

North Mason School District  
Regular Board Meeting, 12/18/2014

### Notes by Mary Swoboda

[THESE NOTES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT]

School Board: Laura Boad, John Campbell, Dinah Griffey, Art Wightman, Leanna Krotzer  
Student board member Meghan Castillo  
Superintendent Dana Rosenbach, Executive Director of Operations and Finance, Joel Emery

Nine people in audience including Ken VanBuskirk, Martha Wightman, Butch Boad, Pat McCullough

### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dinah: I thought the joint meeting of all Mason County school districts was really positive.

Art: I didn't go to that meeting. Builders Club did a project for senior citizens--made 90 placemats to use at their Christmas lunch. He said he had more comments, but would present them at the end of the meeting.

Leanna: Has been working with Coffee Oasis.

John: Has been working with Coffee Oasis. Attended Mason Transit meeting. The WSSDA conference in Spokane was really good. Enjoyed the public records training so much I went back the next day and took it again. Learned a lot, want to learn more. Also enjoyed the joint meeting of Mason County school districts in Shelton. There are common interests throughout the districts. Lots of homeless students in all districts.

[CERTIFICATES OF TRAINING FOR ROSENBACH, BOAD, WIGHTMAN, CAMPBELL, KROTZER AND GRIFFEY, see pages 134-139 of board packet  
<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/516044>]

Meghen: Went to Christmas parade in Belfair.

### CONSENT ITEMS

John moved to approve. There was discussion.

John asked about Constitution Day. What activities are conducted for that day? Supt. Rosenbach explained programs available to students. John asked if Constitution booklets could be distributed to all students in the district. Supt. Rosenbach thought that would be a good idea. Dinah said bulk copies can be obtained through the Heritage Foundation.

Dinah questioned Policy 3211 Transgender, which was included in the Consent agenda. [See policy on page 86 of the board packet -

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/516044>] Isn't it discriminating against nontransgendered youth? Supt. Rosenbach answered that it is the needs of the minority that must be considered, not the majority. (A majority, by its nature, naturally discriminates against the minority.) She cited numerous state RCWs school districts are to abide by. The Vancouver school district is moving toward gender-neutral bathrooms. There are court cases which school districts have lost because they did not provide that level of accommodation. Some solutions have been to provide access to teacher bathrooms for transgendered students.

Dinah asked how do parents protect their children when the schools don't protect them? It feels like we are opening Pandora's Box.

[MY OBSERVATION/OPINION IS AT THE END OF THESE NOTES. -mary]

*The CONSENT ITEMS were passed.*

### ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Art Wightman nominated himself. John Campbell seconded. Elected unanimously by the board. Gavel passed to Art.

### ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Leanna Krotzer nominated John Campbell. Elected unanimously by the board.

### SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Budget Status Update 2014-15: State pays \$5,440 for each FTE (full-time equivalent) student for "basic education." There are 881 students enrolled in the two elementary schools, 431 in middle school and 700 in the high school.

Issues Facing Homeless Students: Cliff Heunergard introduced an 18-minute video presentation that is being shared during staff meetings to show facts and issues facing homeless students. View at <http://servepres1.serve.org/hwh/>. "Homeless" was defined as lack of a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, doubling up with others, living in shelters, cars, abandoned buildings or parks. Federal government requires states to provide statistics on homeless students. Over 1 million have experienced homelessness in the 2011-2012 school years. Heunergard said all of us are "a wind storm away from being homeless." Currently there are 84 active homeless students in the NMSD. Every year the school district does a homeless survey. School counselors interview them. The status is determined on a case-by-case basis. They are in need of backpacks, cash and food. The school district works with the food banks and housing authority. Someone asked how far back does

our awareness of homelessness go? Heunergard replied, "I've been here 28 years...that long."

Supt. Rosenbach said the school district hopes to reach the point where all high school students are issued their own laptop.

## THELER UPDATE

Supt. Rosenbach said the Theler trails were closed last week because of anticipated storms and high water. The Theler committee continues to meet. She told the board not to expect recommendations from the committee in January.

## PUBLIC RECORDS

Supt. Rosenbach said the school district had to hire another employee to process records requests. The cost of legal fees and employee hours was \$1,080 this month.

## RECORDED MEETINGS

Discussion of recording board meetings and posting on web site. Supt. Rosenbach checked with assistant attorney general Nancy Pryor, who told her there is no mandate to record; it is a policy decision. Cost of microphones and cameras would be approximately \$2,500 plus whatever it would take to install. WSSDA's requirement for public meetings is to provide minutes. The school board can choose to record or not record. [WSSDA = WA State School Directors' Association, <http://www.wssda.org>]

John asked if there is an additional cost to retain the recordings.

Laura said to call other school districts and see how they do it.

Dinah suggested contacting MasonWebTV.com (Dedrick Allan) about creating a partnership.

*[MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE APPROVED A CONTRACT WITH MASONWEBTV.COM TO PROVIDE LIVE VIDEO STREAMING AND VIDEO ON DEMAND OF COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETINGS - County Approves Video Streaming Contract with [www.MasonWebTV.com](http://www.MasonWebTV.com). NMSD should consider doing the same. -mary]*

Art asked to table the discussion until next month.

Art asked about the long-term storage of records. Supt. Rosenbach said records that reach a certain age are stored in the Olympia archives. If someone wants those records they have to request from Olympia.

### Contact Info:

Steve Excell, State Archivist

Location: 1129 Washington Street SE Olympia

Email State Archivist: [archives@sos.wa.gov](mailto:archives@sos.wa.gov)

Research Requests and Information about Public Records: [research@sos.wa.gov](mailto:research@sos.wa.gov)

Mail: PO BOX 40238, OLYMPIA WA 98504-0238

Telephone: (360) 586-1492

Records Management Email: [recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov](mailto:recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov)

## COMMUNITY LINKAGE

School Safety and Security: A workshop is planned for how to prepare for an active shooter event. They are working with first responders to practice. The Mason County Sheriff's Office is involved. Klahowya in Central Kitsap School District just did active shooter training. Letter regarding participation in a region-wide professional development opportunity -- pages 132-133 of board packet,

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/516044>

## SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The board grades the superintendent on her performance to comply with the requirements of ER-5. [see pages 140-144 of board packet -

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/516044>]

Laura moved to approve and commented that his has been a tumultuous year; the superintendent has done a really good job.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION PERFORMANCE

The board grades the superintendent on her performance to comply with the requirements of ER-8. [see pages 145-148 of board packet -

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/516044>]

Laura moved to approve. She likes the Friday updates, which have "kept us abreast of all issues in the school district, good or bad."

[The board packet contains policy review information on E-3 Academic Achievement and ER-10 Academic Standards and Practices. See pages 149-151 -

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/516044>]

## ADJOURNMENT

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken VanBuskirk: Submitted a letter to the superintendent and board in October about reviewing policy governance. Art said he would like to have a discussion; will schedule a time for that discussion.

Brad Carey: Wishes the board would allow the public to ask questions of the board and superintendent and get answers. He wouldn't have to file public record requests if only questions would be answered in public meetings. Many people don't want to come to these meetings because they feel like they would be labeled dissidents. Art Wightman responded, said there is no rule that you can't ask questions but doesn't want to get into dialog at these business meetings. He does want a discussion with

the entire board on how to handle public input. Doesn't want people to think this board operates in secrecy.

Wes Martin: Board chair of the Grapeview School District school board. We want to strengthen our relationship with NMSD.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Art Wightman: I went to the public records training and workshop on public records retention. I don't own my own computer, don't have a cell phone. My employer provides a computer. A couple years ago I stopped using that computer to store information. Found out writing notes to oneself are considered a public record ONLY if they are shared with other people. He wrote comments and read them aloud regarding a conversation he'd had with Brad Carey, then handed the paper to Supt. Rosenbach to be included as a public record. In his remarks he said Brad's statements to him were "a form of bullying and intimidation," but he recognizes Brad "has the right to his feelings and the right to take legal actions he feels he may need to make." Art closed his remarks stating, "I want to openly and publicly state to all here that I will continue to give Mr. Carey all due courtesy and consideration in communicating with him, as I do to all community members ... Every member of our community deserves our full respect, even though we may disagree with them." Read his comments here:

[http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/141218-art\\_Wightman\\_Stmt\\_During\\_Board\\_Mtg.pdf](http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/141218-art_Wightman_Stmt_During_Board_Mtg.pdf).

Leanna thanked Art for his honesty and openness.

## **BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE MEETING**

Dinah graded the board. She commented that the board should be asking how well they are communicating with the community at meetings. She also said the board works for citizens, not the school district. In addition, she would like to have more discussion at the meetings.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 PM.

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## **Mary's observations and opinions:**

This transgender policy was approved in a CONSENT agenda by the school board with almost NO discussion or public input.

After reviewing the NMSD Governance Process regarding agenda planning (<http://app.eduportal.com/share/44AA8734-D>)

I wonder if that policy even belonged in the Consent Agenda. Policy approval should not be a "routine" item.

In addition, the board openly discussed the policy in spite of the fact that it was not removed from the Consent Agenda.

Under the NMSD form of policy governance the public is not

permitted to comment on any issue anyway, even if it HAD been a separate discussion.

Dinah Griffey was the ONLY school board director to ask questions. If she hadn't spoken up, the policy would have been approved with NO discussion or public awareness. Dinah asked how this might make other students feel when confronted by this "new direction." Superintendent Rosenbach said we must place the needs of minorities above the needs of the majority.

HUH?

Individuals are unique and multi-faceted human beings, yet our society and public school system purposely pigeonholes everyone based on superficial characteristics rather than inward character. Martin Luther King's dream has been hijacked by political correctness!

Do people think if they collectively tap into a repository of collective wisdom, it makes them right? Where does that leave dissenters? Are they just consulting the wrong cosmic library? Are they violators of the GROUPTHINK reality imposed by political correctness?

(<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/theory/grpthink.html>)

This is another example of our public schools teaching to the lowest common denominator. It is remarkable that many public school students actually make successes of their lives in spite of the efforts by the public school system to homogenize them.

Can you imagine the educational outcomes if the same amount of attention was focused on teaching academics as on social engineering?

Dinah Griffey seems to be the ONLY school board director who understands who she works for (it is NOT the school district). She needs our support and encouragement.

For those who are interested in learning more about transgender and gender identity I recommend this link:

<http://www.pfox.org/transgender-gender-identity/>