

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2010

After having been advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Summitview Elementary Library, 6305 W. Chestnut, Yakima WA 98908.

Board of Directors present: Sasha Kinloch, Staci Verbrugge, Mike Carey, Jim Roberts, Mike Meyer, and Student Rep Nicole Stine.

Administrative Staff present: Dr. Peter Ansingh, Dr. Peter Finch, Tom Fleming, and Nona Bunger, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order - verification of quorum.

At 6:30 p.m., President Sasha Kinloch called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance - Sasha Kinloch led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sasha stated Student Rep Keenan Schoen was excused from tonight's meeting to attend Mr. West Valley pageant activities. Jim Roberts read the West Valley School District Mission Statement.

Public Forum:

Due to the concerns about the Program for Accelerated Learners (PAL) on the part of some of our staff, there was a lengthy discussion of pros and cons for the PAL by parents, teachers and students.

Linda Martin read a letter of support for the PAL program, in which her children have participated. She believes the PAL program is the best way to educate our gifted children.

Cathy Kloster spoke in support of the PAL program and how her teaching experiences have been affected by the PAL program over the past 25 years and she would like the District to continue this important program.



Heidi Mochel, 2nd grade teacher at CW, expressed concerns and frustrations about the negative feelings of the PAL program. She is concerned about the PAL program being housed at WH, and how parents are not willing to move students from other schools to WH in order to attend PAL. She thinks the program should be cut from the budget.

Jenneifer Komstadius, CW, expressed that she respects Terry Faletto and the PAL teachers, but has concerns about the self contained classrooms for PAL students. She thinks it's good at the MS level, but not the elementary levels. She doesn't think the PAL program is needed in WV in light of budget cuts. Her suggestion is to cut the PAL program now and wait until the MS level for the PAL program to begin for students.

Sarah James, SV parent, 2nd grade teacher at CW and former school psychologist, thinks the PAL program is unhealthy for students and causes negative ripple effects on the less-gifted students. She thinks now is the time to stop the program.

Silva Labes believes it is wrong to keep gifted kids at the "average" level and to keep them from accelerating in school. She doesn't want to cut money for this program and wants to take budget cuts from other programs.

Joe Matheson, WVHS student, never attended WV elementary schools or the PAL program, but he did attend another accelerated program. This was the best experiences he had in all his school years. He was challenged in this accelerated program, which helped him to prepare and get good grades in HS and in AP classes. He feels if the PAL program is eliminated, students won't be challenged enough. He wants to keep the PAL program.

Cheryl Opfer was skeptical of the PAL program when it started and opted out of it at that time for her children. Now from a budget standpoint, she urged the Board members to determine if the PAL program is a necessity or a nicety. She thinks it's a necessity at the MS level for better grades and no transition problems. Funding this program when it's a necessity is being fiscally responsible.



Enid Kelly Oman, WH Librarian, works with all PAL students at WH. She stated her son, who has disability disorders, has thrived in the PAL program because he blended in with the other students in the PAL class, after struggling in a regular classroom. She supports the program.

LeeAnn Lamphiear, teaches the PAL gifted students and 4th grade at WH. She believes in the necessity of meeting the needs of these kids. She is always having to defend the PAL program because she believes it is a good program and has seen the positive results of the program. She is against cutting the program because she constantly sees kids thriving in the program.

Joseph Martin, a Junior at WVHS, started the PAL program in 3rd grade, which was the best class he's ever been in. He has continued the PAL program throughout his school years. He supports the PAL program.

Mary Lou Shean, parent and WVSD nurse, stated her children were energized by the PAL program and perform better because of the PAL program.

Laura Staples, Cottonwood Elementary Secretary and a WV parent, reminded the audience that the people speaking tonight are not against the PAL program, but are here to look at ways to save money.

Laura Wood, parent of students in the PAL, stated her children have thrived in the PAL Program. She wants to keep the funding for the gifted students.

Eric Knudson, alumni and parent, supports the PAL program.

