

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

**Date:** January 10, 2013

**Place:** Board Room – Commodore Campus

**Board of Directors Present**

Board President – Mike Spence

Vice-President – Mary Curtis

Directors – Patty Fielding, Tim Kinkead, Mev Hoberg

**Call to Order**

5:35 p.m. – Board President Mike Spence called the meeting to order and a quorum was recognized.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Faith Chapel announced several students were being recognized for their recent accomplishments at the national level. She asked Liz Finin, Odyssey Multiage Program Teacher, to introduce Michaela Leaug, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student in the Odyssey Program. It was explained that Michaela was chosen as the 7-8 grade winner in the Cassini Science for a Day Essay Contest. Ms. Finin noted over 2000 students from across 36 states entered this year’s contest. Michaela’s essay focused on the planet Saturn and its rings. As a contest winner, she was invited to participate in a dedicated teleconference with Cassini scientists from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Superintendent Chapel reported a team of four students from Bainbridge High School (BHS) submitted a microgravity experiment to the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) Mission 3 to the International Space Station in April 2013. The BHS team included Ella Banyas, Mafalda Borges, Emma Gray, and Lydia Weyand. Their experiment – *The Effect of Microgravity on the Spontaneous Differentiation of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells* – was designed to answer a variety of questions related to stem cell development in space. It was noted that of the 1,254 experiments proposed from Teachers in Space communities across the US and Canada, one experiment would be chosen from each of 17 diverse “communities” to be conducted aboard the space station. The BHS team was chosen as one of the finalists (top 3) from the field of submitters.

**Board Reports**

Mary Curtis reported a K-6 Educational Programs & Innovation Committee meeting was held earlier in the afternoon. In addition, she and Director Patty Fielding met with Superintendent Chapel and Assistant Principal Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen regarding analysis of the information shared at the School Configuration Committee meeting, as well as possible strategies moving forward.

Tim Kinkead shared information from the K-6 Educational Programs and Innovation Committee held earlier in the afternoon. Committee members reviewed results from a recent survey regarding World Language, which generated rich conversation about levels of interest and the types of programs available.

**Presentations**

*A. Wilkes Multiage Program Update*

Associate Superintendent Julie provided an update regarding the Wilkes Multiage Program, currently serving 48 first and second grade students. Multiage Program teachers Amii Pratt and Rebecca Grue (Keach), along with Wilkes Principal Sheryl Belt, were also in attendance to answer any questions generated by the presentation.

Ms. Goldsmith explained the expansion of the multiage classroom concept was in response to a group of parents requesting the creation of an additional elementary options program to replicate the Odyssey 1-4 Program. The district conducted a feasibility study to determine a location (Wilkes), cost implications, and staffing implications. Following the 2-year feasibility study, it was decided that a pilot program of two first/second grade classrooms would provide the least impact to the district budget and staffing. A public process was used to create awareness and

open registration to all interested parents. It was noted the parent group associated with the Wilkes Multiage Program is included as part of the Wilkes PTO.

As part of the Wilkes Options Program, the district developed the following guidelines: a) Goals of the Options Program are congruent with District vision, mission, goals, and core curriculum; b) Options Programs are open to all students at the targeted grade levels(s), and will be promoted to a diverse demographic of students in terms of ethnicity, race, gender, ability, and socio-economic status; c) Options Programs are alternatives for students, subject to student and parent choice, from schools across the district; d) Options Programs are funded and staffed at comparable levels to other school programs at the same grade level(s); e) Options Programs are sited on a space available basis; f) Options Programs are evaluated against goals and objectives including enrollment targets and student achievement, as a basis for continuation; g) Options Programs fall under the leadership of a district administrator; h) Options Programs will be developed in cooperation with district and/or community stakeholders (teachers, administrators, Site Based Council, etc.) of the school in which they are sited; i) Assignment of staff members to an Options Program will be based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and j) Each Options Program will encourage innovation and allow for flexibility. These guidelines are currently being reviewed and updated by the K-6 Educational Programs and Innovation Committee.

Ms. Goldsmith explained the core difference of the Wilkes Multiage Program is the configuration of the classroom. Students in these classrooms are comprised of both first and second grade students, and are taught with a philosophy of multiage learning. It was noted that most multiage learning environments include the following aspects: a) students of multiple ages, abilities, and maturity; b) curriculum designed to be developmental and integrated; and c) evaluation of student progress is individual and progressive.

