

**North Mason School District  
Regular Board Meeting, March 19, 2015,  
6:30 PM**

**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  
Superintendent Dana Rosenbach, Executive Director of Operations & Finance Joel Emery  
**Student Board Member:** John Marks

**Audience:** About 45 people; most for student presentations. People I recognized include Ken VanBuskirk, Cat Ross, Joan Moore, Herb Gerhardt, Kaye Massie, Arla Shepherd, Richard Calvin, Jacquelyn Mastel, Craig Patti, Mike Southerland, Butch Boad

Dedrick Allan (MasonWebTV) recorded the meeting. Watch here:  
<http://masonwebtv.com/archives/14453>  
(2 hours 37 minutes)

Student presentations included Knowledge Bowl and Suicide Prevention.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

People who asked to speak were allowed to speak right before the agenda item they wished to address (which happened to be Theler).

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dinah: Was at WSSDA conference. Embarrassed to be a part of it because they bash groups of people they don't agree with.  
John: Agrees with Dinah, we need to struggle for civility. Hopes to have legislative bills posted on NMSD web site so community can keep informed. Watch lists and times of hearings to be posted. One bill, HB 1684, addresses charges for providing public records in electronic format. That bill is stopped, but not dead.  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1684&year=2015>  
Art: No comments at this time.  
Laura: No comments.  
Leanna: Very proud of the Project Citizen Class who made the suicide presentation.  
John Marks: Students are representing NMSD across the state.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

KenV: I couldn't attend the February board meeting, but thank you for recording the meetings. At that meeting the board was going to discuss Theler dike repair. (45:30) Brad Carey and I have gathered volunteers to repair the dike at no cost to the district. In the future could you notify the public in timely fashion when there are agenda changes?

Motion to approve Consent agenda by Laura.  
Laura: Question on suicide prevention policy. Is there money in a budget to do what they want?

Leanna: Could fundraisers be done?  
Art: Is there a mandate that requires a suicide prevention policy? (2145 *Suicide Prevention* <https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/528097>)

Dana: Yes, a state mandate.  
Art: No reference to corporal punishment in Policy 3241 (3241 *Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action* <https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/528482>).

Dana: Not condoned in state of WA. Kids are in school to learn. Focus on quick discipline for infractions.

Laura: Question on tennis courts: part of capital money?

Dana: Yes.  
Motion approved.

## **NMSD TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE PURCHASE**

Clint Forseith(?) spoke about contract with Ednetics for technology (<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/530662>). It will provide a bridge from current infrastructure to vastly advanced IT system that's coming with the high school. Clint received two bids, reviewed bids and strongly recommends going with Ednetics. They provide training for staff (the other bid did not). They provide the hardware (it integrates with our phone system and high school hardware). This will give us an industrial strength, upgradeable system.

Motion to accept the Ednetics contract by John. Motion approved.  
<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/530519>

## **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

**New safety training for coaches**, Mark Swofford. All football coaches need certain training for next year. Need a process in

place. Personal safety coach. Concussion training. Safety for the kids.

**Budget Status Update** by Joel Emery. We are 50% through the year. On track with budget. Capital projects budgeted \$35.6 million. Spent \$15.3 million. \$20.4 million unspent this year. We are under budget, where we hope to be. Debt service fund: very little activity. Next debt payment in June. ASB fund is a cash operating account. \$442,000 budgeted. \$189,000 brought in YTD. Spent \$144,000. Spending less than we bring in. (<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/530632>)

**Teaching and Learning Update**, Director of Instructional Services, Lisa Roberts, gave a presentation on the district's highly capable program (<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/530635>). Big shift in ELA CCSS. In high school, 70-80% of reading should be nonfiction. Won't abandon literature but will emphasize context. Grounded in evidence. Complex text. In math, we teach a "million" standards shallowly. Big shifts in Math CCSS. No more work sheets. Conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency and application with equal intensity.  
John: Can you track students beyond graduation?  
Dana answered. (1:28:05)

**Capital Projects** - Ray Mow and Mark Swofford (1:29:50). Artificial turf rather than grass on the high school practice field will offer more use throughout the year and less water use. Motion to approve. Motion passed. (<http://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/530254>)

## **THELER UPDATE**

### **Public Comments:**

Richard Calvin, Theler Advisory Committee member (1:48:30). When I volunteered to serve on this committee, I considered it to be a very serious endeavor. I made a commitment to examine all the evidence and information and come to a recommendation that would best serve the school district and community. My comment concerns the recommendation presented to the board tonight. It wasn't unanimous and I want the record to show I was the dissenting member. To be successful the school district needs to have a significant involvement with the operation of the Theler community center and

trails. Over the last 10 years the school district has not been able to do that, not taken ownership. The Theler advisory committee failed to provide adequate recommendations for an RFP (Request For Proposal). I request you give the community an opportunity to view the proposed RFP and make comments before sending it. Regarding the Theler trail, it has been allowed to fail. It has been mismanaged. [Listen to his testimony starting at 1:48:30]

