

recap

Information from meetings of your School Board

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Who's on Board?

Mari Greves, in her last meeting as board president, and Dr. Steve Webb, in his first meeting as superintendent, tag teamed a brief, to-the-point meeting packed with board actions to keep the district moving forward during the summer. They welcomed Chriss Burgess, new associate superintendent of teaching and learning (replacing retired Linda McGeachy), to the table.

The Board elected Ed Rankin as the next president and Dale Rice as vice president for next year. They will begin serving in those positions at the next board meeting.

"I just want to say thank you to Mari for serving as president," said Rankin. "She has served our district and our children and our community well."

VAPA and VAESP agreements approved

The Board approved an agreement with Vancouver Association of Principals and Associate Principals (VAPA) for 2008-2011. Pay will continue to be set based on comparable school districts in the state. The agreement had been ratified previously by VAPA.

In addition, a mid-year agreement with Vancouver Association of Educational Support Professionals (VAESP) has been ratified and approved by the Board for 2008-2009. Overall funding for professional development remains the same, but the distribution and allocation of funds has been changed.

Webb thanked Karen Leary and Curtis Smith, co-presidents of VAPA, and Sue Prindle and Nancy Schreiber, co-presidents of VAESP, for their assistance in bargaining successful contracts.

Property declared surplus, auxiliary warehouse will close

Over time, the district accumulates property which then must be declared surplus prior to disposal. The last time the district declared property surplus was in April 2006.

The Board once again declared property no longer usable within the district as surplus. The property has been staged in the district's auxiliary warehouse and has been offered to schools. Disposal of the current property will allow the district to close the auxiliary warehouse.

"This helps mitigate the reductions we have been forced to make to maintain a balanced budget," said Webb. He thanked Steve Olsen and the Business Office staff, and Joe Schoenlein and Purchasing staff, for their efforts which will result in cost savings to the district.

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Six new school buses join fleet

The Board approved the purchase of six new school buses to replace buses that recently dropped off the state depreciation schedule. The district will purchase five 27-passenger school buses and one 30-passenger school bus, all with wheelchair lifts. These purchases are part of an ongoing replacement plan based on the state depreciation schedule. The six new buses were purchased using a state contract, which offered the best value. All of these purchases are funded through the transportation vehicle fund.

Board members asked about the low trade-in value for the retired buses. “The trade-in value is nominal. We keep as many as we can for maintenance purposes. There is not a large secondary market for used school buses. We run them to the point that they need to be retired,” said Todd Horenstein, assistant superintendent for facilities.

Retired and refitted school buses, painted white with the district logo, are visible throughout the district this summer as maintenance crews use them to haul everything from paint and carpentry tools to plumbing and roofing supplies.

Copy cat agreement continues copier services

As a 60-month lease agreement for copiers expires, the Board approved a new 60-month rental agreement with De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc., c/o Pacific Office Automation. The agreement provides 23 multifunctional copiers for elementary schools, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, Vancouver Early Childhood Center, and the Gate House program at a monthly cost of \$5,704.

VSAA remodel uncovers additional needs

During the Phase II remodel of Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, some additional needs were uncovered, requiring the Board to approve a third change order. Changes include fire alarm devices, pipes, and electrical wiring. The additional work is not expected to delay completion of the project.

New Kiggins turf will rock!

As the field at Kiggins Bowl Stadium was being prepared for new artificial turf, a problem surfaced during preparation of the substrate. The rock beneath the old turf was found to be inadequate for proper drainage of the field, requiring new rock to be purchased. The Board approved a change order for the project.

The new generation of artificial turf is designed very differently, explained Todd Horenstein. Old turf fields used a rubberized cushion laid over a rock base, and fields were raised in the center to allow water to drain off to the sides. The new turf is softer, lies flatter, and is more natural.

“Our teams and marching bands will be very happy,” said Horenstein.