

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

Board

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

Staff

Brian Flones, Superintendent

I. REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Laura Jaecks, Board President, opened the regular board meeting at John Newbery Elementary School at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chuck Largent was out of state and excused from the meeting.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Laura Jaecks asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda including the hand carry payroll report. Motion made by Walter Newman and seconded by Kevin Gilbert and the motion carried unanimously. The following items are in the consent agenda:

1) **MINUTES** of the Regular Board Meeting on March 10th 2009.

2) **PERSONNEL REPORT:**

PREPARED BY: Steve Cole, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

APPOINTMENTS

We ask the Board to appoint:

Classified:

- Laurie Bazan: Homework Center Tutor for 2.5 hrs/day 4 days/wk, effective February 15, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Crystiana Castro: Homework Center Tutor for 2.5 hrs/day 4 days/wk at PIO, effective February 17, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Ariana DeRobles: ASP Staff for 2.5 hrs/day at OMS, effective March 3, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Lisa Eschwig: Special Ed 1-on-1 Para Ed for 3.0 hrs/day 4 days/wk at WA, effective March 2, 2009;
- Grace Kneier: After School Staff for 2.5 hrs/day at PIO, effective March 3, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Nelson Lora: After School Staff for 2.5 hrs/day at PIO, effective February 17, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Jacqueline Martin del Campo: After School Staff for 2.5 hrs/day at PIO, effective February 11, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Brea Miller: Activity Instructor for 3.0 hrs/day 1 day/wk at OMS, effective March 3, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Ed Richards: Part-time Permanent Grounds for 8.0 hrs/day at M&O, , effective March 2, 2009 through November 30, 2009;
- Jesse Rogers: AVID Tutor for 2.5 hrs/day at OMS & PIO, effective March 10, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Tara Wright: Activity Instructor for 3.0 hrs/day 1 day/wk at OMS, effective March 3, 2009 through June 15, 2009;

CHANGE OF STATUS

We ask the Board to approve:

Classified:

- Tamie Boersema: Change from Special Ed Para Ed for 6.0 hrs/day at SS to Special Ed Para Ed for 3.0 hrs/day at SS and 3.0 hrs/day at LIN, effective March 3, 2009;
- Linda Bonwell: Change from Bus Para for 4.5 hrs/day at TRANS to Bus Para for 4.97 hrs/day at TRANS, effective March 1, 2009;
- Maxine Castleman: Change for an additional 0.25 hrs/day as Para Ed at NBY, total of 2.5 hrs/day as Para Ed at NBY, effective February 12, 2009;
- Jillian Danley: Change for an additional 2.0 hrs/day 4 days/wk as Homework Center Tutor at OMS, effective March 9, 2009 through June 15, 2009;
- Betty Ells: Change for an additional 1.75 hrs/day as Cashier at COL, effective February 17, 2009;
- Tina Herron: Change for an additional 2.0 hrs/day as TRA at COL, effective March 1, 2009;
- Vaneen McIntosh: Change from Bus Driver for 6.75 hrs/day at TRANS to Bus Driver for 7.75 hrs/day at TRANS, effective March 1, 2009;
- Beverly Sandoval: Change from Bus Driver for 5.6 hrs/day at TRANS to Bus Driver for 6.93 hrs/day at TRANS, effective March 1, 2009;

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

The following employees have requested a Leave of Absence:

Classified:

- Bev Mitchell: Leave of Absence as Utility Custodian at OMS, effective March 19, 2009 through a date uncertain;
- Mike Montgomery: Leave of Absence as Lead Custodian at PIO, effective March 9, 2009 through a date uncertain;
- Pam Speck: Leave of Absence as SLP Assistant at SPED, effective March 3, 2009 through March 30, 2009;

Certificated:

- Evelyn Kellogg: Leave of Absence as Special Ed Teacher at FMS, effective April 7, 2009 through May 1, 2009;

RESIGNATION

Classified:

