning Community proposal. Ms. Goldsmith began by providing background information about what facilitated the options program being developed. It was noted that enrollment in Commodore's Odyssey Program for 2010-11 resulted in 125 students being placed on a waiting list. This prompted a group of parents to form the BI Learning Community, which presented their ideas to the Board this past fall and started development of the proposal. The District established a joint committee to create the elements of the process and procedures for proposing new option programs.

Ms. Goldsmith provided a "historical" framework regarding options programs in the district. In 1995 the district went through a Diverse Student Program Review process, which included an Alternative Delivery

Model Sub-Committee. That sub-committee recommended to the school board the need to increase the use of different student grouping options, establish a middle school alternative program and expand the Strawberry Hill program. Then in December 1995 a pilot proposal for a “family classroom” was presented and eventually became what is now the Odyssey Multiage Program under the umbrella of the Commodore Options School. In 1996, the school board approved Policy 2510 Options Programs. These “options programs” provide students with a range of learning environments that emphasize different delivery models (i.e. multi-age groupings, contract or independent learning experiences, community work experience). Student performance is evaluated in all “options programs” on a competency basis, as measured against the uniform standards and requirements of the school district.

Keeping in mind the history of options programs in the district, the joint district’s committee developed draft guiding principles and procedures for proposing options programs. Some of the guiding principles and procedures highlighted included: a) Goals of the Options Program are congruent with district vision, mission, goals, and core curriculum. b) Option Programs are open to all students at the targeted grade levels. c) Options Programs are optional alternatives for students, subject to student and parent choice from schools across the district; funded and staffed at comparable levels to other school programs at the same grade levels; sited on a space available basis; and evaluated against goals and objectives including enrollment targets and student achievement as a basis for continuation. d) Options Programs fall under the leadership of a district administrator. e) Options Programs will be developed in cooperation with district and/or community stakeholders (teachers, administrators, Site Base Council, etc.) of the school in which they are sited. f) Assignment of staff members to an Options Program will be based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement. g) Each Options Program will encourage innovation and allow for flexibility.

Additionally, guidelines for development of optional programs included: a) Parent, community, and/or staff shall develop a written proposal including rationale for the need and the objectives of the program being proposed. b) All new programs are accepted on annual basis and must be reviewed by the school district annually considering factors such as enrollment, student achievement and program costs. c) Each Options Program will encourage innovation and allow for flexibility. d) The Superintendent or designee will work with district staff to analyze the proposal for alignment to guiding principles and systems implications (that includes cost, staffing, space availability and contractual impacts). e) Ongoing communication will be provided to the Board of Directors on the proposal and analysis. f) The individual and/or group will be asked to prepare evidence of sufficient initial interest and commitment to the proposed program by enough students and parents. g) The Board of Directors recommends, rejects, or requests modifications to the proposal. h) Final decision on the proposal will be made by the Board of Directors at a public meeting.

Board members received copies of the BI Learning Community draft proposal for a new options program, and Ms. Goldsmith highlighted the proposal’s mission that reads: Provide Bainbridge Island School District students with community-based education that fosters self-directed life-long learners. This mission is accomplished through multi-grade classrooms, strong family involvement, individual learning plans, and learning that utilizes relevant project-based themes integrated into established district curriculum. Ms. Goldsmith also provided an analysis of the proposal highlighting its alignment to the guiding principles for options programs, system implications related to location, impact on specialists and staffing, start-up costs for planning time and staff development, transportation and increased enrollment. The on-going implications include an annual program evaluation and integrating of the options programs into the Wilkes school community.

At the conclusion of Ms. Goldsmith’s presentation, Board President Patty Fielding suggested the BI Learning Community group make any comments they felt appropriate prior to opening the floor to questions. Mr. Rhett Stephens spoke about the “guaranteed admittance” clause contained in the admissions process segment of the draft proposal. He explained the clause was included in the proposal to help maintain the integrity of the vision, and because the steering committee has developed a good

working relationship with the district, as well as a deep understanding of the policies that would guide the options program. The steering committee also has a strong commitment to making the new options program a success.

President Fielding opened the floor to public comment, calling on the citizens that signed up to speak earlier in the evening. Comments were heard from the following citizens: Carol Perry, Ann Livengard, Michele Hobbs (letter submitted – PTOCC), Jane Woolever (letter submitted – Blakely PTO President), Julie Donegan, Renni Bispham, Bryn Lashmet, Stephen Brady, Judy Levine, Sandra Visnack, Stephanie Stephens, Bruce Woolever. (Letters submitted to record are available upon request.) Several citizens expressed support for the proposed options program, and several citizens expressed concern over the proposal. Concerns focused on the costs of the program, location, transparency of the development process, and limited public communication about the proposal. Support for the proposal focused on the need as demonstrated by the number of families interested in enrollment in the Odyssey Multiage Program. At the conclusion of the public comment period, President Fielding suggested that the Board hold a study session to gather additional input from the community regarding the options program proposal. With the audience indicating an interest, a study session will be scheduled and information about the time, date and location will be sent out via district listserv, as well as being sent to the media. Finally, Ms. Goldsmith briefly presented information about the options for future consideration such as expanding options for high school students, expansion of an options program to grades 5-6, and the possible creation of a kindergarten option program to serve both the BI Learning Community and Odyssey.

