

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2009

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 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Valley High School Commons, 9206 Zier Road, Yakima WA 98908.

Board of Directors present: Staci Verbrugge, President, Sasha Kinloch, Vice-President, Mike Carey, and Jim Roberts, and Student Representatives Ashley George and Joel Heiser. Staci Verbrugge made a motion to excuse Mike Meyer from tonight's meeting. MC 4-0.

Administrative Staff present: Dr. Peter Ansingh, Superintendent, Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent, Tom Fleming, Assistant Superintendent, and Nona Bunger, Recording Secretary. Also present were Bill Oppliger, Jean Seibert, Dave Jaeger, Karen Craig, Jim Fannin, and Sherry Adams.

Call to Order - verification of quorum.

At 7:06 p.m., President Staci Verbrugge called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Staci Verbrugge.

Changes to the Agenda: The following items were added:

- A. Consent Agenda:
 - D. Approval of Employment Contracts
 - 3. Lanny Hughes - Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach
 - 4. Michael Parham - Volunteer Girls Fast Pitch Coach
 - G. Approval of Travel Requests
 - 7. WVHS FCCLA; FCCLA State Competition; Wenatchee, WA, Apr. 1-3, 2009

Community Forum - Budget Reductions/Long Range Facility Plan/Late-Starts

Dr. Ansingh began the forum by stating he would like feedback from the audience on the proposed budget for the school year for 2009-2010. No decisions have been made yet on budget reductions because the District has not seen any proposed reductions in the State's budget yet. He then explained the numerous handouts that were available to the audience, regarding topics of importance to them, including the budget, the bond levy, and a late-start

Community Forum - Budget Reductions/Long Range Facility Plan/Late-Starts (cont.)

schedule for professional development one day per week. He then invited the audience to come to the microphone to make comments or write their comments down for the Board's information. The following comments were made by members of the audience:

Erin Strong - If late start days were implemented, families would need to become more creative with child care for that one hour per day when parents are at work. The cost of that extra hour per week would be expensive for families. She came from a District that did an early release which was supposed to help with the LID days, but it turned into both early release days and LID days that didn't work. She does not want the late starts.

Julie Rhodes: (has children at AhV) Latchkey costs would be prohibitive for her if late starts were put in place. She would need to leave her part-time job in order to make the costs effective for her family. She is against the late start days.

Jenneifer Komstadius (CW teacher): Jenneifer asked how the late start idea was started and by whom. Dr. Ansingh stated that it was a topic within the WVEA Association and it has come up during Professional Development days by group leaders. The secondary schools are having the biggest challenges with not having time to collaborate.

Lori Brown: (has children in WH & HS) Her concerns are about implementing late starts. She thinks the value of the teacher in the classroom is necessary for her children's education. Also, she would like the PAL program retained.

SueAnn Melone: Her daughter needs more teaching time in the classroom to further her education, not less time. She doesn't want late start.

Carrie Loveless: She prefers the all day kindergarten as opposed to half day. She said the half day kindergarten puts more pressure and stress on children to learn more in a shorter time. She feels children would possibly struggle more because of the extra pressure. She would like the Board not to consider cutting the budget regarding kindergarten classes.

Judy Epperheimer (has children in the JHS) Judy works at Kinder Care. She is not in favor of cutting class time due to late starts because of the costs of child care. She would like WV to use the same schedule that Yakima School District does regarding their early release days, instead of implementing a late start. She also thinks the secondaries could have the late start and keep the elementaries on their current schedule.

Cole Strong (young son of Erin Strong) Cole stated he lost time at school because of LID days and, as a result, he got out of school later in the summer than his friends did. He said he was depressed about that.

Community Forum - Budget Reductions/Long Range Facility Plan/Late-Starts (cont.)

Patty Pruiett (wants to move her daughter into WV next year): Do the teachers have time to collaborate? If so, who makes them accountable for their time? Dr. Ansingh stated there are currently 5 full days when students are not in school because of LID days and trimester breaks and that teachers are held accountable by the District for those days.

Julie Rhodes: What is the point of the Professional Development Days if teachers are using them to take 3 days weekends? Dr. Ansingh stated that LID days have been scheduled on Fridays and it appears that teachers are using those days as three day weekends. He also stated that over the years the staff rate of absence has gone up.

Jenneifer Komstadius: Jenneifer stated teachers are doing their job and working very hard; every single profession has a group of people that takes advantage of those extra days. Finding time that all peers can come together at one time is extremely difficult due their schedules. Accountability is there for most of the teachers. Most of them are doing their jobs.

Kerri Lovelass: Kerri asked if there is a way to make professional development days not be turned into 3 day weekends. She stated this time is not being used effectively. She thinks those days need to be mandatory by the District.

Tonya Kemsey: Tonya asked if late start days would replace LID days or would they be in addition to the LID days? Dr. Ansingh said they would be in addition to the LID days.

Tara Cobia: Is there an option between early release or late start? Dr. Ansingh stated early releases create problems for coaches with after school sports and activities. Tara prefers early release because more people will need more latchkey services if late starts were implemented.