- Amy Alaniz: Resignation of 1.75 hrs/day as Cashier at COL, effective February 2, 2009;
- Sandy Hawkes: Partial resignation of .35 hrs/day as Daycare Tech Para at MV, effective March 4, 2009;
- Ingrid Morente: Resignation as 6.0 hrs/day Para Ed at WA, effective March 2, 2009;

Certificated:

- Patty Cone: Resignation as Co-Facilitator of LIT, effective September 1, 2008;

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 08-09 SCHOOL YEAR

The following persons are recommended for employment tendered for Supplemental Contract for the 2008-2009 school year:

Orchard Middle School

Tony Sandoval	Asst. Wrestling
Neil Spietz	Asst. Track
Neil Spietz	Head Girls Soccer

Wenatchee High School

Dave Carlson	Debate Team (Extended Season)
Lance Den Boer	Asst. Fastpitch
Robert Swardz	#’s Soccer

District

Carolyn Magee	Asst. Girls Swim
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SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR:

The following persons are recommended for employment tendered as substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year. We ask the Board to authorize their employment when, as, and if needed. Such authorization does not commit the school district or the teacher to any given term or period of employment and the substitute teacher is not covered by the provisions of the continuing contract law of the State of Washington.

Brooke Boon,	Magil Greenwood,
Christin Larson,	Jennie Manzo,
Donald Payne,	Jacqueline Ritch
Karen Schooler,	Olga Strong

3) VOUCHERS & PAYROLL:

PAYROLL

DATE: MARCH 31, 2009

AMOUNT: \$4,912,396.64

VOUCHERS: MARCH 24TH

Date: MARCH 24 TH 2009	VOUCHER REGISTER #	AMOUNT TOTAL
General Fund:	29032-29299	\$577,509.86
Capital Projects		
ASB Fund:	3727-3777	\$78,073.59
2008-2009 FUND		

4) CONTRACTS:



March 24, 2009 Board Meeting

Administrator's Submission Form for District Contracts

Please submit this form with your **unsigned** contract to Les Vandervort for approval at least two weeks before the scheduled School Board meeting. Upon approval, Les will submit the contract to the Superintendent's office, where it will be included on the agenda for School Board approval. *All District contracts require school board approval. The only authorized signatures on a contract are Brian Flores, Les Vandervort, or the School Board.*

Date	New or Renewal or Revision	Agency	Purpose	Amount	Effective Dates	Staff Person Responsible for Contract	Approved by Les?	PO Required?
03/11/09	Renewal	North Central ESD	Information Specialist Coordination Services	Revenue	9/01/08 - 8/31/09	Janet Hill	Yes	No
				Budget Code				
03/03/09	New	Follett Software Company	Library Management System	\$57,175 for system \$20,580/yr. annual licensing and maintenance	3/27/09	Ron Brown	Yes	Yes
				Budget Code				
				0100 22 7000 000				
03/03/09	New	Washington School Information Processing Cooperative (WSIPC)	Perkins Placement Survey Data Release Form for Former Student Contact Information	N/A	January - March 2009	Eleanor Sellers/Janet Hill	Yes	No
				Budget Code				
03/18/09	New	R & H Theatricals	*The King and I* License Agreement for Amateur Theatrical Presentation	\$5,500	For the month of November, 2009	Tina Barron/Paul Atwood	Yes	Yes
				Budget Code				
				0105 28 7049 000				

5) SURPLUS REPORT: On file

II. John Newbery Elementary School Presentation:

Principal Patti Eggleston mentioned that her goal for this year was to be more involved in technology and would presenting her report in a Powerpoint as part of that goal. She shared the school's Vision and Mission statements. She reported on the progress of John Newbery Elementary over the past nine years in reference to population, Choice students, not only WASL test scores but overall academia and cultural diversity and demographics. PLC trainings, Counselors, music programs, PE program, Enrichment program, LAP & Bi-lingual programs, Sheltered classrooms were also a part of the presentation. She pointed out the many improvements and accomplishments John Newbery Elementary has made throughout the last nine-year period. This included their active PTA and student/parent activities like a Marble Roll and Ice Cream Social. She gave the credit of their successes to her staff, parents and the support of the board. The board thanked Mrs. Eggleston for the informative presentation and update.

III. WHS/WSHS ASB REPORT: None

IV. RECOGNITION: 1) WSSRA Recognition

Assistant Superintendent of HR, Steve Cole, recognized the WSSRA Representatives by presenting the Representatives with a WSD Certificate of Recognition and read Governor Gregoire's Proclamation. The representatives given the certificates were as follows:

WSSRA Recognition: Nancy Valeson, Charlotte Kohnhorst, Wilma Stellingwerf, June Hill, Denise Perkins, Marie Buckner, Ralph Peterson, Pauline Peterson and Mary Perkins. The board and superintendent shook all the representatives hands to extend their appreciation.



2) Citizens for Wenatchee Schools Levy Committee:

- The board recognized Dr. Dave Wiggum for chairing the Citizens for Wenatchee Schools Levy Committee. Superintendent Flonas thanked Dr. Wiggum for chairing the committee, which helped to produce the highest percentage in “Yes” votes (over 64%) resulting in passing of the levy. Dr. Wiggum gave all the credit to the many volunteers that made it happen. He thanked the board and Superintendent Flonas for their confidence and help. Dr. Newman and Mr. Gilbert were co-board representatives on the committee. Mr. Flonas presented Dr. Wiggum with some WSD parting gifts.

V. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS: None

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS:

1) **City of Wenatchee Fire Department Presentation:** Fire Chief Stan Smoke and Assistant Fire Chief Mark Yarple represented the Fire Department and explained the new approach (more communication) they are attempting in order to get the bond passed for a new fire station at the Springwater/Princeton intersection address. It did not pass in the election last year so they are continuing their efforts. The new station is proposed to be across from Lewis and Clark Elementary School and they wanted to answer any questions of concern about the location in close proximity to the school. Some of their positive points that justify their claim of being a “perfect neighbor” are as follows:

- Additional Cross Walks will be added
- Additional Parking in area for the school to use
- Parking at night for L&C parents and the use of facilities for night parking
- Additional Sidewalks in the area for more safety for the students

- Less Traffic due to homes being removed from the property
- Fewer areas open for vagrants to hangout and campout close to the school

They also explained the need for a new station, the downtown headquarters station is over 80 years old and the one on Maple is not large enough to house the longer fire trucks. That property will be sold after the new one is built. Maple Street station responded to about 800 calls out of 2000 total. The downtown station will be updated after the bond is passed.

They explained the flow of the traffic for calls to the fire station, the route they would take and where most of the calls come in from for the service area that they will be responding to. They reported that it would mostly turn away from the school. Drawings from the architect were present for the board and public to inspect and they asked for input from the groups present. They pointed out the driveways, building entrances and garage doors exiting areas and parking lots in reference to the school property.

The board asked questions to clarify some of the points of interest brought up by the presenters. The bond will probably be on the ballot in the fall. After some discussion the board and superintendent thanked Mr. Yarples and Mr. Smoke for the presentation and said that if they decide to support the new bond later this year they could do it in our newsletter. The board members were given the handout below:

Goal: Construct a new main fire station with a training site and upgrade the existing historic station on South Chelan Avenue.

Facilities Plan

In 2008 the Department Fire Facilities Committee developed a fire facilities plan that was presented to Wenatchee City Council.


- In February the City Council contracted with TCA Architecture for initial site selection and design work.
- A site matrix was developed to compare potential sites. The site at Springwater and Princeton was identified as the preferred location for a new fire station.
- Property owners at the Springwater-Princeton location signed letters of intent with the City.
- At the July 31st City Council meeting, Council authorized the issue of general obligation bonds to construct a new fire station and training facility, pending voter approval (Proposition 1).
- Proposition 1 received 58% voter approval and failed to pass.

