

North Mason School District  
Regular Board Meeting, January 15, 2015  
Notes by Mary Swoboda  
*[THESE NOTES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT]*

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

Fourteen people in audience, including Pat McCullough, Margie Benson, Kaye Massie, Brad Carey, Linnie Griffin, Joan Moore, Don Atkinson, Stan Yantis, Pat Loudin, Jacquelyn Mastel, male reporter

Chair Art Wightman read the board meeting guidelines to the audience.

<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/521047>

Brad Carey asked if the guidelines mean the board does not dialog with the public during public comments. Art replied that is correct. Public meetings are not for dialog, public hearings are for dialog. He also said if there are simple answers to questions he or another board member will answer. Other questions should be taken to the superintendent.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Leanna: Working with the Port of Dewatto doing secretarial work.

Laura: Totally impressed with the December 7th tree lighting ceremony, very profound. Huge number of students involved. Wonderful display of our music department.

Art: Went to California, getting caught up on school issues.

John: On December 28 John tried out those beds Art donated to Theler. Also attended a Coffee Oasis meeting. Last Saturday went to Olympia for finals of the "We the People," Project Citizen. *For more information:* <http://johnanguscampbell.net/civic3.html>

Dinah: Husband Dan was sworn in on January 12 [35th District state representative)] Talked to new representatives. There are 20 freshmen in the Legislature. Education seems to be THE topic in the Legislature this year.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

Ken VanBuskirk asked if the board received his letter regarding discussion of policy governance. Art said yes they did.

*Motion made to approve the consent agenda; it passed.*

*[Comment by Mary: Consent Agenda Item 2f.ii Policy 6210 Purchasing: Authorization and Control was added to the consent agenda at the last minute without making the public aware of this addition. Ken, however, did spot the addition and emailed the superintendent and board with his concern that there appeared to be no way to monitor the superintendent's compliance with the policy. He asked the board to remove that item from the consent agenda for discussion and a roll-call vote. Read the policy here: <http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/521545>]*

## **BUDGET STATUS UPDATE**

Joel Emery provided information. \$281,000 ending fund balance. Feels comfortable with that amount.

<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/521539>

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE**

Supt. Rosenbach talked about a January 7 review of federal and state compliance relating to participation by girls in athletics (TITLE 9). There is a lot of participation in middle school but a decline in high school. Cheerleading is not considered athletics and isn't counted. She said we're supposed to have opportunities for girls to participate in athletics. Currently we have an agreement with Peninsula School District to use their pool. To solve the problem we'll probably provide transportation to encourage more girls to participate. Will work this into our transportation budget.

Have done some work on the graduation policy.

*[I think she's referring to this:*

<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/521305>]

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Project Manager Eric Nelson gave an update.

*[Check out the progress on the high school construction here: <http://www.nmsd.wednet.edu/domain/630>]*

## **THELER UPDATES**

Supt. Rosenbach: The Theler advisory committee met last week. Craig Patti is the new chair. Next meeting is Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 PM.

## **Presentation by Pat McCullough, ESA Inc. THELER TRAIL REPAIR AND THELER POND ESTUARY RESTORATION -**

<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/520795>

Theler came to him a year and a half ago about the trail repair. When he talked to Fish & Wildlife it got more complicated. Guidelines and state law must be complied with. School district had to get involved.

Have been doing estuary projects for the last 15 years. Told the board there is a lot of scientific stuff in here (his presentation).

Global warming, climate change by 2050 with a 1.4-foot increase in tides.

Provided alternatives like:

\* installing an 18" culvert inside the existing 21" culvert and rebuilding trail

\* installing a new 40-foot long 21" plastic culvert.

Neither of these would be acceptable.

ALT 2: Take out the dike so the entire estuary is open.

Move trail to a new setback level. Cost: \$400,000.

ALT 3: Build setback levee to keep Roessel Road from flooding and install 50-foot pedestrian bridge. Cost:

\$317,000.

ALT 3A: Raise existing trail, lose a little wetland. Cost

\$440,000.

ALT 4: 4-foot diameter HDPE culvert with 21" orifice.

Problem is debris gets trapped in pipe. Cost: \$59,000.

ALT 5: Self-regulating tide gate, which is made in Oregon.

Highly recommended by Fish & Wildlife. Requires 72" diameter pipe, 35.5 feet long. Cost: \$180,000.

His recommendations: For the time being, repairs already made are adequate, but would recommend improving the railings. Next thing is to get together and figure out what to do long-term. Could probably get grant funding if we look at estuary restoration. In a public process, decide what solution is best, then go out and get grants.

If we get a high wind along with extreme high tide the trail will wash out. Extreme high-tide event on January 23. The 21" culvert there now lets water in and out, allowing fish to get in the pond.

John Campbell: What I'm hearing is the most reasonable recommendation is hold tight and solicit from the community their attitudes. Do nothing, decide what we want to do. Wearing my school board hat, what's the school board's interest in this? As a steward of public funds, dollars should go to classrooms. As a school board member, I am fiscally conservative with public funds and public trust.

McCullough: The community won't like losing the trail.

There's a good chance you can put together grants.

Community support is part of the grant process.

Leanna Krotzer: Who will write the grants?

McCullough: You are not in the restoration business. Might want to team up with other agencies who are in the business.

John Campbell: Is the whole trail system vulnerable?

McCullough: The only section of the trail that is vulnerable is the section we were looking at.

Leanna Krotzer: What do you need from us to look for those grants?

McCullough: Someone needs to decide which option you want to pursue. The community needs to be involved. He then explained how the grant process works. ALEA ([wdfw.wa.gov/grants/alea/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/alea/)) and RCO (<http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/>) grants would be great funding opportunities.

Supt. Rosenbach: The board needs to talk about how we get community involvement. We could do a series of forums to get community input. We have to know what we want to do before writing a grant proposal.

John Campbell: Would like a conversation among the board. How did we get here? A review of history. What's our educational interest? Get our priorities straight before we get the community involved.

Dinah Griffey: Would like people with a history of Theler to be included on the school district's Theler advisory committee. I want to hear from them.

Supt. Rosenbach: During the study session we could invite people to participate in the board discussion, but not in decision-making.

Laura Boad: A study session would be a good idea.

McCullough: You need to decide what alternative you want, then work toward that. My suggestion is stay with the options you've got. Anything else will require permitting.

Art Wightman instructed Supt. Rosenbach to start the process to get a study session. Supt. Rosenbach said it will need to be a public meeting.

Art Wightman allowed public comment:

Ken VanBuskirk: The Board, superintendent and the Theler committee need to be aware of easements. There are specific legal requirements tied to the original grants. A legal finding needs to be pursued. Consult with the legal arm of the Recreation Conservation Office and the Attorney General.

*[His statement is posted here (please note it is not verbatim):*

[http://commonsensemason.com/readTextFile.asp?Filename=150115-kenv-comments\\_To\\_Nmsd\\_School\\_Board.txt](http://commonsensemason.com/readTextFile.asp?Filename=150115-kenv-comments_To_Nmsd_School_Board.txt)

Brad Carey: You have a Theler advisory committee and that's great. But you still need a legal finding of what you can do. Once you know what you can do legally, then you can collect facts and make decisions on what's best for the community and spending tax dollars.

## RECORDED MEETINGS

John Campbell read a prepared statement about the public records training he received in November.

*[His comments can be read here:*

[http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/150115-john\\_Campbell-public\\_Records\\_Training\\_Paper-bd\\_Mtg.pdf](http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/150115-john_Campbell-public_Records_Training_Paper-bd_Mtg.pdf)

Supt. Rosenbach said Bremerton and Shelton school districts audio tape their meetings. She is looking into the company that runs the BKAT channel.

Dinah Griffey: What about [MasonWebTV.com](http://MasonWebTV.com)?

Supt. Rosenbach: Haven't talked to him yet.

Laura Boad: Personally I don't have an objection to recording our meetings.

Dinah Griffey: Deliberation is important for the public to see. It would be beneficial to record our meetings.

Leanna Krotzer: Audio would make sense, but seems like a waste to do video.

Laura Boad: What would be the cost?

Supt. Rosenbach: Approximately \$2,500.

Leanna Krotzer: Who would be processing the recordings?

Supt. Rosenbach: Still waiting for more information from BKAT, but we would probably let them do it.

Art Wightman: I'm okay with recording. Would help diffuse paranoia of the public that we deliberate outside the public's eye.

