

Board Bulletin

School Board Meeting Oak Harbor School District, No. 201 Board Room; 350 S. Oak Harbor St. May 10, 2010; 5:30 p.m.

Executive Session (Superintendent's Evaluation and Extension to Contract)

According to the timeline established by the school board, the superintendent's annual evaluation is due. I have attached a copy of the evaluation form for your use. I have included a progress report on the annual superintendent goals. I am requesting a 1-year extension of my contract, with a new 3-year term extending from 2010-11 through 2012-13. I am requesting no change in the superintendent's compensation package. This evening will be a time for the board to meet without the superintendent. Board president Pete Hunt will work with the board to set timelines for completing the evaluation form, meeting with the superintendent, and considering the superintendent's contract request. Action on the superintendent contract must occur at an open public meeting.

1. Opening:

1.01 Call to Order

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Peter Hunt, Board President, will conduct this activity.

1.03 Roll Call of Members

Peter Hunt will note the presence or absence of any members. If any member is absent, it should be entered into the minutes whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

2. Consent Agenda

As per Board Policy 1440, routine business matters are conducted through a consent agenda. A single motion grants approval to those items designated. In the event a board member or the Superintendent request the removal of an item from the consent agenda, the item shall be removed from the list and acted upon as a separate item of business. In the event that a citizen attending a board meeting wishes to have an item removed from the consent agenda, the board president has the option to consider it as a separate item of business.

If a board member wishes to comment on a consent item, or ask a question before the vote, this may be done without removing the item from the consent agenda. If a board member wishes extended discussion of a consent item, or wants to vote against a particular item, it should be removed from the consent agenda.

3. Communication; Special Recognition

4. Recognition and Agenda Placement of Visitors

5. Superintendent's Report

6. Business Items – Student Achievement – “Assure continuous improvement in student achievement in reading, writing, math, and science leading to on-time graduation.”

6.01 Earth Day Project – Donna Aspery and 2/3 BVE Class

Mrs. Aspery's 2nd/3rd Grade Broad View Elementary class decided to go green for Earth Day this year. On April 22, the students asked employees across the school district to turn off their lights for at least 5 minutes. 230 people participated in this authentic learning process. Mrs. Aspery integrated Math and Social Studies concepts into this learning opportunity with integration technology. Her students will share their learning experiences with the school board.

6.02 Race to the Top Participation

Race to the Top (RTTT) is a competitive grant program included within the ARRA (stimulus) legislation. Washington State intends to make application, and the governor, OSPI, WASA, and WSSDA are encouraging local school districts to join in the grant application. State grant applications are judged in part on the basis of widespread participation throughout the state, and the governor has expressed her intention of getting all 295 districts to participate. There is a 2-step process for a district to participate.

Step One requires that the superintendent sign a form of intent to participate and submit this no later than May 17 to OSPI. No board action or union approval is necessary, but OSPI and the governor have suggested they would like to have signatures from the board president, the teachers' union president, and the principals' association president.

Step Two will only occur if the state is successful and is awarded a RTTT grant, which we will know in September, 2010. If the state receives one of these grants, the district will have 90 days to submit a detailed and specific plan. If the district does not submit a plan in that time, it can withdraw from participation.

The state is eligible for up to \$250 million from the RTTT grant, to be spread over 4 years at \$62.5 million per year. Half of these funds will stay with OSPI. The other half will be distributed to participating school districts based on Title I formulas. Oak Harbor is estimated to be eligible for about \$148,000 per year for 4 years.

I have previously met with Mike Watson, OHEA President, and Dwight Lundstrom, OHBAA president. I have discussed the RTTT grant application with Dr. Gibbon and Kurt Schonberg and with Patty Page and Fred McCarthy. ESD 189 has surveyed superintendents regarding their potential participation, resulting in an estimated 6 districts not joining the application and 28 districts joining the application. News media around the state have been mostly supportive of the RTTT application both because it represents new money and because they support the underlying goals. Public opinion surveys have been conducted showing broad public support for the major underlying goals of RTTT, but without any details. We have reviewed a rather lengthy draft of the grant application which lists a detailed series of required school district activities.

The State Legislature in the 2010 session passed SB6696 which essentially requires all the same activities and goals as are included in the state's RTTT application, but the Legislature included no funding to implement the new statutory requirements. The Legislature passed the bill to qualify for the RTTT funding, and expects the money from the grant to pay for the required activities. However, the activities are still required whether the state receives the grant or not.

Based on my conversations with OHEA, OHBAA, and other district administrators, here are some key considerations when choosing whether or not to participate in the RTTT application.

PRACTICALITY

- The details of the grant are required anyway whether we participate or not.
- The resources provided (\$148,000/year) appear exceedingly inadequate to meet the goals and activities intended.
- If we signify now that we will participate, we can withdraw later. But if we do not sign on now, we cannot join later.
- The public may expect the district to take advantage of any grant opportunity for added funding.
- If the Washington grant is not funded, districts who don't participate may be blamed for the failure.
- Most school administrators believe the State's chances of receiving the grant are minimal.

GOALS OF THE RTTT APPLICATION

- Align district curriculum and instruction to the common core standards.
- Revise teacher and principal evaluation to include student test results.
- Focus on improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).
- Close the achievement gap.
- Improve the graduation rate.
- Enhance early learning (pre-school).
- Use student test data to improve schools.
- Provide professional development to teachers and principals.
- Use formative and summative assessment to improve learning.
- Turn around the lowest 5% of the schools in the state.

Although the decision on whether to participate in the state's RTTT application has been officially left to the superintendent, I would like to know the school board's thoughts on this. Mike Watson and Dwight Lundstrom have been invited to address the school board regarding the point of view of their memberships.

Complete information about the RTTT application, along with viewpoints from news media, OSPI, the Governor, and others, is available at this link: [Washington's Race to the Top](http://Washington's Race to the Top.org) or www.waracetothetop.org.

7. **Business Items – Facilities** – “Maintain and build high quality facilities to support student learning and protect the public investment.”
8. **Business Items – Communication** – “Establish and sustain trust through an effective two-way communication system supported by a staffed communications department.”
9. **Business Items – Personnel** – “Attract and retain a diverse staff that is highly qualified, talented, and dedicated.”
10. **Business Items – Fiscal**
11. **Future Meeting Dates**
May 24; May 28 (noon special meeting for signing of vouchers); June 14 (Tuesday)