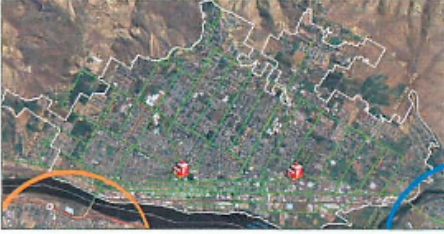
At the January 8, 2009 meeting, the City Council agreed to continue supporting the efforts of the Citizens Fire Facilities Committee to:

- Promote fire facility needs and plans to the public in preparation for a possible bond proposal in November, 2009.
- Promote the Springwater and Princeton properties for a headquarter station and training site.
- Pursue alternative funding sources for the historic Chelan Avenue fire station improvements.


2008 Division Reports Fire Administration

Station 42
1420 Maple Street





Station 41
136 S. Chelan Avenue



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2) Budget Status Report: CFO Les Vandervort presented the following Budget Status Report to the board.

Prepared by: Les Vandervort, Chief Financial Officer
 Date: March 12, 2009
 Re: **February 2009** Budget Status Reports

For each of the District's five funds, the budget status report shows the annual budget, the year-to-date revenues and expenditures, and the percent received/expended. The highlighted figure at the foot of each "Actual" column is the ending fund balance for that fund.

GENERAL FUND With **50%** of the fiscal year elapsed, Total General Fund revenues were **45.3%** and expenditures were **45.6%** of budgeted amounts.

The Unreserved fund balance of **\$3,985,003** is **5.207%** of budgeted expenditures.

Restricted Fund Balance is set aside for inventory, carryovers in special programs, planned maintenance projects, unemployment reserve, and a property purchase contingency.

The district's M&O Levy for 2009 collection is \$9,602,000.

The 2009 levy rate will be about \$3.16 per thousand dollars assessed value.

The state's economic projections indicate a funding reduction for the 2009-10 and 2010-2011 school years. The House and Senate budgets are expected to be released in March.

The governor's budget proposal includes the following potential reductions for the Wenatchee School District:

1. \$670,350 reduction in I-728 funding (\$458.10 to \$364.14 per student FTE)
2. \$1,050,325 reduction in levy equalization funding (33%).

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3. Elimination of cost of living raises for 2009-10 and 2010-11 (I-732). Projected to be 4.1% in 2009-10.
4. \$29,078 reduction in library funding
5. \$20,169 additional costs in insurance retiree subsidy costs.
6. \$30,375 reduction in vocational equipment funding.
7. \$140,637 reduction for 2 days of math and science professional development.
8. \$14,960 reduction of new teacher assistance program (TAP).

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND The ending fund balance of **\$172,387** is designated for remodeling, miscellaneous building projects, and specific projects. The transfer of property between Wenatchee School District and Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) will require a transfer of at least \$1 million to WVC. This will require a resolution and budget extension if it happens prior to August 31, 2008. A \$50,000 deposit, for which we have received reimbursement from the state, has been made towards the state's potential purchase of the Skills Center.

WSD purchased property at 122 Fuller St. to establish property rights from Orondo St to Fuller St along the left field side of Rec Park.

DEBT SERVICE FUND The ending fund balance of **\$1,239,417** is reserved for payment of bond principal and interest payments which are due each December and June. Revenues consist primarily of property taxes, which are levied annually to provide adequate funds for the bond payments. The December 2008 payment was \$1,695,953.13, which included \$1,035,000 in principal.

ASB FUND Revenues are **50.6%** of the amount budgeted for the year. Expenditures are at **41.0%** of the budget.

The Total Ending Fund Balance is **\$528,535**.

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FUND The ending fund balance of **\$388,595** is available for purchase of school buses.

There are three (3) new buses encumbered for 2008-09 and expected to be delivered in March 2009.

After a brief discussion on the Budget Status report Mr. Vandervort asked for questions and there were none.

3) Enrollment Report: CFO Les Vandervort presented the following Enrollment Report to the board.

Prepared by: Les Vandervort, Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 9, 2009

Re: Enrollment Reports for **March 2009**

Exhibit A - Monthly Enrollments.

The **March 2009** count of K-12 students is **7335.96 full-time equivalents (FTE)** including 128.99 FTE Running Start students (Running Start counts begin in October).

The *average* FTE is **7,372.34** which are **86.34** FTE above budgeted *average* FTE of 7,286. Note the budgeted enrollment is adjusted for All Day Kindergarten (ADK) funding approved by SPI after submission of the F-195 (budget).

Last year's (2007-08) **March** FTE enrollment was **7,283.57** including 85.06 FTE Running Start students.

Note the February enrollment number is adjusted for ADK for comparison purposes. The actual funded FTE was 7,148.57.

Exhibit B shows the changes in our average FTE enrollment for the last ten years.

This exhibit has not yet been restated for comparison for ADK.

Exhibit C shows the monthly information in graphic form, with a comparison to last year's adjusted enrollment and 2008-09 budgeted numbers.

All above exhibits are available on request.

Also included are exhibits showing enrollment by school on request.

After a brief discussion on May's report Mr. Vandervort asked for questions and there were none.

4) 2009-10 Budget Savings Forecasting and Plans: CFO Les Vandervort presented the following Report to the board.

From: Les Vandervort, Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 20, 2009

Re: 2009-10 Budget Savings Forecasting and Plans

As the economic crisis deepens, it's obviously important to get direction regarding a budget savings plan. The plan described below to absorb a projected \$2 million in state funding cuts is preliminary and is dependent on ongoing decisions by the state legislature about state and federal stimulus funds and further state funding reductions.

The latest word is our state budget deficit is around \$9 billion.

At this moment, Wenatchee School District (**WSD**) is expected to lose about \$2 million to \$4 million of state funding for the 2009-10 school year.

Until the legislature actually adopts a budget, we won't know the exact amount of reductions **WSD** will need to make. The House and Senate are expected to reveal their budgets this week.

A true wild card is the **federal stimulus** package. The legislature will determine how those funds will be allocated even though there is a "projected" allocation table for each district. For 2009-10, **WSD** is projected to receive:

- \$ 581,500 in Title I-A;
- \$1,677,700 in construction; and
- \$ 840,300 in IDEA (Special Ed).

It's still unclear, however, how the stimulus can be used to offset specific state cuts in I-728, levy equalization, or other areas since existing eligibility and spending rules dictate how federal dollars can be expended.

In order to minimize the potential impact on programs and jobs, an immediate cost savings plan was put into play for 2008-09 to reduce discretionary spending to the extent possible this year. Those measures included:

1. Suspending out-of-state travel unless required.
2. Suspending non-essential in-state travel.
3. Requiring prior approval of district office for capital outlay purchases.
4. Reducing food for meetings
5. Implementing energy conservation measures.
6. Reducing copy waste.
7. Eliminating overtime/extra time except for emergencies.

Although it's too early to have a reasonable estimate of real savings from these measures, I can say I've experienced the impact of implementation. Let's just say we're making progress.

Financial Condition of WSD

At August 31, 2008, **WSD** had an **unreserved fund balance** of 6.2% (\$4,074,918) and total fund balance of 14% (\$9,363,198). As a primary indicator of financial condition, a "healthy" fund balance provides the community, bond holders, and other stakeholders confidence that **WSD** will be able to meet its immediate obligations even in tough economic times. The district will continue to work to maintain an unreserved fund balance of at least 5% to be fiscally prudent and be able to respond quickly to emergencies, declines in enrollment, sudden elimination of funding sources, and other unexpected events.

WSD carries a restricted fund balance for a planned property exchange with the Wenatchee Valley College, unemployment pool reserve, deferred maintenance projects, and previously planned programs (AVID).

WSD spends almost 84% of its budget on staff and personnel-related costs and the other 16% on nonemployee costs such as fuel, utilities, supplies, travel, and insurance. A \$2 million reduction to our overall \$75 million budget is about 2.7%. Although nonemployee costs are being considered for possible reduction before reductions to staff, cutting the entire \$2 million in nonemployee costs would be an almost 17% reduction in nonemployee costs. Since some of the funding cuts are tied directly to staffing, staffing levels have to be considered in any reduction plan.

As you know, **enrollment** is the primary driver of state funding.

For 2008-09, enrollment is slightly above projections. The state hasn't announced any significant reductions to the 2008-09 budget at this time.

For 2009-10, **WSD** may have a slight reduction in enrollment. This reduction should not have a significant effect on the district's funding plan for 2009-10.

Passage of the **M&O levy** for 2010-2013 is great news. The 64% approval percentage indicates tremendous community support for **WSD**. The levy will provide stable funding for 14% of our budget for the next four years. Thank you to our community and the many people involved in working for passage of the levy.

What's Being Cut by the State At Press Time?

1. **I-728** funds about 23 certificated positions (teachers for class size reduction, intervention specialists and all day kindergarten at Newbery, Sunnyslope and Washington). The governor's budget recommends a **\$1 million** dollar reduction for 2009-10. The House and Senate are rumored to be looking at an elimination of all I-728 funding.
2. **Levy equalization** is state supplementation to districts considered property value poor but who still pass their M&O levies. The governor's budget recommended 1/3 of these funds be eliminated (about **\$1 million**). These funds are used to cover programs and staff not funded by BEA or another funding source. This includes technology, safety and security, extracurricular, music, curriculum adoptions and other programs.

3. **Library** funding of \$29,078 is projected to be eliminated.
4. **Vocational equipment** funding of \$30,375 is projected to be eliminated.
5. **TAP program** is expected to lose \$14,960.
6. Two (2) **Math & Science professional development days** costing \$140,637 will be eliminated.

Budget Saving Philosophy

Education will always be about relationships and successful learning by our students. Any time funding is reduced and options for reduction or elimination have to be considered, the impact on those relationships and learning can be ameliorated by adhering to the vision objectives of the Wenatchee School District:

- Goal 1: Highest Student Achievement
- Goal 2: Evaluation and Resolution of Facility Needs
- Goal 3: Ensuring the Safety & Security of Staff and Students
- Goal 4: Involving Parents and Community
- Goal 5: Implementation of Integrated Management Approach for Continuous Improvement

Turning that philosophy into action steps means working to retain instructional and support staff to the extent possible. That also means using fund balance only when we have exhausted all reasonable measures to find savings. As you'll see, we also want to spread reductions and savings across programs district wide to minimize the impact on any one program.

Bottom line, we want to allocate resources to where the greatest student needs are and provide world class instruction while maintaining healthy reserves.

So How Do We Plan to Absorb \$2 Million in Reduced State Funding?

We tighten up.

SAVINGS

Having met with administrators and program directors, and matched funding reductions as close as possible to the specific programs, the following is a PRELIMINARY list of reduction possibilities. If state reductions exceed \$2 million for **WSD**, further tightening and the use of reserves may be required.

1. Absorb positions of retiring staff. At this time, there are several positions that can be absorbed through transfers of existing staff.	\$700,000
2. Reduction of I-728 discretionary expenditures	\$225,000
3. Extracurricular	\$100,000
4. Technology	\$100,000
5. Travel & related sub costs	\$100,000
6. Energy conservation	\$ 75,000
7. Maintenance & operations	\$120,000
8. Learning and teaching	\$175,000
9. Printing budgets	\$ 40,000
10. Day Care	\$ 50,000
11. Other reductions in capital outlay, operational efficiencies, travel, non-employee related expenditures	\$100,000
12. Voc eqpt, library, TAP, 2 pro development days (see above)	<u>\$215,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

This is, of course, a preliminary list of possibilities. It's our opinion, however, these reductions are possible without teacher RIF's. What Impact Will the Absorption of Teachers Have on Class Size?

