

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
604 E. Brooks Street
Phone 509-773-5177
Fax 509-773-6028

Middle School
520 Collins Drive
Phone 509-773-4323
Fax 509-773-4579

Goldendale Public Schools

High School
525 Simcoe Drive
Phone 509-773-5846
Fax 509-773-6900

District No. 404, Klickitat County
Goldendale, Washington 98620

Primary School
820 S. Schuster Street
Phone 509-773-4665
Fax 509-773-6602

December 17, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

RE: SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The Goldendale School District Board of Directors will hold a Special School Board Meeting for the purpose of discussion and possible action regarding the upcoming renewal of the Maintenance and Operations Levy.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at the Goldendale School District Administration office located at 604 E. Brooks Street, Goldendale WA 98620.

Mark Heid, Superintendent
Goldendale School District No. 404
(509) 773-5177

Distribution:

GHS
GMS
GPS
SENTINEL 773-4737
KLCK-(503) 200-1194
PSE-B.Ward
GEA-B.Stout
Website

**GOLDENDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 404
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – 4:30 P.M.
MINUTES - DECEMBER 19, 2013**

D-2b

Board Members Present: John Hoctor, Carl Conroy, John Miller, Deborah Heart, Virginia Amidon and Mark Heid, Superintendent.

Others Present: Lori Hackbarth, Kay Hill, Darlene Johnson, Klickitat County Assessor and her assistant Mary Burket, Personal Property Specialist.

Call to Order/Flag Salute: Mr. Hoctor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He welcomed guests and led the flag salute.

Discussion: The Board members reviewed information provided by Darlene Johnson, Klickitat County Assessor. Much of the discussion centered on the devaluation of the wind machines, property and by the State Department of Revenue.

Ms. Johnson explained that the county tax assessment is based on market conditions. The wind towers value has been placed on a depreciation schedule between 4%-8% as recommended by the Department of Revenue. Permits for new machines are in place but no building is occurring at this time and future building may be restricted due to BPA restrictions. When existing machines are improved upon, reassessment will occur.

Ms. Johnson noted that an adjustment to the Windy Flats assessment occurred after discovery of a valuation error that had included their financing costs so the company had been overtaxed. Local property values have dropped due to market conditions (real estate sales); some up to 50% reduction. The City of Goldendale maintained property values however, surrounding areas have reduced significantly. A property near the primary school had a lid to its taxing value due to it being a rent-controlled, low income building status.

Board members inquired on a variety of property taxation issues and Ms. Johnson will research why the Department of Revenue valuation of county utilities decreased by nearly \$50 million dollars.

NEXT MEETING DATES: A Special Board Meeting will be scheduled to further discuss the levy on Monday, December 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary to the Board

Recording Secretary