Amarnath Ramakrishnan, supports the program and feels that the Board needs to support the needs of the highly gifted students.

Christine Kline does not support the PAL program and wants to keep kids in their home school.



Dave Jaeger was not in favor of the program when it first started, but now he favors it because he has seen the PAL students doing amazing things at the MS level.

Host School Presentation: Summitview Elementary Principal Crystal McDonald and staff shared some of the work their students have been doing in their respective classes. **Kathy Perez**, 4th grade teacher, introduced **Anna Hager**, who described her Washington State map that she created, and **Miah Robert**, who read her short story to show alliteration. **Susan Olden**, 4th grade teacher, introduced **Lauren Miketa**, who shared her Reading Panel Box, showing plot, setting and character, and **Jaye Hanselmann**, who shared a compare/contrast poster on the Plateau and Coastal Indian Tribes in Washington State. **Mary Ellis**, 5th grade teacher, assisted **John Opfer**, **Saul Cabrera** and **Diego Quintana** present their Anti-Bullying presentation and skit. She also shared her class' tank with salmon fry. A short break was taken after the presentations to enjoy refreshments.

Changes to the Agenda: Addition:

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda

- D. Approval of Employment Contract(s)
 - 3. Heidi Tollackson - Title 1 Parapro (AhV)
 - 4. Marcy Durnbaugh - Food Server (CN)
- F. Approval of Leave Request(s)
 - 3. Gwyn Seay-Slavens - Driver/Server (CN)
- G. Approval of Travel Request(s)
 - 5. WVHS Varsity Softball; Regional Championship; Spokane, WA; May 21-22, 2010
 - 6. WVHS Varsity Softball; State Championship; Tacoma, WA; May 27-29, 2010

XVII. Executive Session

- A. Personnel

Introduction of visitors: Judyth Holtfreter, Anna Cordova, Amarnath Ramakrishnan, Lisa Petre, Sarah James, Eric Knudson, Lynda Martin, Joseph Martin, Silvia Labes, Joe Matheson, Dae Jaeger, Rachel Hanses, Lee Hanses, Paige Atterberry, Brandon Chris, Darel Smart, Patty Pruiett, Kim Russell,



Crystal McDonald, Cody McDonald, John Lamphier, LeeAnn Lamphier, Amy Suarez, Sheryl and Allen Opfiter, Joelle McMurry, Terry Faletto, Findlay Faubion, Enid Kelly-Oman, Sherry Adams, Laura Staples, Jenna Stratton, Connor Nathe, Kristen Cline, Kari Gavin, Mary Lou Shean, Chad Heflick, Jenneifer Komstadius, and Stacie Marez.

Communications: Dr. Ansingh stated that a letter was received from WIAA acknowledging the approval of WV retaining 3A status for athletics.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. January 25, 2010 - Regular Minutes
 - 2. February 3, 2010 - Study Session
- B. Approval of Vouchers
- C. Enrollment Report
- D. Approval of Employment Contract(s)
 - 1. Kathleen Frank - LAP Parapro (SV)
 - 2. William "Billy" Urquhart - Groundskeeper (Maintenance)
 - 3. Heidi Tollackson - Title 1 Parapro (AhV)
 - 4. Marcy Durnbaugh - Food Server (CN)
- E. Approval of Resignation(s)
 - 1. Geneva Erickson - 5th Grade Teacher (SV)
 - 2. Cheryl Helms - Server (CN)
 - 3. Arleen Smith - 5th Grade Teacher (ApV)
- F. Approval of Leave Request(s)
 - 1. Jamie Raphoon - Science Teacher (JHS)
 - 2. Janet Seward - Custodian (HS)
 - 3. Gwyn Seay-Slavens - Driver/Server (CN)
- G. Approval of Travel Request(s)
 - 1. WVHS Track; Hermiston Invitational Track Meet; Hermiston, OR; April 24, 2010
 - 2. WVHS B/G Varsity Tennis; Regional Tennis Contest; Spokane, WA; May 21-22, 2010
 - 3. WVHS Varsity Track; State Track Meet; Tacoma, WA; May 27-29, 2010
 - 4. WVHS B/G Varsity Tennis; State Championship; Vancouver, WA; May 27-29, 2010



Approval of Consent Agenda (cont.)

