

FERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ferndale, Washington

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31, 2008, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRELUDE

Ferndale High School Orchestra Members Mary Quist, David Loudon, aja van Nuss (capitalization is correct) and Elsbeth Doesburg provided special music in honor of school board members. January is National School Board Recognition Month.

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Stuart McKay in the administration office conference room at 7:03 p.m.

Members present were John Hruby, Stuart McKay and Lee Anne Riddle. Norm Robertson was excused due to illness.

Present from the administration were Superintendent Roger Lehnert, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Elvis Dellinger, Executive Director for Business and Support Services Mark Deebach, Director of Special Projects Aaron Kombol and Director of Special Services Michael Berres.

There were five persons present in the audience.

II COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognition of School Board Members

Dr. Lehnert presented certificates of appreciation to the school board for their service. He stated it was a pleasure to work for the board. Although they are individuals, they are part of a team. They are strong advocates for doing what is best for children. He expressed his thanks. Library books will also be donated to school libraries in honor of board members.

III CONSENT AGENDA

** *Bernie Thomas moved to approve the consent agenda.*

The motion carried unanimously.

A. Approved Minutes

Approved the minutes of the December 31, 2007, regular board meeting, as attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

III CONSENT AGENDA continued:

B. Approved Voucher Transmittals

Approved voucher transmittals as follows:

General Fund vouchers #224126 through #224489 in the amount of \$709,654.29; manual warrant #223689 in the amount of \$1,000.00; General Fund Payroll Warrants #223860 through #224125 dated December 28, 2007, in the amount of \$1,082,000.16; and electronic deposits in the amount of \$2,171,686.64; Capital Projects Fund vouchers #6366 through #6393 in the amount of \$2,195,991.56; and A.S.B. Fund vouchers #19767 through #19826 in the amount of \$41,886.96.

C. Approved the Hiring of Certificated Personnel for the 2007/2008 School Year

Approved the hiring of certificated personnel for the 2007/2008 school year as indicated on the list attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. These positions are contained in the staffing sheets which the Board approved at the May 2007 board meeting.

D. Approved Supplemental and Personal Service Contracts for the 2007/2008 School Year

Approved supplemental and personal service contracts for the 2007/2008 school year, as indicated on the list attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. These positions are contained in the staffing sheets that the Board approved at the May 2007 board meeting.

E. Approved Leaves of Absence

Approved leave of absences for

1. Ms. Kimberly Cowan, reading teacher at Eagleridge Elementary School, a medical leave, effective January 7 through February 15, 2008.
2. Ms. Jamie O'Brien, physical education teacher at Eagleridge Elementary School, a medical leave, maternity leave, FMLA and childcare leave, effective January 7, 2008, through the remainder of the 2007/2008 school year.

III CONSENT AGENDA continued:

3. Ms. Cheryl Rau, school counselor at Eagleridge Elementary School, an extension of her first semester .4 FTE general leave from her full time position in the district, through the second semester of the 2007/008 school year.
4. Ms. Debra Schwulst, second grade teacher at Custer Elementary School, a maternity leave and childcare leave, effective approximately April 25, 2008, through the remainder of the 2007/2008 school year.
5. Ms. Elisa Zaccheo, teacher at Vista Middle School, a maternity leave followed by FMLA, effective February 25 through April 4, 2008.
6. Ms. Selena Burgess, para-educator at Ferndale High School, an extension of her maternity leave from January 7, 2008, through the 2007-08 school year.
7. Ms. Lori Robison, para-educator at Skyline Elementary School, a leave of absence for the period January 7 through March 28, 2008.

F. Authorized Travel

Authorized travel for the following:

1. Director of Maintenance Mike Murphy and Director of Technology Aaron Kombol to visit a wholesale supplier for carpet product in Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 12-15, 2008. All expenses were paid by the Tandus Company.
2. Advisor Alvaro Vicente, five chaperones and members of the Ferndale High School MECHA team to attend the MECHA Regional Conference in Bellingham, Washington, February 1-3, 2008. Approximate expenses of \$600 will be paid by the high school building budget.
3. Energy Education Manager Tony Torretta to attend the Energy Education Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, February 10-12, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$981 will be paid by the energy education budget.

III CONSENT AGENDA continued:

4. Advisors and members of the Ferndale High School Boys' Bowling team to attend the state tournament in Lakewood, Washington, February 22-24, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$720 will be paid by the ASB and athletic budgets.
5. Advisor Sandy Sutherland, chaperone Cara Stuit and members of the Ferndale High School Equestrian Team to attend club activities at the following sites:
 - a. Elma-Grays Harbor Fairgrounds
 - b. Ridgefield-Clark County Fairgrounds
 - c. Olympia-The Trails
 - d. Wenatchee State Meet

There will be no expense to the district.
6. Advisor and members of the Ferndale High School Knowledge Bowl Team to travel to Camas, Washington, to attend the state finals March 23-24, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$642 will be paid by the ASB budget.
7. Advisor and members of the Ferndale High School Math Team to travel to Yakima, Washington, for the state finals April 25-26, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$530 will be paid by the ASB budget.
8. Advisor Mike Smith and seven Ferndale High School FFA students to attend nursery/landscape and floriculture career development events in Auburn and Kent, Washington, February 22-23, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$305 will be paid by the ASB and CTE budgets.
9. Ferndale High School Assistant Principal David Brame and Coordinator of the Community Schools' Partnership Grant Dianne Laundry to attend the AVID Conference in San Diego, California, March 5-8, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$4,688 will be paid by the Smaller learning Communities' budget.

III CONSENT AGENDA continued:

10. Advisor Joe Dyvig, chaperones and members of the Ferndale High School Orchestra to attend clinics and perform in concerts in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, May 2-4, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$10,000 will be paid by the district music budget and student fees.
11. Advisor Kay Hageman, chaperones and members of the Ferndale High School Concert and Swing Choirs to perform at sites in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho May 1-4, 2008. Estimated expenses of \$10,705 will be paid by ASB budget, district music budget and student fees.

IV CURRICULUM AND PUPIL PERSONNEL

A. Curriculum and Instruction Report

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Cynthia Sicilia provided the board with a written report.

V PERSONNEL

No Items

VI BUSINESS

A. Financial Statements

Mr. Deebach reviewed financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2007, as attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. He noted the importance of the district striving to have a one month reserve in it's fund balance. In December the district did not have enough funds in its account to cover payroll. Payroll is paid on the last working day of the month which was December 28, however the district does not receive its apportionment from the state until the last day of the month which was December 31. Thus, the bank covered the three days between payday and the arrival of apportionment.

VI BUSINESS continued:

- B. Adopted Resolution No. 1-2008 Providing for and Authorizing an Increase in the District's Voted General Obligation Bond Excess Property Tax Levy Collection Amount for Collection in 2008 and Deposit into the District's Debt Service Fund

Mr. Deebach presented Resolution No. 1-2008 Providing for and Authorizing an Increase in the District's Voted General Obligation Bond Excess Property Tax Levy Collection Amount for Collection in 2008 and Deposit into the District's Debt Service Fund to the board for its consideration.

The District's 2007-08 budget, as adopted on August 3, 2007, included a proposed excess property tax levy of \$4,100,000 for collection in 2008 for deposit into the District's debt service fund. The District has recently determined that the proposed levy should be increased in order to timely meet debt service commitments in 2008. It is recommended that the Board authorize the Whatcom County Assessor to collect a total excess property tax levy of \$4,873,483 for 2008 and deposit into the District's debt service fund.