#### *D. Wilkes Elementary Replacement Project Update*

Director of Facilities and Capital Projects Tamela Van Winkle presented an update regarding the Wilkes Elementary School Replacement Project. As the design team moves closer to the permit application, the current focus areas are as follows: DRB – Prior to the Planning Commission review, the Design Review Board approved the Wilkes Elementary School Project and added the following comment: *We recommend approval of the project and commend the Architects and the School District for their hard work and willingness to address our concerns.* Planning Commission: The Design Team presented the Wilkes Elementary School Project to the City of Bainbridge Island Planning Commission on December 16, 2010. A variety of topics and questions were addressed. Discussion included transportation, wetland, signage, energy conservation measures, building configuration, height, grade changes, exterior design elements, building site location, and pedestrian paths. Meeting minutes are currently being prepared for distribution by the City. Two motions were unanimously passed; approval of six additional parking spaces; and approval by the hearing examiner with concerns expressed by the Planning Commission. The south trail end conclusion, south wetland runoff, and fence safety at the south wetland will be resolved prior to the CUP hearing. CUP: In consideration of the Application for Conditional Use Permit, and Site Plan and Design Review Permit, a public hearing will be conducted by the City of Bainbridge Island Hearing Examiner on January 14, 2011.

#### *E. Instructional Materials Committee Report*

Associate Superintendent Julie Goldsmith presented the Instructional Materials Committee report, meeting minutes, and recommended materials from the December 7, 2010 meeting. Instructional materials recommended for approval were: a) White Noise by Don DeLillo (AP Literature). b) To The Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf (AP Literature). c) Blood on the River by Elsa Carbone (Grade 5 Social Studies). d) In Defense of our Neighbors: The Walt & Millie Woodward Story by Mary Woodward (Grade 6 Language Arts). e) The Fences Between Us by Kathy Larson (Grade 6 Language Arts). f) Surviving Jamestown by Gail Langer Karwoski (Grade 5 Social Studies). g) Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata (Grade 6 Language Arts). h) Hotel at the Corner of Bitter-Sweet by Jamie Ford (Grade 6 Language Arts).

#### **Motion 39-10-11:**

That the Board approves the instructional materials as submitted in Ms. Goldsmith's memo dated January 7, 2011. (Curtis) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

#### *F. Monthly Communications Report*

Community Relations Coordinator Pam Keyes provided a summary of communication activities from October 14, 2010 to January 5, 2011. Highlights from that summary included the following: Publication Updates: The district's Volunteer Handbook has just been completed. The handbook includes information about expectations and guidelines, conduct, training, application forms and processes, as well as liability, dismissal and other issues. In addition to a specific number of printed copies distributed to each school, the handbook will be available online. Website Updates: Ms. Keyes assessed the number of times folks have viewed the current topics on the district's website front page(s). Current News received the most "hits" with Classroom Technology Supports Student Learning next, and Graduation Requirement Changes third. Budget Considerations had medium interest with 542 hits, and all other current features had less than 200 hits. Other topics covered in Ms. Keyes report included online publications, emergency planning, community outreach, media coverage, and Washington State Patrol checks.

#### *G. State Budget Update*

Superintendent Faith Chapel reported the news regarding the current state budget and the biennial budget for 2011-13 is certainly grim, and the implications for K-12 education is devastating. The state has a two-fold problem: a \$1.2 billion budget gap for the current year, and an anticipated budget gap of \$5.7 billion for the next biennium. Ms. Chapel noted the state legislature held a special session on December 11, to make modifications to the supplemental budget for the current year. The legislature's decisions resulted in a list of budget cuts totaling \$700 million. Bainbridge Island School District's share will be \$1 million of that amount based on the following: 1) Loss of \$209K (60%) of this year's K-3 staffing allocation. 2) Loss of \$811K "Edujobs" federal funding approved by Congress at the end of August. Ms. Chapel noted that the legislative budget reductions did not fully address the entire projected budget gap of \$1.2 billion for this year. Additional cuts will be needed, and the Governor has released her recommendations for addressing the remaining budget gap, which included additional cuts for K-12 education. Ms. Chapel noted that as the legislature convenes and develops their proposals for addressing the state budget gap, it will be important for the district to communicate its priorities and recommendations to local legislators. Board members agreed and the directors will formulate a letter that includes conveys a message that tells the story of how these reductions impact school districts and the students they serve.

