

Wenatchee School District No. 246
Wenatchee, Washington
Minutes of March 24th, 2009
Parent Workshop Board Meeting

Board

Laura Jaecks, President
Walter Newman, Vice President
Jesús Hernández
Kevin Gilbert

Staff

Brian Flones, Superintendent

School Board & Building
Parent Group Representatives Workshop

Newbery Elementary School

March 24th, 2009

6:00 – 7:00 PM

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Laura Jaecks asked the board members and superintendent to introduce themselves to those in attendance and give a brief background in reference to their history with Wenatchee School District. She also asked everyone present to introduce themselves to the board.

Parent sign-in sheet:

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Desiree Lenard | 10. Jennifer Christensen |
| 2. Mary Young | 11. Dodie Pike |
| 3. Wendy Willey | 12. Argchio Cusique |
| 4. Esperanza Najera | 13. Wendy Smoke |
| 5. Anne Guerrero | 14. Tony Omlin |
| 6. Cindy Murie | 15. Monika Christensen |
| 7. Craig Robertson | 16. Brenda Baumeister |
| 8. Jodi Murray | 17. Silvana Dice |
| 9. Renee Monson | |

- II. Meeting Purpose: District goal to improve communication with parents and community. – Laura Jaecks outlined the results of the Nine Characteristics Survey. She pointed out that in the last two years the board has worked on areas that were earmarked by the survey to need improvement.
- The board has made an effort to visit schools and meet with staff during lunch for causal conversation about school issues in an effort to improve communication between the board members and the WSD staff.
 - They have also made an attempt to visit the PTA/PTO/PSTA and other parent groups to reach out to the parents and community. The meetings have been very successful and informative.
 - Having the board meetings and workshops at the school buildings has also helped in creating more communication with the staff, parents and community.

After explaining the board communication attempts Laura Jaecks asked the parents to give ideas and areas of concern or issues that they would like to address with the board at a future date.

The ideas, issues and concerns were as follows:

1. “Make Your Day” – several voiced their concern that this is creating a negative self-image or perception for the students, (of themselves) and not producing the results the program was intended to do. One parent who is also a staff member shared the opinion that from the description she heard of the actions going on in the schools is not the appropriate use of the program. She suggested that maybe there should be an updated training to the staff. The program should be making the students feel needed and valued and not used as a punitive tool. A lot of discussion on this subject from all the groups present continued. It was decided to set up a board workshop with parents on this subject.
2. Some parents also had concern about parent burnout in the later grades, and difficulty in recruiting new parents. They asked for help from board to reach out to parents. The board had a lot of interaction on this subject with the parents. The board believes parent involvement is essential in the students’ success.
3. The parking lot and school parking entrances at Newbery have been a big problem. Increased student population due to Choice students and those parents driving them to and from school has increased the traffic problem. This problem exists at some of the other schools also.
4. Valley Academy thanked the board for including them in this workshop. Being recognized by the district is important to the parents and staff of Valley Academy. They also asked that they could be involved in more district events and communications.

5. An Orchard parent shared there are only a few parents involved at that school and they would like to motivate more parents to come and participate. They do very well on the ski swap every year but would encourage more participation.
6. A Columbia parent told about the improvement of communication at their school. The staff and parents are working very hard to keep everyone informed. She also shared concern for the playground equipment. Discussion followed about purchasing playground equipment and how other schools made that possible.
7. WSHS parents shared the school's need for new facilities. The equipment and building is all original and quite old. Parents pointed out how happy they are and everyone they know with students at WSHS is very pleased with the program and staff.
8. Late Start on Monday's was a problem for day care for some parents and finding transportation for others.
9. Several parents stated that WSD Day-Care and after school programs are too expensive.

Ms. Jaecks and the board members thanked the parents for all the input. They suggested that workshops be setup with parents to address the issues with "Make Your Day". Also creating a Moodle Page for parents in the district to communicate and provide training would be extremely helpful.

III. District Communication Strategies

Teri Fink, WSD Communication Specialist, spoke to the parents about various communications projects that are occurring in the district at this time.

- Ms. Fink explained the print process of the communication piece and distributed samples of the newsletters that are mailed out to over 22,000 households and she provided a sample of the Newsletter that is printed in Spanish for distribution.
- Ms. Fink also explained the website re-creation and updating that is taking place that will include more information on the district web page. We currently have WSD News site on the WSD home page for the public to view.
- The last part of the communication efforts of the district is a new e-letter soon to be published and sent out to parents. She invited the parents present to get on the list to receive this communication.

IV. Superintendent and Board's Closing Comments:

- Superintendent Fiones passed around copies of the 2009-10 Budget Saving Forecasting and Plans report that was going to be presented at the regular board meeting immediately following the Parent Workshop. He gave a brief overview and invited the parents to stay to hear CFO Les Vandervort's presentation. He also touched on plans for a possible bond and issues on the horizon due to the current economic climate. He invited the parents to get involved with the district in anyway that they can and he thanked them for their support in getting the Levy passed.
- Laura Jaecks invited the parents to communicate through email to the board. She also encouraged them to share their concerns and she thanked all of them for attending and invited them to stay for the board meeting.
- Jesús Hernández thanked them for their input and asked for their suggestions and ideas to go in place of the Make Your Day program. He also thanked them for being involved with their students and nurturing an academic culture in the schools. He strongly believes parent participation and a culture of academia produces rewards for our students.
- Kevin Gilbert thanked the parents and invited them to join the Facilities Committee or sub-committees so that they can be a part of the decisions that have an affect on their students in the district.
- Walter Newman also thanked the parents for attending and encouraged them to continue their involvement.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Laura Jaecks adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

President

Superintendent