



Regular Meeting, September 5, 2006

5:00 p.m. – Shoemaker Center

Members Present: Moini, Wyatt, Ross, Neuwirth

Absent: Ronio, Uberti

Service pins presented to 13

Several Lawton Public Schools employees were presented lapel pins recognizing their service to the district during Tuesday's meeting of the board of education. Each year, the district presents pins to more than 100 of its employees in recognition of 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. Employees have the option of receiving their pins at their school site, or at a fall meeting of the board of education.

"We are truly blessed to have the quality of employees that we have," said LPS Superintendent Barry Beauchamp. "There's no adequate way to express our appreciation to this group. They've changed lives on a daily basis and we're thankful they're willing to come back every day and give children their best. We are indebted, the community is indebted, and the children are blessed for having them."

Board president Hossein Moini presented pins to Brenda Hatch and Barbara Snow for 20 years of service to LPS; Ora Fitzgerald, Sylvia Moore, Cindy Nunnery and Susan McCann for 25 years; Karla Maudlin, Steve Harwell, Mary Bradley, Rhonda Weber, Elenore Urbina and Sally Greenlee for 30 years; and Hiram Weber for 35 years.

Lawton High cafeteria functionally complete; other projects progressing

During an architect's report on district construction projects, it was announced that the cafeteria at Lawton High School was functionally complete by the start of the school year and able to serve students. At this point, only a few items remain to be completed, involving minor kitchen equipment, completing the exterior awning fascia and installing exterior signage. These items should be completed in the next two weeks.

Meanwhile, work on the LHS Media Center is in full swing, with a completion date expected next week. An inspection walkthrough is planned for the following week, then a two-week process of moving books and other items will begin. The media center should be ready for use by students by October 2.

The old media center will be remodeled into eight classrooms, which were not originally expected to be completed until May 2007. However, Superintendent Beauchamp noted that the contractors are working approximately several months ahead of schedule on the LHS projects. The classrooms should be ready for use by mid-November.

Superintendent Beauchamp also noted that repairs to Tomlinson Middle School were completed during the summer and the affected wing is now in use, servicing approximately 350 seventh graders daily.

Bison Centennial celebration to begin soon

Susan Holt, instruction trainer for LPS, briefed the board on "Bison International Footprints," a collaborative project for Oklahoma's Centennial. The district will work with the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Friends of the Wichitas, Cameron University, Bison International, the Buffalo Soldiers organization and local tribes to develop the year-long education program, which begins in October – marking the 99th anniversary of the arrival of 15 buffalo from New York's Bronx Zoo at the refuge.

The educational program will be for students in grades K-12 and will include an art contest, exhibits, field trips, production of a video, a photo contest, theatrical performances revolving around state history, writing and poetry contests, a "bison run" and service learning projects.

Taft Alternative Academy renamed Gateway Success Center

Taft Alternative Academy was officially renamed Gateway Success Center by a unanimous vote of the board. The new name was suggested as a result of the change in the school's mission over the years. "Taft has been an elementary school, an alternative school and a student adjustment center," said Superintendent Beauchamp. "This will be a breath of fresh air, since they are now their own entity."

The action is in line with several other name changes this year, including the renaming of Westwood Elementary to the Learning Tree Academy and Lee Elementary to Beginnings Academy in recognition of their new mission serving pre-kindergarten students, Hoover Elementary to Ridgecrest Elementary as it added Westwood's former students, and the renaming of two junior high schools to Central Middle School and Tomlinson Middle School as part of their conversion.

Budget policy revised; new budget approved

The board unanimously approved a revision of Policy CE – Annual Budget, during Monday's meeting. Earlier this year, the Oklahoma Legislature changed the date for schools to prepare statements of actual income and expenditures for preceding fiscal years from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 as part of the budget approval process. The revision brings LPS' policy into compliance with the new requirement.

As part of the consent agenda, the board unanimously approved a \$117.2 million budget for the district for FY-2007. The new budget carries a relatively small reserve, partially by design because of the district's growing needs, Superintendent Beauchamp said. A teacher raise approved last spring by the Legislature did not include associated benefits, which had to be absorbed by the district. In addition, legislative changes to the homestead exemption paid by certain property owners will reduce the district's revenues by an estimated \$700,000. "We need to guarantee that we meet our obligations," the superintendent told the board. "We have funds identified to go into reserve, if necessary, and any additional money the district receives will also go into reserves." This would include any additional impact aid, as well as funding for benefits that the Legislature has been asked to appropriate to offset the impact of the recent teacher raises.

Veterans diploma policy adopted

For many years, Oklahoma schools have had the opportunity to present diplomas to eligible veterans who left high school in order to serve their country. Earlier this year, the Oklahoma Legislature passed legislation that amended criteria for these presentations. On Tuesday, the board of education unanimously approved a new policy outlining the process, Policy EHACA – Diplomas for Veterans.

Eligible veterans are those who were honorably discharged from the U.S. military and served on active duty during World War II, the Korean War or in Vietnam. Recipients must be residents of Oklahoma.

Architects selected for turf replacement at CU Stadium

The board selected PM Architects of Edmond to assist the district in the replacement of turf at Cameron Stadium, where all three high schools currently play their football games. The current turf is at the end of its useful life and should be replaced after this season. This turf, along with previous surfaces, has been laid over asphalt, a common process for years, with a crown on the field that promoted the drainage of water to the sides of the field. However, recent technology enables artificial turfs to be laid over a flat surface, where water passes through a layer of rubber pellets into a drainage system built directly into the field. This system provides a safer playing field and, when combined with new fiber technologies, creates a playing surface that is expected to last up to 15 years.

PM Architects recently finished fields in Edmond and Sapulpa and will help write specifications and make recommendations. Replacement of the turf is expected to occur during winter months so that it can be completed before Cameron's May commencement. The field will be marked for both football and soccer, enabling LPS to play additional high school sports at the stadium. The McMahon Foundation will provide a grant to assist in the project.

Consent agenda items approved

As part of the consent agenda, the board sanctioned the following school support organizations: Brockland Boosters, Brockland PTA, Cleveland School PTA, Country Club Heights Booster Club, Crosby Park Booster Club, Crosby Park PTA, Eisenhower Elementary Booster Club, Eisenhower Jr. High Vocal Music Booster Club, Park Lane Booster Club, Park Lane PTA, Pat Henry Booster Club and the Whittier Booster Club. The consent agenda, which was approved unanimously, also authorized a contract with Lafayette Life Insurance Company to provide coverage for LPS employees.

Personnel

Board members unanimously approved the following personnel actions:

Certified Staff – Employment (Effective 8/15/06, unless otherwise noted)

Andrea Allison, Second Grade, Brockland (8/23/06); Jennifer Bogle, English, TMS; Stephanie Bowman, Second/Third Grades, Geronimo Road (8/28/06); James Crews, Science, MHS; Kimberly Crum, Fourth Grade, Wilson (8/28/06); Sheila Greene, Fourth Grade, Adams; Denise Haddock, Second Grade, Geronimo Road (8/23/06); Betty Halterman, First Grade, Jackson; Ryan Hoskins, Math, CMS; Kathleen Hurst, English, CMS; Robin Ingram, Special Education, EJHS; Brenda Kelley, Special Education, MHS; Toni Ledford, Parker Point, Gateway Success Center; Rebecca Linford, Fourth/Fifth Grades, Howell; Misty Linton, English, LHS; Misty Leamon-Webb, Kindergarten, Brockland; Anne Morgan, Fifth Grade, Whittier; Alaina McNeill, English, CMS; Carrie Samuels, Fifth Grade, Hugh Bish; Deanna Smith, Special Education, Ridgecrest; Ronnal Stoll, Science, MHS; Amy Stroud, Physical Education, TMS; Lucia Swanson, Pre-K, Beginnings Academy (8/1/06); April Williams, Reading, TMS (8/18/06); Rhonda Wolverton, Third Grade, Geronimo Road (8/28/06).

Certified Staff – New Assignments (Effective 8/7/06)

Brenda Ivey, from Title I Teacher to Library Media Specialist, Hugh Bish/Cleveland.

Certified Staff – Resignations (* denotes retirement)

Tammie Chapman, Physical Education, TMS (5/26/06); Glenda Crouch, Pre-K, Cleveland (8/17/06); Salina Hollander, Speech Pathologist, Edison (9/1/06); Yuri Schendel*, Special Education, TMS (10/2/06).

Support Personnel – Employment (Effective 8/18/06, unless otherwise noted)

