

**Garfield School District #301
Palouse School District #302
Oakesdale School District #324
Special Board Meeting
March 14, 2012**

The Joint Board was called to order at 7:10 PM.

OPENING

In Attendance- Garfield: John Orfe, Rusty Jamison, Keith Rawls and Paul Hendrickson via Skype
Palouse: Ed Griner, Brenda Boyd-Brown, Joe Merrill, Chris Cook
Oakesdale: Cap Perry, Shelly Lobdell, Doug Hinkins, Larry Perringer

ATTENDANCE

Also in Attendance: Superintendent/Principal Zane Wells, Superintendent/Principal Jake Dingman, ESD Superintendent Mike Dunn, Business Manager Frankie Swinney, Reporter Neva Kuehner

Guests: Tim Coles, Tina Coles, Kim Wells, Amy Heusser, Patty Cottrill, Jody Akins, Rebecca Hemphill, Phil Weagraff, Marvin Pillers, Ruth Vertrees, Craig Cochran, Jim Reed

Ed Griner explained to the audience that with Superintendent/Principal Bev Fox's retirement, Palouse has an opening to be filled. He stated that he had contacted Oakesdale to see how they had started their search for a Superintendent. Through those conversations, talk started about sharing a Superintendent to save both or all three districts money.

Rusty Jamison said that as a Garfield Board member he is in favor of talking to other towns about how to save cost of operation. We continue to see the trend of declining enrollment. We can no longer sit here and hope that a new business will move in and solve all of our problems. Rusty stated that if we can maintain the quality of education in our school while working with other schools to keep our costs down that it would be in the best interest of both our schools and community. Rusty went on to say that when the Co-op was formed there were a lot of unknowns. Right now the board is laying things out on the table and looking at options.

Phil Weagraff asked the boards if they would share some of the configurations with the audience that would show how they are planning on being fiscally responsible?

The Boards came with three scenarios on paper to see what the potential savings or cost to each of the districts would be. These numbers are not set in stone they are a basic guideline.

Cap Perry stated that if Garfield did not want to share a Superintendent that a Superintendent could still be shared between Palouse and Oakesdale.

Rusty Jamison stated that he has not gone through all of the scenarios with a fine toothcomb. He would want to see descriptions of how the jobs

would be done. The Garfield Board would like more input from Superintendent/Principal Zane Wells.

Ed Griner stated that Palouse and Oakesdale are looking at sharing a Superintendent and each building having their own principal.

Joe Merrill asked Tim Coles to comment. Mr. Coles stated that when we had one Superintendent and a principal in each building that it felt like we had 10 Board members that looked over Garfield-Palouse. When we went to each building having their own superintendent it felt as if we built a fence between the two communities and trust was broken.

Doug Hinkins stated that if we wait for change from the state we are in trouble. We need to go out and make things happen. Oakesdale would not even think about this if it were not good for the towns. Mr. Hinkins stated that Mr. Dingman has a ton of ability.

Mike Dunn-ESD Superintendent was asked to comment about the possibility of sharing a Superintendent. Mr. Dunn stated that from the ESD's perspective they are there to work for us and would help us with whatever configuration we choose. He stated that the Co-op has been a wonderful model for other districts. The ESD knows Mr. Dingman very well and feels as if it is an opportunity to have someone with energy. Mr. Dunn applauds that the three districts are being proactive by looking at this.

The Joint Boards went into Executive Session (1 hour) at 8:35 PM.
Garfield/Palouse/Oakesdale

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The three boards came out of Executive Session at 9:30 PM.

OUT

The Palouse and Oakesdale boards went into Executive Session at 9:35 PM. (30 min.)

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Garfield Board was called to recess at 9:35 PM.

**RECESS FOR
GARFIELD**

The Palouse and Oakesdale boards came out of Executive Session at 9:50 PM.

OUT

The motion was made by Ed Griner to enter into a partnership with The Oakesdale School District to share their Superintendent, Jake Dingman and for Jake to serve as our (Palouse) Superintendent. With details and contracts to follow. Motion was seconded by Brenda Boyd-Brown, motion passed 3-0.

**PALOUSE
MOTION**

The Palouse and Oakesdale boards were called to recess at 9:55 PM.

RECESS