Erin Strong: She thinks people in general need to reorganize their schedules to find more time. She feels it is more effective to ask the teachers to reorganize their schedules to accommodate time to collaborate then it would be to ask parents to adjust to late starts.

Julie Rhodes: Would the late starts effect summers/end of school dates? Dr. Ansingh stated that the District is required to have school a certain number of hours per day/year. No school days would need to be added at the end of the year.

Patricia Powers: She wanted to know if the HS would miss a day a week of classes if late starts were implemented. Dr. Ansingh said classes would be shortened so no classes would be eliminated.

Community Forum - Budget Reductions/Long Range Facility Plan/Late-Starts (cont.)

Jeff Nelson: Jeff is retired and has no kids in District, but has grandsons in the Yakima School District. He would like to know what classes in particular would be effected by late start? In Yakima, students had to choose between classes if one class was eliminated due to the late start. He said while he rides his bicycle daily, he observes a steady stream of students' cars leaving the high school at all hours during the school day. How are they getting a good education if they are not in school? Student Rep Joel Heiser stated that many HS kids are involved in Running Start, Child Psychology, classes at the Skills Center, Lifetime Sports, which are classes that held off campus. Dr. Ansingh stated that the HS campus is open during the two lunch periods also.

Jean Seibert (WVHS Principal): She stated that Joel did an admirable job of explaining the above response to Mr. Nelson's question. Late starts at the high school would provide time for the teachers to collaborate as opposed to early releases that cause problems with spring sports which require several students to leave school early because of time constraints imposed by the fields/sports before it gets dark.

Matt Lovelass: Will bond issue be revisited in the future and if so, he thinks preparing a better explanation of the usage of the money would be a good idea. Dr. Ansingh stated that it was his recommendation not to pursue the bond anytime soon. He feels the current economy had an effect on the bond and is wondering if the District had the right proposal.

Janet Knudsen (WV Child Care Coordinator): She explained how the latchkey program works and the costs involved. She stated no day care center would take children for one hour per day one day a week when that space could be filled by a full time student using the service. It isn't cost effective for the business or the parents. She would like the Board to reconsider the late start.

Chris Walker: She would vote no on late starts. She asked when it would be approved and when would it begin? Dr. Ansingh said the Board would need to consider options, and if approved, the late starts would begin with the next school year.

Lori Brown: She wondered if an outside facilitator could be hired to provide better usage of time during the teacher collaboration time so the teachers would have more time in the classrooms. She stated her children need more classroom time, not less time. Dr. Ansingh replied that the most effective professional development is done by our own teachers within their own peer groups within their own classrooms without the use of an outside facilitator.

Community Forum - Budget Reductions/Long Range Facility Plan/Late-Starts (cont.)

Heidi Stevens-Mochel (2nd grade teacher at CW): Heidi wanted to clarify the reason the late start idea was presented, which was to give teachers time to work in PLC groups which were mandated. It's hard to find the time to meet with other teachers. She thinks PLC time should be District mandated time.

Cathy Warren (CW 3rd grade teacher) explained that PLC is Professional Learning Community and how it affects student evidence. The whole point of PLCs is to have more brainpower (more teachers collaborating) to improve learning for all students.

Julie Rhodes: If teachers spend the lunch time overseeing the kids, why can't they have a lunch break or break time to use to collaborate with their peers? The response was that teachers do have a "duty free" lunch period. Why not use the student lunch time for collaboration and use their own lunch period as personal time?

Cathy Warren (CW 3rd grade teacher): Cathy said that with all she has to do during the lunch period, she has about 10 minutes to get her kids to the lunchroom and then she takes her own duty free lunch time to work on her other school duties. Finding extra time was the reason for the request for the extra hour of late starts.

Heidi Stevens-Mochel: She stated that teachers don't have LID days off on Mondays. She stated they were home working on report cards and doing other work-related tasks and that they are not getting paid for those days.

Jen Bauer: She has concerns about the 5th graders being moved up to MS. She wanted to know if they would be moving hour by hour like the 6th graders currently do. Dr. Ansingh stated that there have not been conversations on this yet and that parents would have input within the next year on the topic. He stated the 6th grades are in teams, moving hour by hour with the exception of Humanities, which is a two hour block.

Jenneifer Komstaduis: She currently has 23 students in her class (down from 25) and is worried about maintaining programs like PAL at WH. She is worried about kids being crammed into classes and a teacher being available for PAL. We need more teachers in regular classrooms.

Lori Brown: She said that there are many programs with low class size to assist students with special needs. The students in the PAL program need to have their educational needs addressed. The current program does a good job of addressing the students' needs.

Community Forum - Budget Reductions/Long Range Facility Plan/Late-Starts (cont.)

SueAnn Malone: She supported the bond levy. While working at her job in a local credit union, she talked with customers about voting. She said they didn't understand why we just passed a levy that would allow us to build a new high school, thus getting rid of part of the old high school but then making it into a new 9th grade campus. Also, they didn't understand how the levy was part of that process. She also said they didn't understand why out-of-district students are allowed in without paying and that maybe the district should be closed to out-of-district students.