Currently there are twenty-four second grade students that will need to move to the third grade in 2013-14. It was recommended that for one year, these students be housed in their own classroom to ensure the least disruption to district-wide enrollment. The teacher identified for teaching this class would be part of the multiage teaching team and program. Then in the 2014-15 school year, the roll-up of all the current first/second grade students will provide adequate enrollment for two third/fourth grade multiage classrooms. That would mean there would be 24 first grade openings in the multiage program for the 2013-14 school year. It was noted an Open House was scheduled at Commodore Options on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and open enrollment for grades 1, 2 & 3 would be February 12 – March 22.

#### *B. Spanish Immersion Pilot Project Update*

Ms. Goldsmith provided an overview of the current Spanish Immersion Pilot Program, review the plan for gathering information to assist the Board in making a decision about the continuation or expansion of the pilot, gather input from the Board of Directors on additions or changes to the Feasibility Study, and Provide information gathered in the recent World Language Survey by the K-6 Educational Programs and Innovation.

Providing background information, Ms. Goldsmith noted the Mosaic Home Education Partnership Program has offered elementary Spanish classes since its inception, and has a tradition of parent-inspired program offerings. Last year, some parents approached the Commodore Principal Catherine Camp and the District regarding their interest in creating a program that would offer more in-depth instruction in Spanish. The principal was already working with the Mosaic Steering Committee to address two areas: 1) declining program enrollment, and 2) a change in Alternative Learning Education (ALE) funding. Through this process, the Spanish Immersion Pilot Project was developed and became a component of the Mosaic Home Education Partnership Program.

In February 2012, a two-day/week Mosaic program was created in which students were not just being taught Spanish, they were being taught in Spanish. Following the success of this pilot, subsequent discussions led to a proposal to pilot a small Spanish Immersion Program for students enrolled in the Mosaic K-4 program. The pilot provides students with Spanish language instruction five days per week. There are 29 students (K-2 – 18 students, Grades 3-4 – 11 students) in the class, with the primary level receiving 90% of instruction in Spanish and 10% in English. The intermediate class receives 50% of instruction in Spanish and 50% in English. The curriculum is aligned to the District's core curricula, and fundraised dollars are used to purchase core materials in Spanish (reading, math, and science). Ms. Goldsmith noted the instructional philosophy and goals for the program include: a) to produce student who are bilingual and biliterate; b) to create a keen awareness of different world cultures; c) to increase overall student academic achievement; and d) to produce students who can be competitive in the global

marketplace. Ms. Goldsmith also shared some of the research on immersion programs, noting bilingual students generally demonstrate academic gains, develop cultural literacy and enhanced cognitive skills.

Ms. Goldsmith gave an overview of the timeline, steps and key events for a feasibility study related to world language programs. Steps included gaging interest by gathering data through a survey, conducting an open house, determine site implications should the program potentially expand, determine adequate enrollment for the 2013-14 school year, and complete the feasibility study and present information at the April 25<sup>th</sup> school board meeting. Similar to the development of the Wilkes Multiage Program, information presented to the Board will include several scenarios that will take into consideration such things as enrollment, staffing, location, and funding.

Moving on to the results of the K-6 Educational Programs and Innovation Committee's World Language Survey, Ms. Goldsmith explained how the survey was conducted, with the greater portion of respondents having students in district schools. The survey included descriptions of three types of world language instruction models – Total Immersion, Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES), and World Language Enrichment Programs. Results of the survey indicated most respondents felt having a world language available to children at an early age was very important. Folks also indicated a high level of interest in a FLES instruction model, followed by total immersion, and a world language enrichment program. Respondents' first language choice was Spanish followed by Chinese/Mandarin and French.

At the conclusion of the presentation, several parents spoke passionately about their students' positive experience in the Spanish Immersion Pilot Program. They talked about their children moving between Spanish and English easily, developing confidence, and the general benefits of learning a foreign language early in life. One parent also spoke about how to accommodate every student's needs (considering budget issues), and how to make this type of program work for everyone.

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

Director of Business Services Peggy Paige began her report by distributing copies of a letter from A. Dashen & Associates who was retained to serve as bond advisor to the District for a transaction involving the refinancing of a portion of the outstanding 2004 and 2006 Bonds for a debt service savings. Summarizing the letter contents, A. Dashen & Associates recommended approval of the sale and congratulates the District for taking advantage of the current low interest rates. It was noted the savings to taxpayers was approximately \$1.7 million dollars over the life of the bonds.

