



LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Board/Community Linkage Meeting  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
7:00 PM  
K-8 Library**

Board Members Present: Cris Yaw, Wendy Chord, Eric Lindberg, Todd Jones and Win Muffett

Board Members Absent:

Superintendent: Dave Holmes

Administrators: Peter Rosenkranz

Staff and Guests: Nancy Carner, Kathy Griffith, Melinda Mazna, Warren Westerberg, Kris Soske, Josh Soske, Erik Kaarto, Betsy Hoppe, Mary Eavenson

Minutes taken by: Tammy Lichliter

Mrs. Yaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The floor was opened to community members. Kris Soske handed out a survey card to the board and explained that the survey is basically the parent's version of the Healthy Youth Survey. She went on to say that La Center United needs help getting the word out about the survey. They are looking for parent input and have a problem with communicating to parents in the community. She asked if the school would be willing to get the survey out to parents. Mr. Holmes explained that he has no concerns about sending the survey out on Skyward, however this is a slippery slope as other groups may want the district to send information using our student system. He was not willing to send it out without board approval. Mr. Muffett asked if the survey is done in other districts. The correlation between students and their parents answers would be interesting. The Healthy Youth Survey provides good information. He would back sending out the survey. Mrs. Chord also is supportive of sending the survey to parents.

Mrs. Soske also added that she would love to see the Community Ed classes continue for kids that were not just sports. The kids that signed up for those classes still need to be supported. Mr. Soske is glad to see the sports continue, but he is also hopeful that the other classes can continue.

Mr. Rosenkranz explained that the district had been trying to get out of the business of being a "gateway" for businesses to operate in the district. The district wanted local folks to teach classes for community members. The district had a lot of classes that were offered, but had to be cancelled due to the lack of interest. Mr. Jones added that the school is not the best place to do

things for the community as its focus should be on the kids. The school was not making money doing community education. Melissa Flatt asked about the information that was provided to the community regarding Community Ed. when the bond was run. She thought that it was a selling point to voters that the facilities were used for the community and that it was making money. Mr. Holmes explained that the information provided for the bond would have come from the 16/17 school year and at that time Community Ed. still offered driver's education which did make money for the district. Since the district discontinued driver's education due to lack of a reputable company and the district wanting to get out of the business of being the "middle man" for businesses, the Community Education program has not been profitable. Mr. Rosenkranz had worked with the Community Education Director over the last couple of years to try to reorganize and make it profitable for the district. Since she left the district, it was not feasible to keep the program running. Community members who wish to run a class may still do so by renting the facilities. They also need to provide insurance as the district should not be expected to assume liability for them.

On another note, Warren Westerberg said that Cispus was great this year. They had 195 people attend which was their largest group to date.

Josh Soske then spoke about science test scores for the district being the lowest in our area. He is concerned that students are choosing to leave the district because of the science offerings. Mrs. Yaw added that the district is focusing on STEM and recalled that students had recently presented to the board what they were doing in science class which was pretty advanced. Mr. Rosenkranz added that STEM is part of the district's 3-year strategic plan. Teachers will be spending time at this month's professional development day working on instructional strategies. The science test is no longer a graduation requirement and students were aware of this before taking the test. Mr. Holmes added that there is an aversion to state testing on behalf of both parents and students which affects the scores. Erik Kaarto added that his student sat in a conference room for a week taking the state test which caused his grades to slip in his regular classes. Mr. Holmes said that this situation is not standard testing protocol. The district will try to make testing more desirable and less painful for students.

Betsy Hoppe added that her kids have graduated from the district, but she could not recall getting information about the value of state testing. She added the district could put out an informational newsletter that shows the value and what students are capable of doing. Melissa Flatt added that students in the middle school don't think the test matters. She explains to them that it matters in high school and that testing in middle school helps them to prepare for that. Mr. Jones added that he believes in evaluations as they are used by employers. They have to be done so improvement can happen. He added that he would like to address this as a future agenda item-- Where is the district at regarding state testing and what improvement needs to take place.

Mr. Rosenkranz added that this is a more complex issue and pointed directly to where our kids go beyond high school. He also pointed out that CTE classes are offered to students as not all kids go to college. Mr. Muffett added that lots of students from La Center are going where they want to go. He added that he is aware of 10 students from the past 3 or 4 years who have gone on to study science-based majors in college (engineering, medical and nuclear energy to name a

few). The classes offered by the district have prepared them for college. There may be kids that leave the district, but these are the types of stories that also need to be heard by the community.

Mr. Holmes then gave an overview of the progress on the new middle school. The project has been delayed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Ecology due to soil clean up. Permits are now imminent and the project will be advertised for bid tomorrow. The bid opening will be held on November 13. Then the project will go to the board for their approval at the November 19 board meeting. Movement of dirt will occur as soon as feasible in the spring depending on weather. The completion date is now set for August 1, 2021 to allow for a 15-month construction phase.

The only concern now is that prices per square feet have risen. Original estimates for the building was \$330 to \$350 per square foot. Schools near us were bid at \$425-\$450 per square foot. For example, Kalama's new building which was also delayed, will cost \$430 per square foot.

Lastly, Mary Eavenson, president of the La Center Music Association, then spoke to the board. She said that the LCMA recently amended their bylaws to support drama as well. Their focus is now on all the performing arts in the district. She went on to let the board know that the restroom on the high school commons stage does not work which makes it hard on the students during performances. The music association would like to help fund the repairs of the restroom if the district would be receptive.

Mr. Holmes explained that this is a project that is on a list of repairs to be done. The sink repair will not be a simple one as a new pipe will need to be installed in a cement floor. The district will be getting bids to repair the restroom to make it functional and he appreciates the offer from the LCMA, but would like to see their funds directed toward the stadium instead as that project could use the funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Board Secretary

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