

**Tumwater School District**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
Michael T. Simmons Elementary School  
1205 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW  
Tumwater, WA 98512  
March 22, 2018

Board Members Present: Jay Wood, Melissa Beard, Rita Luce, Kim Reykdal

Board Members Excused: Janine Ward

Staff Members Present: John Bash, Tami Collins, Laurie Wiedenmeyer, Mel Murray, Beth Scouller, Brian Hardcastle, Elliott Hedin, Stephanie Brush, Linda O'Shaughnessy

President Jay Wood called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Agenda Discussion/Approval**

- Agenda Changes: John Bash stated that there are no changes in the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Rita Luce/Melissa Beard, M/S to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2018 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Special Recognition**

- School Retirees Appreciation Week: John Bash read a proclamation from the Governor's Office for School Retirees Appreciation Week. John added how grateful Tumwater School District is for all the retired teachers who substitute in districts in Thurston County. He introduced Ron Crawford and Karen Keller. Ron and Karen talked a bit about the scholarships they award to teachers and students as well as the retirement seminar that they offer to teachers nearing retirement age.
- Sue Daniels-MTS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Hi-Cap Teacher: Elliott Hedin talked about the film festival that Sue planned. There were six films shown at the Capitol Theater and it was enjoyed by all.
- Ann Smalley-MTS PTO President: Elliott Hedin spoke about Ann's contributions to the PTO.
- The Dart Container Corporation: Brian Hardcastle introduced Biyuan Chen and Kathy Warren from The Dart Container Corporation and shared some details about the grant he applied for and what the award will support. Biyuan thanked the district for supporting his children to become successful and shared how much he appreciates the programs the district offers to students.

## Site Report

- Michael T. Simmons Elementary: Elliott Hedin presented on this topic. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Hi-Cap students were present to share a project on potential and kinetic energy, using eggs They built “vehicles” and a protection system to keep the eggs from breaking during the testing phase.

Elliott shared some information about the types of students that make up the Michael T. Simmons student population. Stephanie Brush talked about addressing attendance including communications with families, progress monitoring as well as celebrations and positive calls home. She also explained PBIS including how they handle when things don't go well, as well as when they do. Each month they have a theme with March being “Cooperation” and teachers nominate students from their class that exhibit that trait. Elliott outlined some of the academic highlights in their building, including Ready Math, Project Lead The Way (is supplemental to standard curriculum for Hi-Cap), the film festival, band/orchestra, interventions, cultural competency and social/emotional professional development. Michael T. Simmons has a “Catch List”, which is a list of students that may need some extra support and have assigned staff to check in on these students each day. Gabi Taheri put on a magical showing of The Lion King so he gave a big thank you to her for all her efforts!

John commented how thankful the district is for the year with Stephanie Brush and congratulated her on her new position at Belfair Elementary. He also thanked Brian Hardcastle for being a dedicated advocate and for making so much happen in our district around career and technical education, especially at the elementary level as it is not common in most districts.

## Business/Financial

- 2017/18 Budge Update: John Bash presented on this topic. Trends are within the normal range and while our expenditures are slightly ahead of previous years, it is simply do to the way that staff submit for extra pay all along rather than all at once at the end of the year.
- Capital Projects Report: Mel Murray presented on this topic. There are a number of properties around the district that are being looked at by developers as well as another apartment complex over on Rural Road. We have two elementary school properties and we will likely need to include both of those in the next Bond and review boundaries. Both middle school projects are close to being completed. Six classrooms will be finished at East Olympia Elementary over spring break with all of the building done by July. The architect and design team at Tumwater Hill mentioned that Tumwater has some of the most cooperative principals and staff across the state. There is progress on some of the other smaller projects around the district, including Secondary Options, to open in about October 2019. Looking at putting some solar panels on Peter G. Schmidt. Interior door locks have been ordered for both high schools and the hope is that they will be installed by the end of April. The existing structures at both our middle schools will qualify and need attention during the next Bond.
- Report on Building Condition Assessments-OSPI Asset Preservation Program: Mel Murray presented on this topic. This program is a component of the OSPI school construction assistance program and is designed to help districts maintain the 3- year life expectancy of their buildings. Any new building built with state construction funding assistance after 1993 must be included in this Asset Preservation Program.

## Equity and Diversity Update:

- John Bash introduced Linda O'Shaughnessy from G.W. Bush Middle School, who has been working with staff and parents on this issue. She shared some of the things that have gone on over the past couple months at their building including the presentation from the THS Multicultural

Club to BMS staff as well as Brad Blackburn, a THS student, presenting to BMS students. She is working with someone to plan some equity and diversity staff engagement sessions. On March 19<sup>th</sup> the Cultural Awareness Committee met to respond to the Veterans Day Assembly and topics of symbolism and next steps in addressing issues such as marginalized groups, privilege and hidden bias. March 20<sup>th</sup> was the final SLCC meeting with Caprice Hollins and the information presented will be brought back to BMS over the next two ACT days. The Cultural Awareness Committee will meet again on April 19<sup>th</sup> and there is talk of a Cultural Awareness Club being offered at BMS next year.

John thanked Linda and Chris Woods for all their courage and efforts on this topic.

### **Public Comment**

- Public Comment- Agenda and Non-Agenda Items: Tami Collins stated there is no one signed up to address the Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **Kim Reykdal/Rita Luce, M.S., to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:**
  - Employment: Pam Jolley, HR Specialist II, DO; Danika Werner, 18/19 .5 SpEd Multi-Age Teacher, MTS; Mary Sorger, .5 SpEd Resource Teacher, EOE; Brian McMorrow, Impact ParaPro, EOE.
  - Adjusted: Alexander Mager, Custodian, PGS
  - Resignation: Pamela Egolf, Teacher, MTS, effective at the end of the 2017/2018 school year; Amanda Allen, Teacher, NMHS, effective March 12, 2018; Mary “Jeni” Kogler, RN-Instructor/Program Director, NMSC, effective March 27, 2018; Susan Daniels, Teacher, MTS, effective at the end of the 2017/2018 school year; Joanna Brodziak, Teacher, BMS, effective at the end of the 2017/2018 school year.
  - Retirement: Theresa Bissonnette, ParaPro, PGS, resigning 2.5 hours of current 6.5 hour assignment at the end of the 2017/18 school year.
  - Leaves: Ann Rettenmier, Teacher, THS, FMLA leave starting January 30, 2018 returning February 23, 2018, per doctor’s note; Alison Smith, Teacher, TMS medical leave starting approximately April 23, 2018 with an unknown return date, pending doctor’s note; Patricia Kulp, Teacher, ECLC, intermittent FMLA leave starting February 9, 2018 through approximately March 9, 2018, pending doctor’s note; Julie Rohr, Bus Driver, Transportation, unpaid medical leave starting February 26, 2018, returning March 6, 2018; Lesa Kimbrel, ParaPro, THS, intermittent paid family illness leave starting January 2, 2018, with an unknown return date pending doctor’s note.
  - Co-Curricular: Thomas Spray, Assistant Baseball Coach, BHHS; Keith Rhodes, Assistant Baseball Coach, BHHS.
  - Other: Recommend approval for Debra Daniels, NMHS, to each in an area out of her endorsement for the balance of the 2017/2018 school year; Cynthia Partlow, ELL Teacher, should be FMLA leave starting February 12, 2018 through the end of the 2017/2018 school year, per doctor’s note (previously approved on March 8, 2018 board report as unpaid personal leave); Leigh Thompson, Teacher, BLE, retirement date is effective the last day of the 2017/2018 school year (previously approved at June 16, 2018 on the March 8, 2018 board report); THS Iris Filmuary, session #51195 for 6 clock hours- added more dates, March 19, March 26 and April 9, 2018, changed from 6 clock hours to 10.5 clock hours (previously approved on February 8, 2018 board report).
  - Payroll and Voucher Totals: The following vouchers as audited and certified by the auditing officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified, as required by RCW 42.24.090, are approved for payment as follows: Payroll vouchers 0-0-

0 in the amount of \$0; General Fund voucher numbers 72213034-72213083 in the amount of \$596,284.70; Capital Projects Fund voucher numbers 72011780-72011793 in the amount of \$339,982.27; ASB Fund voucher numbers 72441079-72441093 in the amount of \$66,029.41; Transportation-Vehicle Fund voucher numbers 0-0 in the amount of \$0 and Private Purpose Trust Fund voucher numbers 0-0 in the amount of \$173.54.

- Contracts: Grand Canyon University; Traci Bishop; Southern Regional Education Board (SREB); TC Consultants; Ed Salerno; SafeSchools LLC, YMCA.
- Capital Projects Acceptance of Contracts as Complete: Alarm Center, Security Systems at TMS.
- Donation Acceptance: The Dart Foundation donated \$40,000 to K-5 Engineering and Computer Science with Project Lead The Way and 6-8 Automation and Robotics projects.

### Action Items

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Policy 3205 Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited: John Bash presented this item. **Melissa Beard/Kim Reykdal, M.S. to approve Policy 3205, Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Policy 3122, Excused and Unexcused Absences: Brian Hardcastle presented this item. **Rita Luce/Melissa Beard, M.S. to approve Policy 3122, Excused and Unexcused Absences. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, 2018/2019 School Year Calendar: Beth Scouller presented this item. **Rita Luce/Melissa Beard, M.S. to approve the 2018/2019 School Year Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.**

### Superintendent's Report

- Community Engagement: John Bash and Laurie Wiedenmeyer presented on this topic. Laurie began by sharing the Community Engagement goal that the district has adopted. The district communications continue to produce positive feedback, including The Open Line, school newsletters, social media (Facebook and Twitter) as well as Thurston Talk doing more school stories, with a new "Community Chat" feature starting soon.

John shared some of the community outreach that has gone on so far this school year, including Thurston County Chamber, Toyota, Family Support Center and provider nights.

There are so many opportunities that students and families have to participate in events at their schools such as math/reading nights, curriculum nights, parent workshops, PTO/PTA meetings and sponsored events. Laurie will be meeting with parent leaders across the district soon. John has attended a few PTO/PTA meetings and attendance varies from 15-35 with lower numbers being at the middle school level. Elliott has a new "WATCH DOGS" group at MTS that is comprised of dads and it is a very popular program.

Some new strategies this year include a Superintendent Advisory Group, with John working to develop a list of people who will be a part and a goal of a first meeting by the end of the school year. Instead of Community Roundtable, John is doing a listening tour that has started with the faith-based community. There will be a City/TSD Community Summit on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Tumwater Middle School with the prevention of homelessness being the main topic of discussion.

Tumwater is joining Highline and Pasco school districts on a national campaign for Communities in Schools. John will be travelling to DC at the end of April, where he will get to meet with some members of Congress on this topic.

School Safety has been a major topic and John thanked Laurie for all her efforts and ideas that she has and for the caring way in which she communicates with families in our district.

- Superintendent's Remarks: Packets have been provided to Board members regarding John's upcoming evaluation. Legislative decisions will cause districts to lose money, which means not being able to support programs previously mentioned in a levy flyer. The Legislature decided that Olympia and North Thurston would get more than Tumwater, based on "cost of living" and this may become an issue during bargaining because our teachers deserve increases too. John reminded everyone that on March 27<sup>th</sup> the district will be hosting a safety forum at Tumwater High School and that Monday morning is the next legislative breakfast at 8:00am.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Kim Reykdal: It has been a busy last couple of weeks. She met with Chris Woods on High School and Beyond planning. On the 15<sup>th</sup> she went to her first high school information night and gave a shout-out to Black Hills staff, who were present to allow the incoming students to meet with them. There has been a lot of work regarding equity and she appreciates the chance to look at what has been done in other districts while we work to put a policy together for Tumwater. The ESD Board Equity Series 2<sup>nd</sup> session was last night and feels it is a great opportunity to participate and learn.
- Rita Luce: She feels like the district has made steps towards what has always been her dream of having the schools be the center of the community. She went to her first soccer game on the turf at BHHS and it was great!
- Jay Wood: He went out to BHHS during the walkout on April 14<sup>th</sup>, although he did not consider it a "walkout." It was very serious and emotional and felt the students could not have learned more in a classroom than they did during that activity. He went to the Retired Teacher's luncheon on Friday. Brady Olsen, who had taken down the student at the shooting at North Thurston, was there to present on his experience and how it has changed his life. He is looking forward to the school safety forum on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There is a student led march happening on Saturday.
- Melissa Beard: Kainoa started baseball and she enjoyed the softball field at BHHS! She is excited about the equity work and continues to ask herself what she/they can do to support staff so they can support students. Her daughter participated in the walk-out but didn't feel that what was done, represented what she wanted to express but it was a great opportunity for conversation.

The regular meeting recessed at 10:27 a.m. for a short break. The Executive Session began at 10:35 a.m. Executive session ended at 11:05 a.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m. With no further business coming before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Recorded by:  
Tami L. Collins

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

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Board Member

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Board Secretary