- G. Approval of Travel Request(s)
 - 5. WVHS Varsity Softball; Regional Championship; Spokane, WA; May 21-22, 2010
 - 6. WVHS Varsity Softball; State Championship; Tacoma; May 27-29, 2010

Mike Meyer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. MC 5-0.

Action Items:

- A. Administrator Appreciation Week Proclamation
Student Rep Nicole Stine read the Administrator Appreciation Week Proclamation. Sasha Kinloch invited the Board members to attend a short presentation to the Administrators before the Admin. Team meeting on March 10.
- B. Approval of Policy Addition(s)/Amendment(s) - 1st Reading
 - 1. 6800 - Operations and Maintenance of School Property
Staci Verbrugge made a motion to approve the 1st reading of policy #6800. MC 5-0.
- C. Approval of Resolution
 - 1. #10-02-553 - Asset Preservation Program
Mike Carey suggested the Board model our Asset Preservation Program policy on the policy provided by WSSDA. Jim Roberts made a motion to approve adopting the WSSDA policy. MC 5-0.

Discussion Items:

- A. School Board E-mail Protocol
Sasha opened up discussion to the Board members on how to respond to emails addressed to Board members. Sasha stated the Board hasn't had a formal protocol in the past, but that past President Staci Verbrugge had responded with elaborate, detailed emails to constituents. Mike Meyer stated that he feels that if a member has a contact/discussion with a constituent, then that member sends a copy of that email to



Discussion Items (cont.)

other Board members. Mike Carey would like to have a unified response from the President or the Superintendent for union negotiations, or anything that has a privacy issue involved. He said Board members need to remind people that an individual Board member doesn't speak for the entire Board. Jim Roberts thinks someone needs to make sure every email received is responded to. Someone needs to be a "gatekeeper" to answer emails. Consensus was that the Board has a "gatekeeper" to respond to emails; Board members need to be consistent in their generic responses and not commit the Board to a specific position. Board delegated the task of responding to Staci, who will decide if she should respond immediately or need to talk with the Board members before she responds. Dr. Ansingh asked Sasha to summarize the comments she heard from the Board members. All sensitive issues will be directed to Dr. Ansingh for responses to constituents.

Items Arising: Nothing.

High School Student Representative(s) Report: Nicole reported on the following events at the high school: Leadership Conference, and the Mr. West Valley Pageant.

Administrative Reports - ApV, CW, MV, SV, JHS

Reports from Apple Valley and Cottonwood were included in the packets. Reports from Summitview, Mountainview and the Junior High were handed out at the meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Ansingh's report was included in the Board packet. The report outlined the following items: Important Dates, Budget Input, Facility Task Force, Project GLAD Training, STEM Initiative, Mower Update. Dr. Ansingh updated the Board on the status of Dale Carpenter's health issues and the Olympia Legislative Conference he recently attended

Board Reports/Board Development: Sasha received an invitation from Megan Brown, SV Elementary School PE teacher, to observe/participate in



Board Reports/Board Development (cont.)

Megan's kindergarten PE class. Sasha stated she enjoyed the experience and realized the dramatic impact that PE has on kindergarten students.

Mike Carey stated the Seattle Times and Yakima Herald ran articles on CHS classes being held in other District. He would like the District to issue a press release to let the general public know that we having been doing this for some time.

Executive Session: The Board recessed at 8:44 p.m. for approximately 10 minutes to discuss a Personnel issue. At 8:54, the Board reconvened into Regular Session.

Adjournment followed at 8:55 p.m.

Dr. Peter Ansingh
Superintendent

Sasha Kinloch
President