Kerri Lovelass: Kerri stated she couldn't justify voting yes for the bond levy because her property taxes were going up until her husband explained that voting yes now would in actuality save taxpayers money in the long run.

Board President Staci Verbrugge concluded the forum by stating that she appreciated all the comments and the participation of the audience and reiterated that no decisions have been made yet. A five minute break was taken for refreshments and to allow people to leave if they didn't want to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Communications: The Board members received: 1) a letter from Carl Neuman regarding the late start proposal; 2) an e-mail from Nona regarding a phone call from a parent who couldn't attend and wanted to express her opposition to the late start; 3) an e-mail from Tom responding to Jim Robert's questions about fund raisers; and 4) Dr. Ansingh received an email from Mike Meyer expressing a parent's concern about a girl's basketball coach; he shared Dr. Seibert's response to the parent.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. March 9, 2009 - Regular Meeting
 - 2. March 18, 2009 - Study Session
- B. Approval of Vouchers and Payroll
 - 1. General Fund - Warrants #110171 - 110454
 - 2. Capital Projects - Warrants #2206 - #2215
 - 3. Transportation Vehicle Fund - Warrant #31
 - 4. Payroll
- C. Budget Status Report
- D. Approval of Employment Contract
 - 1. Bob Magruder - Head Custodian (MS)
 - 2. Frank Sommers - Head Custodian (JH)
 - 3. Lanny Hughes - Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach

Approval of Consent Agenda (Cont.)

- D. Approval of Employment Contract
 - 4. Michael Parham - Volunteer Girls Fast Pitch Coach
- E. Approval of Resignations/Terminations
 - 1. Maria Riedman - Business Ed Teacher (HS)
 - 2. Stephen Busby - A+ Program Teacher (JH)
 - 3. Lisa Kromrei - 4th Grade Teacher (CW)
- F. Approval of Leave of Absence
 - 1. Betsy Lindberg - Secretary (AhV)
- G. Approval of Travel Request(s)
 - 1. WVHS Boys Golf; Golf Tournaments; Myrtle Beach, SC; April 6-13, 2009
 - 2. WVHS Girls Golf; Pendleton Tournament; Pendleton, OR; Apr. 10, 2009
 - 3. WVHS DECA; DECA National Competition; Anaheim, CA; Apr. 28-May 3, 2009
 - 4. WVHS Varsity Tennis; Inland Empire Invite; Spokane, WA; May 1-2, 2009
 - 5. WVHS Girls/Boys Golf; State Tournament; Richland, WA; May 26-28, 2009
 - 6. WVHS Varsity Tennis; State Tournament; Vancouver, WA; May 28-30, 2009
 - 7. WVHS FCCLA; FCCLA State Competition; Wenatchee, WA, Apr. 1-3, 2009

Sashi Kinloch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. MC 4-0.

Action Items

- A. Approval of Policy Addition(s)/Revision(s) - Second Reading
 - 1. 3122 - Excused and Unexcused Absences
Jim Roberts moved to approve the second reading of Policy #3122. MC 4-0.
- B. Approval of Furniture Bids for New WVHS
Mike Carey made a motion to approve the Approval of the Furniture Bids for the New WVHS with the exception of the rolling racks and lounge seating. MC 4-0.

Discussion Items

- A. WVHS FFA Trip
The Board expressed concerns about not enough chaperones available to have a chaperone on each charter fishing boat during the HS FFA trip. Currently there are seven students and two chaperones going on the trip. Jacob Munden, FFA Advisor, stated the Coast Guard felt comfortable with the boat arrangement. He also explained he has drafted an amended permission slip explaining to parents that each of the 3 boats would carry 2 kids, an adult chaperone plus a certified Coast Guard guide/captain of the boat. One boat would have 2

Discussion Items (Cont.)

- A. WVHS FFA Trip
students, the guide/captain, but no WV adult chaperone. The possibility of obtaining another chaperone was suggested, but time and costs make it prohibitive on such short notice. The Board gave their approval for the above arrangements.

Items Arising: None.

High School Student Representative(s) Report: None. Ashley and Joel were busy with preparations for the Mr. West Valley Contest.

Administrative Reports: AhV, WH, MS, HS

Reports from WH and WVHS were included in the Board packets. Reports from Ahtanum Valley and WVMS were passed out at the meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Ansingh's report outlined the following items: Important Dates, Employees-of-the-Trimester, JROTC Military Ball, WIAA Representative Assembly.

Board Reports/Board Development: Mike Carey discussed the WIAA amendment handout included in the Board packet. He felt the Board should be interested in the stunt training/certification qualifications for pep squads and coaches. Sasha Kinloch stated that as former pep squad advisor, she also felt that certification should be obtained because of the complexity of the stunts performed by the students.

Executive Session:

- A. Personnel

The Board adjourned into Executive Session, expected to last 30 minutes, at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The Board reconvened into regular session at 9:34 p.m.

Adjournment followed at 9.35 p.m.

Dr. Peter Ansingh
Superintendent

Staci Verbrugge
President