Ken VanBuskirk (1:53:47). Read a letter from Brad Carey, who was not able to attend the meeting: Ken and I have settled two lawsuits with the school district with the understanding that the school district would create a Theler advisory committee. We'd hoped public records would be made available to the committee, but members were never provided critical records they needed. They were never allowed to understand what could and couldn't be done with the property. The school district should delay an RFP until they obtain legal findings. Ken then shared his own thoughts. Asked if the school board had received the email he'd sent yesterday. *View here:*

[http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/150318-kenvanb\\_To\\_Nmsd\\_Re\\_Theler\\_Recommendations.pdf](http://commonsensemason.com/uploads/150318-kenvanb_To_Nmsd_Re_Theler_Recommendations.pdf)

The Theler Advisory Committee has not received all the records they needed, such as the 1953 Mary E Theler Will, a 1980 EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) and grant documents that established the trail. There are around 100 students a day using the wetlands classroom. I don't think that information was provided to the committee. The Theler committee recommended early on that a legal finding, not an opinion, be sought. Joel Emery said it wouldn't happen. If you do vote on this action tonight, please make it a roll call vote.

Herb Gerhardt (1:59:04). As far as the committee NOT getting information, I asked the committee chair (Craig Patti) if there was anything the school district hadn't provided. He said he had everything he needed.

Jacquelyn Mastel (1:59:30). People have been asking me what's going on with Theler. I don't believe the newspaper articles. Knowing Theler is under the school district's web site, I checked to find out where the meetings are. It wasn't clear. The school district web site doesn't seem to have current information posted on it.

Dana thanked Craig Patti and Richard Calvin for attending the meeting (2:01:25). After

consulting with legal counsel she recommends the board approve the Theler committee's majority proposal, which *"...recommends that the North Mason School District develop advertise a Request For Proposals (RFP) from both non-profit and government entities for the operations and maintenance of the Theler Community Center and Wetlands. The majority suggests that the RFP begin immediately and that the timeline be no more than 60-90 days to completion. It is also agreed that the committee will suspend activities until proposals are ready for evaluation."*

Dinah wanted to know how many of the Theler advisory committee members voted for the majority opinion.

Craig Patti said three of the Theler Advisory Committee members voted for the majority recommendation, two voted for the minority recommendation.

John made a motion to accept the majority recommendation. There was quite a bit of discussion by the board (2:06:10).

Dinah was concerned that we don't have a legal finding. Theler has been in the paper a lot. It would help us with a request for proposal.

Dana: In my understanding "legal finding" is not a legal term. Our attorneys have looked at the documents and they say we have a legal right to do this. We're not making any decisions to do anything at this time except to find out who might be interested in doing something with Theler.

Leanna: If there is a statement from attorneys explaining what is legal, can we provide to community so they can see it?

Dana: We will draft a RFP, then send it to our attorneys for review. Then go to the community, advertise and see what happens.

Leanna: You'll give interested parties the warm fuzzies they need so they aren't jumping into something that may be illegal.

Laura: Are we asking people to lease the property again?

Dana: It could be, it depends on how tightly we word it. They would need to maintain and operate.

Leanna: Does it have to be a nonprofit?

Dana: The Wills are very specific about what the property can be used for. It would have to be people who can do those things.

Dana: Dikes are an issue (2:14:35). Repair is not something our insurance can cover. We are going through the process, working through the county office to get a shoreline exemption. There are multiple agencies involved. The county office (?) is trying to set up a pre-meeting to find out what they will let us do.

John (2:17:10): We have a responsibility to do what is best for our kids and our community. Theler is an entity not directly related to our mission as we'd once hoped it would be. Part of what I weigh is proper and efficient use of people's money. It is necessary to examine what the options are. As an elected representative, what is best for my constituents, kids and those paying the taxes. We've checked the legal situation and it hasn't changed much in the last 6 months. I've learned of the invention of a harmful term that has no particular meaning except to stop things. And that is "legal finding." It is a term that creates a bogey man that makes action impossible. So I set aside fiction and proceed on the best advice we have from counsel. Dana: We not writing a RFP to give the property away. There are very particular restrictions on this property that require it to be used for certain things and revert back if it is not. I would have to get a legal opinion on that.

Art asked for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

## **POLICY REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE [Policy Governance]**

John: The policies are aging rather well, which is a tribute to how well they were constructed. One of the things we have achieved in the time I've been on the board is our extended efforts to communicate with the public. These policies have served us well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Public Comments**

Ken VanBuskirk gave four public records requests to the superintendent.

### **Board and Superintendent Comments**

Art thanked board members for their comments on the Theler issue.

**Board Self-Assessment of Meeting.** John Campbell graded the board satisfactory (2:31:05).

Adjourned 9:05 PM.