The absorption of teachers (not layoffs) will increase class size by less than 1 student per class overall. It's still the district's goal to reduce class size to the extent possible. And the safety and health of students and staff are paramount.

Final Thought, For Now

Because we're able to absorb many of the state reductions through absorptions and belt tightening without a major impact on programs, we haven't felt it necessary to formalize a prioritization process at this time. Once new information is available, we will reassess what process we think is necessary to go forward.

As contract and notification timelines approach, we'll continue to look for opportunities to tighten our budget. We will have a budget workshop for the board after spring break. As always, your direction, guidance, ideas and recommendations are requested and appreciated.

There was much discussion about the various components of Mr. Vandervort's report, he explained the 2-4 million dollars of possible cuts:

- Transfers within district to fill spots
- 1-728 monies
- Lack of classified employees retiring
- "Fuzzy Rules" on guidelines for cuts from state
- Title 1, LAP and Sp. Ed
- Challenges in all areas
- Timeline of additional cuts, if coming
- Non-employee costs breakdown
- Reserves allowing padding
- Census on enrollment is a conservative approach

The board thanked Mr. Vandervort for all his hard work and dedication during this difficult economic time.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- **COMMUNICATION:** Ms. Jaecks shared Senator Parlette's letter in response to our budget letter that was sent from the board. **(Letter attached at end of minutes.)**
- Endorsement of College Bound – Mr. Hernandez will follow up
- WSSDA Leadership report to board later

IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- WenEA meeting will now be at the District Office for the rest of the year.
- Budget Workshop on April 20th at the District Office from 6-8 pm (dinner provided)
- Planning of additional workshops at the next meeting or at the April 20th workshop

MEETING ADJOURNED: Laura Jaecks adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

President

Superintendent



Washington State Senate

Senator Linda Evans Parlette
Senate Republican Caucus Chair
12th Legislative District

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February 24, 2009

Laura Jaecks
Wenatchee School District Board President
235 Sunset Ave
P.O. Box 1767
Wenatchee, WA 98807

Dear President Jaecks and Board Members,

Thank you for your letter from the Wenatchee School District Board regarding Local Effort Equalization (LEA), otherwise known as levy equalization funding. As a former school board member and ESD board member, I am a real support of Levy Equalization funding.

As you know the budget for 2009-2011 is still under development. On February 19th, Legislators received a revenue forecast preview from Chief Economic Forecaster, Dr. Arun Raha. Based on that preview, it is now expected that the deficit – the gap between the revenue forecast and the cost of continuing program currently in place – is over \$8 billion through the budget period ending June 2011.

Non-partisan committee staff informed me that they assume the federal stimulus will provide approximately \$3 billion in total relief, which leaves a lot of very difficult budget-cutting decisions. The House and the Senate has passed, and on February 18th the Governor signed an early 2009 supplemental budget for the current biennium. The reduction part of the supplemental budget was passed early so everyone would know where cuts will be taken in the current fiscal period and progress could be made getting those cuts in place.

The Governor had proposed an \$8 million cut in LEA for the current fiscal year. The Senate and House, however, made the \$8 million reduction by delaying payment of Student Achievement Funds (Initiative 728). Eight million dollars in payments that were scheduled to be made prior to June 30th will instead be made between July 1 and August 30. This will result in \$8 million in savings to the state budget this fiscal year but will hold school districts harmless in relation to total I-728 payments for the current school year.

The bottom line is part of the budget that has been agreed to already (supplemental adjustments to the current biennial budget) follows the principle that the Wenatchee School District recommends. That is, it protects Local Effort Assistance and, instead, takes the necessary reduction in I-728 funds.

I hope this information is helpful. I do appreciate hearing from you. Thank you again for writing to me.

Best regards,

LINDA EVANS PARLETTE
Washington State Senator
12th Legislative District

Committees: Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance • Health & Long-Term Care • Rules • Ways & Means