#### *H. Monthly Financial Report – November*

Director of Business Services Peggy Paige provided an analysis of the General Fund for the month ending November 30, 2010. Included in the analysis were the financial reports related to the General Fund as well as a summary of the other fund balances. Ms. Paige noted that total General Fund revenues to November 30 were 2% less than for the same period last year. Tax collections were equal to average, with local revenues being down compared to last year. This was attributed to a one month delay in posting Food Service revenues, and the receipt of Save Our Teachers Funds last October. Expenditures for the year to November 30 were 1.1% higher than for the same period last year. Total expense for Basic Education decreased 7.1% over last year. This is primarily the result of moving some expense paid in September to Fiscal Year 2009/10 for extra work done prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>. Special Education costs were up 6.1% compared to last year due to new out-of-district placements and enhanced services for several students. It was noted that the district's submission for Safety Net funds should help offset these expenses. Vocational expense was up from last year and above the average. This year the district is charging some classes at the middle school to the vocational program. In the area of Support Services, Maintenance/Grounds and Information Services are above last November but in line with the average. Salary reimbursements from the Capital Projects Fund should decrease the percentage by the end of December. Central Office expenditures are above last year due to legal fees and election costs this year. Finally, in the area of cash flow, the projected cash balance is \$2.1 million at fiscal year-end, assuming the replacement of apportionment revenues with Edujobs funds and the retroactive decrease in K-4 enhancement. Ms. Paige added that the ending fund balance is projected to be 3%.

*I. Policy/Procedure 5253: Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries (First Reading)*

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen presented new Policy and Procedure 5253 Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries (First Reading) for Board review. Dr. Bang-Knudsen explained the Washington Risk Pool suggested the policy be implemented, which will also save the district 3% on its overall insurance costs. It was noted that the procedure that accompanies the policy will continue to be revised with input from principals, and will be submitted at a future meeting as an information item. Reviewing the new policy, board members made several editorial suggestions, which will be incorporated into the next iteration of the policy. Board members also asked for and received explanation regarding specific policy implications.

**Motion 40-10-11:**

That the Board approves the first reading of Policy 5252 Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries, inserting the word “shall” in paragraph two and three, replacing the word “highest” in the first paragraph with the word “exemplary” and no other amendments. (Spence) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

**Personnel Actions**

**Motion 41-10-11:**

That the Board approves the Personnel Actions dated January 13, 2011 as presented. (Kinhead) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

**Consent Agenda**

**Student Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trip**

1. Request for Board approval from Lillian Garcia, Bainbridge High School Instrumental Music Teacher, for the Bainbridge High School Band to participate in the Disneyland Music Festival and Workshops to be held May 27 – 30, 2011, in Anaheim, California. Note: This overnight/out-of-state travel request replaces a previously approved travel plan that would have had the Band traveling to Washington, D.C. during the same time period.

**Donations**

1. Donation to the Bainbridge Island School District in the amount of \$250,000 from the Bainbridge Schools Foundation.
2. Donation to Bainbridge High School in the amount of \$10,000 from Lois Brockway Paski as the annual donation to Bainbridge High School athletics program.
3. Donation to Woodward Middle School in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Woodward PTO to support teacher grants for classroom projects.
4. Donation to Woodward Middle School in the amount of \$20,895 from the Woodward PTO to support focus areas and related school projects.
5. Donation to Wilkes and Ordway Elementary Schools in the amount of \$1,000 from Eric Ingman to support the preschool programs.

**Minutes from the November 18, 2010 School Board Meeting**

**Motion 42-10-11:**

That the Board approves the Consent Agenda as presented. (Curtis) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

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 2001545 through 2001630 totaling \$ 269,518.74 .

(General Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 2001399 through 2001542 totaling \$ 156,813.27 .

(General Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 2001543 through 2001544 totaling \$ 1,332.56.

(Associated Student Body Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 4000183 through 4000210 totaling \$ 36,609.00 .

(Associated Student Body Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 4000211 through 4000211 totaling \$ 14.69 .

(Capital Projects Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 3980 through 3991 totaling \$ 77,395.46 .

(Capital Projects Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 3959 through 3972 totaling \$ 122,558.03 .

(Capital Projects Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 3973 through 3978 totaling \$ 7,760.55 .

(Capital Project Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers 3979 through 3979 totaling \$ 158.23 .

8:47 p.m. – Board President Patty Fielding announced the board would move into an executive session for twenty minutes regarding a potential litigation.

**Adjournment**

9:07 p.m. – President Fielding reconvened the meeting to a public session and immediately adjourned.