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Bernie Thomas moved to adopt Resolution No. 1-2008 Providing for and Authorizing an Increase in the District's Voted General Obligation Bond Excess Property Tax Levy Collection Amount for Collection in 2008 and Deposit into the District's Debt Service Fund, as attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Repealed Resolution No. 21-2007 Establishing Bond Date and Amount for an April 2008 Election and Resolution No. 22-2007 Establishing Technology Levy Date and Amount for an April 2008 Election

At the December 21, 2007, school board meeting the board passed resolution numbers 21-2007 and 22-2007 to authorize two ballot propositions to be run in a special election in the month of April should those same two propositions fail to be approved by the voters in the March election.

VI BUSINESS continued:

After numerous discussions with the Whatcom County Auditor it has been deemed too costly and impractical due to schedule constraints to run an April election. Therefore it is the recommendation of the administration that the board take action to repeal resolutions 21-2007 and 22-2007.

Dr. Lehnert noted that if ballot measures were defeated in March he would recommend that they be run again on the May 2008 election ballot.

** *John Hruby moved to repeal Resolution No. 21-2007 Establishing Bond Date and Amount for an April 2008 Election and Resolution No. 22-2007 Establishing Technology Levy Date and Amount for an April 2008 Election.*

The motion carried unanimously.

VII BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A. Bond Projects Update

Mr. Craig Calkins, project manager, provided a written report on the status of the district's bond projects. Mr. Tex Laddish, project manager, was present and provided an update on the progress of Cascadia Elementary School.

B. Technology Projects Update

Mr. Aaron Kombol, director of special projects, provided a report on the status of the district's technology projects.

C. Presentation of North Bellingham Elementary School's Educational Specifications

Mr. Deebach introduced Alex Rolluda, architect, who spoke to the educational specifications and reported on the results of his work with the design team from North Bellingham Elementary School as it relates to the replacement of the 1938 building and renovation of the 1969 and 1979 buildings.

VII BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS continued:

Mr. Rolluda reviewed the goals and design objectives of the educational specifications committee. A facility analysis was also conducted.

Dr. Hrubby asked Mr. Rolluda how much it would cost to complete the next phase (beyond the 1938 building and 1969 and 1979 renovations) at North Bellingham if it was done at this time. What would the savings be to the district? Mr. Rolluda did not give a cost estimate but did say the escalation would probably be about 9%. He also said the phase could be an alternate bid attached to phase one.

VIII GENERAL

A. Adopted District Calendars for 2008-09 and 2009-10

Assistant Superintendent Elvis Dellinger presented calendars for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years as recommended by Ferndale School District's Calendar Committee. He noted the calendars comply with the survey results.

Mr. Dellinger said early release days and planning time for teachers will be placed in the calendar. There is a need for planning time in order to implement the programs of the district.

Dr. Hrubby also suggested looking at how the high school campus is used. For biological reasons, late start for students and staying longer at the end of the day may be beneficial.

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Bernie Thomas moved to adopt school calendars for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years, as attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

VIII GENERAL continued:

B. Adopted School Board Policy No. 2131 Parent and Student rights in Administration of Surveys, Analysis or Evaluations in Programs or Projects Supported by Federal Funds

Dr. Michael Berres and Mr. Elvis Dellinger presented School Board Policy No. 2131 Parent and Student Rights in Administration of Surveys, Analysis or Evaluations in Programs or Projects Supported by Federal Funds for first reading by the board.

This revision is based upon a September 2007 directive to local school districts from the U.S. Department of Education on parameters to follow in the administration of surveys, analysis or evaluations in programs/projects supported by federal funds.

The policy will be scheduled for final consideration at the February board meeting.

C. Revised School Board Policy No. 2161 Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

Dr. Michael Berres presented School Board Policy No. 2161 Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students for first reading by the board.

OSPI revised and disseminated the revised special education WAC 392-172 A) on July 30, 2007. WSSDA then disseminated their suggested revised special education policy for districts in December. This revision reflects the WSSDA draft policy. The revision is necessary to bring it in line with the mandates from the IDEA.

The policy will be scheduled for final consideration at the February board meeting.

The board adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

IX EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:02 p.m. the board convened into executive session for approximately 40 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Mr. McKay announced that no action would be taken during the session or following the session.

The executive session adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary