

MINUTES OF THE QUINCY SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING
March 2, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Scharbach, Tricia Lubach, Lisa Mickelson, Myna Blakely and JoAnn Garces.

Carole Carlton, Bev Baugh, Nik Bergman, Kathie Brown, Donna Kiehn, Susan Yaw, Garry Stidman, Lelia Coghil, Jerry Walters, Jill Copenhaver, Elaine Lillquist, Lynn Englehart, William Clifton, Steve Coleman, Pat Husband, Sheena Stone-Miller, Greta Williams, Sheila Bierlink, Linda Guehrn, Balmer Periera, Scott Ramsey, Sped lady, Erica Lorenson, Araceli, Rodriquez, Don Francis, Tonya Busherd, Trevor Sill, Scott Ramsey, Tammy Ybarra, Jerry Sernoffsky, and six others.

CALL TO ORDER The special meeting of the Quincy School Board of Directors was called to order by Board President Mike Scharbach at 5:30 PM on March 2, 2010.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT INFORMATION Superintendent Dickerson presented an outline summarizing the availability of a U.S. Department of Education Grant available to the lowest 5% performing schools in the United States (Tier 2 schools). In the State of Washington, grant amounts can range from \$500,000 to \$2 million per school per year.

Quincy Jr. High School has been identified as being eligible based on being in the lowest performing 5% of schools.

In addition, the upcoming public announcement will list others schools in the district as being identified as Tier 3 schools and also needing improvement. However, they are not eligible to apply for a School Improvement Grant.

The District overall has been in "District Improvement" for the past four years.

Dr. Dickerson shared the many efforts that the district and all schools are implementing to improve student learning. Improvements have focused on: better use of data, collaboration, PBIS, Parent Involvement, and curriculum development.

To apply for the grant, the District must implement one of four models:

- School closure
- School restart
- Staff turnaround – removal of at least 50% of the staff and principal
- School transformation – requires replacing the principal

Superintendent Dickerson stated that as part of the transformation model, Mr. Ramsey could remain at the building as part of the leadership team.

Superintendent Dickerson emphasized that a successful grant application will require the District make improvements system-wide and not just school-wide.

The District has been informed that approximately 30 school districts (with 49 identified schools) are eligible to apply for the grant in Washington. As many as 25-35 applications may be submitted. However, the funding is not sufficient for all schools as part of a competitive grant application

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Board members had questions about staff morale with the implementation of a new evaluation system and reward system for teachers. Dr. Dickerson stated that an evaluation system would be developed collaboratively with the teachers group.

Director Mickelson asked how teacher performance could be tied to student gains when teachers don't have the students all day long. Several teachers see each student on a daily basis. Dr. Dickerson explained the details are not outlined at this point.

Director Scharbach wanted clarification that one of these models may possibly be mandated at the State level as well. Therefore, if the District doesn't apply for the grant, we may be required to follow one of the models without additional funding at the level currently being offered. Dr. Dickerson verified that could possibly be the case.

Superintendent Dickerson further clarified that at this point all districts at Tier 1 & 2 are on a level playing field. One tier will not have more opportunity to receive the grant over the other. He also stated that this may provide an opportunity to consider reconfiguring our schools to more grade spans per building.

PUBLIC FORUM

Lelia Coghill, QJHS Teacher, wrote a letter that will be mailed to our state legislators addressing her concerns regarding the process. She thanked Superintendent Dickerson for understanding and meeting with each staff member to hear their concerns. She appreciates the support for Scott Ramsey, Principal. She is concerned that the State and the Federal Government are not asking the school staff for their thoughts and concerns and suggestions on how to improve locally and without government oversight.

Trevor Sill, QJHS Counselor, shared why he is apposed to applying for the grant. He shared NWEA test scores and average percentiles by grade.

Melissa Coolich, parent, expressed support for what the school is doing right. She also expressed that the parents need to take responsibility for their child's success. It is critical that parents and teachers have good communication regarding each student. She also expressed that the state may not be evaluating based on other items besides just the WASL not taking into account stress and/or other circumstances during testing week.

Tammy Ybarra, parent and staff member, expressed concern for the merit pay model since some teachers have a special gift for lower students. Having those additional students could make it difficult to show student growth. Ms. Ybarra also expressed concerns about the strings attached to any federal dollars and the paperwork involved. Finally, she made a recommendation to look seriously at neighborhood schools for the consistency for students.

Tricia Lubach, Board Director, shared a letter written by Darci Kleyn, parent in support of Mr. Ramsey.

In closing, Dr Dickerson informed the audience that a letter was sent home with every student today to explain the grant process and welcomed them to attend any board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

M/s Lubach and Blakely to adjourn at 6:50 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

_____ President

_____ Secretary

_____ Date

_____ Date