John Campbell: Would want to know what the expenses are and the financial impact.

Laura Boad made a motion to do video with a "SWIVEL" system that follows the sound of the speakers, as suggested by the superintendent.

*The motion passed unanimously and the audience applauded.*

## ADJOURNMENT

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brad Carey: Ken VanBuskirk and I settled the public records lawsuits in good faith last October ([http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/local-news/north-mason-school-district-settles-public-records-lawsuits-regarding-theler-center\\_00022947](http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/local-news/north-mason-school-district-settles-public-records-lawsuits-regarding-theler-center_00022947)). You should embrace the public's request for information. I'm disappointed John [Campbell] doesn't feel that way.

*[Brad asked Margie Benson to give new lawsuit documents to the superintendent.]*

Reminded the board that grant funding applications have strings attached.

Asked for an apology from the school district for the incident that occurred at the November school board meeting -

[http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/141118-nmsd\\_School\\_Board\\_Mtg\\_Notes.pdf](http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/141118-nmsd_School_Board_Mtg_Notes.pdf). Also an apology from Art Wightman for comments he made at the December board meeting -

[http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/141218-art\\_Wightman\\_Stmt\\_During\\_Board\\_Mtg.pdf](http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/141218-art_Wightman_Stmt_During_Board_Mtg.pdf). They attempted to damage Brad's reputation and "my reputation is the most important thing I have."

Leanna Krotzer said if Brad was going to hand an apology to Art, he should hand one to all the members of the school board and not single out just one.

Brad also handed public records requests to the superintendent, then referred to a Kitsap Sun article published January 12

([http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/thelers-advisory-board-may-ask-for-more-proposals\\_24488054](http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/thelers-advisory-board-may-ask-for-more-proposals_24488054)) that said the Theler committee is not getting the records they need to do their business. He is requesting this information on behalf of the Theler committee.

Margie Benson: Told the board they could not videotape the audience. In two previous incidences the Tahuya Fire District and Belfair Water District tried to tape the

audience in retaliation for community members recording their meetings.

## BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dinah Griffey: The stress I experienced at the November school board meeting was caused by a school employee, not the public. She read a letter of apology directed to Brad Carey and North Mason citizens, then gave it to Supt. Rosenbach to file as a public document.

*[Read her letter here -*

[http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/150115-dinah\\_Griffey-apology\\_To\\_Nm\\_Citizens-bd\\_Mtg.pdf](http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/150115-dinah_Griffey-apology_To_Nm_Citizens-bd_Mtg.pdf).]

The next school board meeting will be Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 PM.

The board adjourned to executive session for a superintendent mid-year evaluation.

After the executive session, Art Wightman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

-end-

**Below are highlights of the same board meeting, as provided by NMSD to an email list:**

### Highlights of the January 2015 NMSD Board Meeting

Complete meeting minutes are available @ School Board Meeting Material - <https://app.eduportal.com/boardmeetings/1106542>

#### High School Course Proposal

TSA (Technology Student Association) club proposal was approved as presented. Director Griffey invited club members to attend a future board meeting to discuss how the new club is progressing. She feels it would be beneficial to hear how a club the board approves is doing.

#### Superintendent Update

Superintendent Rosenbach encouraged attendance at Congressman Kilmer's Town Hall meeting in NMHS this Saturday at 11:00 am. She is also excited to share that the Kiwanis club is putting together a community work party at Theler sometime in April.

#### Teaching and Learning Update

Superintendent Rosenbach explained results from last week's Consolidated Program Review with OSPI.

#### Capital Projects

Project Manager Eric Nelson reviewed the ongoing progress of Belfair Elementary Playground, Sand Hill Elementary Playground, North Mason High School construction and Hawkins Middle School Renovations. Overall projects are looking good and issues have been much lower than anticipated.

#### Letters From the Board

In an effort to efficiently and effectively communicate with the community, the school board publishes a letter every month in the North Mason Life. Those letters are now posted on the school district web site. Please click here to read current and past letters.

<http://www.nmsd.wednet.edu/Page/48>

#### Upcoming Meetings

The next regular business meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, February 19, 2015. Meetings are held at the District Administration Office, 71 E Campus Drive, in Belfair. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm.