

**Oakville School District  
School Board Minutes  
September 29, 2008**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Establish Quorum/Accept agenda:** Members present were Steve Mittge, Laura Bale and Judith Palmer. Don Secena arrived at 5:39 p.m.

**Special Recognition:** Kathy Lorton recognized LeeRae Ball for all her hard work and help.

**Correspondence:** Lisa Norskog resigned from the board of directors after accepting employment from the district. We will be advertising for a new board member in District #1. LeeRae discussed with the board our annual renewal of our insurance. The rates were actually lower than what was estimated earlier on. Sheryl O'Brien sent a thank you letter for all the words of kindness from everyone when she left our district.

**Community Comments:** Ruth Bravetti introduced herself to the board and let them know she was the Vice-President of the union and would be here this evening as their representative.

**Minutes:** Steve Mittge moved to approve minutes as corrected. Seconded by Laura Bale. Passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Business:** LeeRae reported to the board on both the fiscal and HR in Sandy's absence. She talked about the new IT procedures we have in place. Traffic Safety revenues have come and we are just now paying ESD for their services. Cash flow is still good. Accounts payable is higher as usual for start up of the year. We did receive the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Grant. OSPI received more funds unexpectedly, and our school benefited from this by our application being chosen in their second round. We received a direct grant from the Department of Education for Technology. She then reported on HR for Sandy and handed out forms she has implemented to help with compliance and verification of deductions, etc.

**Board Committees:** Judith asked Laura to share what she will be doing with the board. She let them know that she has registered, and will be attending the annual WSSDA conference for the new board members. Judith then asked the board to consider which board committees they would like to be on this year. After discussion, Judith Palmer and Laura Bale will be on the Financial & Budget committee, Steve Mittge will be on Negotiations, Don Secena and Steve Mittge will be on Policies and Facilities, and Laura Bale will be on Legislative. The Levy committee will be decided during a levy year.

**Principals:** Tom Phimister reported to the board on the beginning of the school year so far. We started on a different approach to discipline with Safe & Civil Schools. We have options for students to have a short time-out in the offices, we have a "choices" room at lunch time where students are brought their lunches. The older students' "choices" room actually make their own lunches and they also have paperwork to fill out about the choices they made to get themselves there in the first place, and they discuss the concerns about these choices. This is a new experience for most of our students and is proving to be very successful. There are not many repeat students. We have also been working very hard on all students having a hall pass whenever they are out of the classroom. It is already very rare to see students out and about without one. We are currently meeting every Thursday afternoon in the library for all staff meetings. He also let the board know that our October enrollment is up a bit. Canfield and Associates, our insurance company, did a workshop last Wednesday, on our first early release, concerning Harassment. Tom also told the board that Sunset

Air, who has replaced services previously performed by Actionaire, has been here working on our heating and air. Steve Mittge said he was approached by a middle school parent who would like his child to be able to have a cell phone with him to use after school, but with the new rules in place he couldn't have one in school. Kathy let him know that arrangements have been made with other parents and students to have the cell phones kept in the office during the day for the students to pick up afterwards. We understand about extenuating circumstances. Our intent is not to ban cell phones completely, but to follow through with the rule of students using them during school time. Judith asked Tom if he is making a concerted effort to contact the media to get our sports information in, good, bad or indifferent. Bob Johnson is making sure to get the information to the media as soon as possible. Some of the papers are harder to contact than others. He will do some more contacting to see what can be done.

**Superintendent:** Kathy reported that Ruth Bravetti, Tom Phimister and herself have been working on math classes and scheduling. We realize this is a subject that needs much more emphasis. We have gone through each and every student's transcript and are putting together a new section of math to accommodate student needs. We will have that information to you soon. What this will do, is put students in math courses more aligned to their needs. We have given each student, grades 6-12, placement tests to help determine their levels. Tom and I will be meeting with each student and their parents to explain the decision to move some students to different courses. We are not only focusing on math, but all students subject areas where they may need changes. I know this will take time, but we know you will see improvements in each and every student. She then let the board and community know that the Gear Up grant has been granted for another six year funding. We will be meeting with their representatives to talk about our needs. We will be letting them know our focus will be on mathematics and college preparation. We will also be talking about Larry Crowley's schedule and what he will be able to provide us. She then spoke of this being our second year of not meeting AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). We will be notifying the community we will also have to let them know that two of our teachers are not highly qualified. That does not mean they are not quality teachers which means that one or two of the subjects they are teaching does not fall under the highly qualified criteria. We will not only be sending out a letter, but are hoping to meet and talk with the community. Judith Palmer asked if when mailings are sent home to parents or the community, that the board members are also mailed a copy. We were unaware of the open house and were glad to have found out about it in time to go, because it was wonderful!! This way, we will be aware of up-coming events also that we may be able to attend.

**Consent Agenda:** Steve Mittge moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Don Secena seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

**a. Monthly ESD Monitoring Visits:** The ESD comes to our district once a month while we are in receivership with OSPI. When they are here, they discuss our financials and our planning. I have asked him to come to our October board meeting since we have a couple new board members, and discuss this with them.

**b. Craig Hanson – Policy Update:** I have been meeting with Craig Hanson on our handbook. We want to make sure when we put out this handbook, it's done legally, correctly and clearly. There are several issues we have already had to address. The last thing we are working on is our school dress code. We have just about completed this process and our handbook should be out soon. Another issue is one we addressed this summer and I wanted to update you. After a tremendous amount of research, we will be following policy with our seniors and juniors this year of 19 credits for graduation. I'm hoping to meet with Don and Steve and go over how they would like to proceed with current policy.

c. **Cell Phone Employee List:** Sandy supplied earlier in her report.

**New Business:**

- a. **Field Trip to Olympia Symphony, Gr. 4,5,6:** The students took a trip to hear the Symphony in Olympia.
- b. **Advertisement for Open Board Position:** The district office will advertise for our open board position as an unexpired 2 year term.
- c. **After School Program through Title I Grant:** Our after school program is now funded through Title I. We are hopefully starting next week on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Comments:** We had an Elma student, Stephanie Trahan, who was here visiting our board meeting for CWP class credit.

**Future Agenda Items:** John Molohon will be attending our October board meeting as Kathy covered earlier.

**Executive Session:** Canceled.

Steve Mittge moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Laura Bale. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

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