Ms. Paige provided a summary of the financial reports for the month ending November 30, 2012. She noted total General Fund revenues to November were below the prior year but near the expected average. As a percentage, total budgeted tax collections are above the average. This would indicate it is likely the District will meet its budget estimate of \$8.7 million. The decrease in local revenues is primarily related to the timing of the donation from Bainbridge Schools Foundation. Last year, the District received a \$500K donation in November. State revenues were consistent with state funding based on budgeted enrollment. In addition, several federal grant reimbursement claims have been filed earlier than in prior years so the year-to-date percentage is above the expected average. General Fund expenditures for the year to November 30 total about 1% above last year, with year-to-date expenditures were below the average. Total expense for *Basic Education* decreased .1% and is slightly below the average. Ms. Paige noted among the categories within this budgeted area, expenses have been shifted between activities. This area will be reviewed to insure actual payments are aligned with budgeted activity codes. Total *Special Education* costs were down 1.5% compared to last year and are equal to the 3-year average. This would indicate that the District is currently in line with budget estimates. *Support Services* is higher than last year at this time and above the average. *Utility* expenditures are currently about equal to prior year, which may indicate savings again in this area. However, the District is just beginning to pay invoices for the new Wilkes Elementary School and enter into the winter season. *Maintenance and Information Services* were both up from prior year. *Maintenance/Grounds* experienced increases in supplies expense while *Information Services* had increases related to supplies and contract renewals. *Central Office* expenditures are currently running below the average. Net cash outflow during November was \$592,309. As of November 30, 2012, the closing cash balance in the General Fund was \$4,015,992.

#### *D. Policy 6500: Risk Management – First Reading*

Director Peggy Paige explained that the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) routinely provides guidance and recommendations for updates to school board policies and procedures. In addition, the

District's insurance carrier – Washington Schools Risk Management Pool – reviews the District's policies as part of its risk assessment surveys. Both organizations recommend Board Policy 6500: Risk Management is revised to include a statement that the district will make available to claimants its standard tort claim form.

**Motion 41-12-13:** That the Board approve the first reading of Policy 6500: Risk Management as revised. (Kinkead) The affirmative vote was unanimous. (Kinkead, Spence, Fielding, Hoberg – Director Curtis stepped out of the room and did not vote on this item.)

*E. Policy 5010: Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action – Second Reading*

**Motion 42-12-13:** That item E. Policy 5010: Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action be tabled until the next board meeting. (Curtis) There were no objections.

*F. Policy 5270: Resolution of Staff Complaints – Second Reading*

Director of Human Resources Cami Dombkowski noted the edits requested by the Board at the first reading had been incorporated into the policy for the second reading.

**Motion 43-12-13:** That the Board approves the second reading of Policy 5270: Resolution of Staff Complaints. (Hoberg) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

*G. Policy 5271: Reporting Improper Governmental Action – Second Reading*

**Motion 44-12-13:** That the Board approves the second reading of Policy 5271: Reporting Improper Governmental Action as amended. (Hoberg) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

*H. Policy 5280: Termination of Employment – Second Reading*

**Motion 45-12-13:** That the Board approves the second reading of Policy 5280: Termination of Employment. (Kinkead) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

*I. Policy 5281: Disciplinary Action and Discharge – Second Reading*

**Motion 46-12-13:** That the Board approves the second reading of Policy 5281: Disciplinary Action and Discharge. (Fielding) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

### Personnel Actions

**Motion 47-12-13:** That the Board approves the Personnel Actions dated January 10, 2013 as presented. (Fielding) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

### Consent Agenda

#### PAYROLL December 2012 Warrant Numbers:

(Payroll Warrants) 1001253 through 1001284  
(Payroll AP Warrants) 171942 through 171966  
Total: \$2,725,022.51

**Motion 48-12-13:** That the Board approves the Consent Agenda as presented. (Fielding) 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 **2006978** through **2007032** totaling \$ **96,857.82** .

(General Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers **2006863** through **2006977** totaling \$ **271,119.68** .

(Capital Projects Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers **4557** through **4564** totaling \$ **68,668.81** .

(Capital Projects Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers **4549** through **4556** totaling \$ **304,477.36** .

(Associated Student Body Fund Voucher)

Voucher numbers **4000815** through **4000836** totaling \$ **17,722.19** .

7:37 p.m. – Board President Mike Spence announced the Board would move into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation.

**Adjournment**

7:52 p.m. – President Spence reconvened the meeting to a public session and immediately adjourned.