Cathy Aycock, Title I Parent Coordinator, Douglass (8/7/06); Tamara Atkins, Pre-K Asst., Beginnings (Playcare Collaboration); Kathy Baxter, Nurses' Asst., SSC; Joyce Bayouth, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Swinney (8/28/06); Jacqueline Bell, Title I Instructional Paraprofessional; Jamie Briscoe, Pre-K Asst., Beginnings (Playcare Collaboration); Iris Brown, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Douglass (8/28/06); Terri Burk, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Howell (8/28/06); Barbara Burris, IEP Class Asst., Sullivan Village; Tina Calfee, Crossing Guard, Eisenhower Elementary; Jennifer Cannon, IEP Asst., Ridgecrest; Mary Carson, Title I Parent Coordinator, Howell (8/7/06); Ruth Chadwick, Title I Certified Tutor, Howell (8/28/06); Judy Chamberlain, IEP Student Asst., LHS; Tiffany Chapman, IEP Student Asst., Sullivan Village; Rodney DeLong, IEP Student Asst., MMS; Betty Franklin, Title I Parent Coordinator, Washington; Teena French, IEP Student Asst., Hugh Bish (8/23/06); Naomi Furr, Title I Certified Computer Lab Instructor, TMS; Amy Gilpen, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Howell (8/28/06); Debbie Grubbs, Cashier, Almor West; Elaine Gunkel, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Howell (8/28/06); Jonea Hammond, LPC, SSC/District-wide; Tamara Hampton, Bus Driver, Transportation (8/17/06); Susan Handy, IEP Student Asst., Brockland; Phyllis Hinman, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Douglass (8/28/06); Pam Hoopert, IEP Class Asst., Eisenhower Elementary; Steven Huling, Student Assistance Program Facilitator, CMS (8/15/06); Catherine Huskey, LPC, SSC/District-wide; Carolyn Jackson, Parttime Cafeteria Worker, LHS (8/17/06); Debbie Khakpoor, Title I Computer Lab Certified Tutor, Jackson (8/23/06); Yvonne Kopaddy, part-time Cafeteria Worker, LHS (8/16/06); Dianna Leonhardt, Cashier, Country Club Heights (8/17/06); Lori Long, Speech Therapy Asst., Whittier/Swinney (8/25/06); Betty Love, temporary Cafeteria Worker, MHS; Kelly McCarley, IEP Student Asst., MMS; Stephanie McCray, Title I Parent Coordinator, Cleveland (8/21/06); Rebekah McNutt, Title I Computer Lab Asst., Washington; Michelle Merillat, temporary Cafeteria Worker, Brockland (8/23/06); Brigette Mitchell, part-time Cafeteria Worker, Wilson; Nicole Moach, part-time Cafeteria Worker, CMS; Carol Mote, Title I Computer Lab Asst., Jackson; Sandy Murphy, Title I Instructional Paraprofessional, Lincoln; Vanessa Neal, Special Education Teaching Asst., Ridgecrest; Lisa Negrón, IEP Class Asst., Eisenhower Elementary; Jocelyn Neris, Title I Parent Coordinator, Lincoln (8/28/06); Judy Nisbett, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Pat Henry (8/28/06); Hector Noel, Title I Instructional Paraprofessional, Lincoln; Doris Osborne, IEP Class Asst., Douglass; Zena Parkman, IEP Student Asst., TMS; Vanessa Perez, Title I Computer Lab Asst./Title I Instructional Paraprofessional, Washington; Latoia Perkins, IEP Student Asst., Jackson; Rebecca Phillips, IEP Student Asst., Sullivan Village; Amanda Puccino, Special Education Teaching Asst., Jackson; Wes Rich, Title I Computer Lab Asst., Pat Henry; Jennifer Rouse, Title I Parent Coordinator, Wilson; Paul Shepard, Custodian, MHS (8/24/06); Shayna Sheppard, temporary Cafeteria Worker, EHS; Ashley Shirley, Library Asst., Cleveland; Teresa Short, IEP Student Asst., Crosby Park; Katherine Simmons, IEP Class Asst., Pat Henry; Kamilah Stephens, IEP Student Asst., MMS; Marsha Thomas, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Lincoln (8/21/06); Pam Tracey, Title I Parent Coordinator, Jackson; Teresa Trope, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Washington (8/28/06); Barbara Valdez, Title I Certified Hourly Instructor, Douglass (8/28/06); Amy Vallejo-Vasquez, IEP Student Asst., TMS; Amy Watkins, Title I Parent Coordinator, CMS (8/1/06); Bryan Weaver, IEP Student Asst., MHS; Patricia West, Title I Parent Coordinator, Swinney; Jennifer Woods, IEP Student Asst., Swinney; Kristi Zura, Special Education Teacher's Asst., Ridgecrest.

Support Personnel – New Assignments

Sonya Kopaddy, from temporary to part-time Cafeteria Worker, LHS (8/18/06); Ivette Martinez, from Regular Custodian to Head Custodian, Country Club Heights (8/17/06); Deloris Watts, from Daycare Asst., Taft, to EIP Student Asst., Country Club Heights (8/18/06).

Support Personnel – New Position Requested

Lead Driver Trainer, 260-day contract, 8 hours/day, minimum grade 5.

Support Personnel – Returning from Leave of Absence (Effective 8/18/06)

Jillian Bundy, IEP Student Asst. for the Deaf, CMS.

Support Personnel – Resignations (Effective 5/26/06 unless otherwise noted)

Oscar Alford, IEP Asst., LHS; Douglas "Al" Christian, Music Director Assistant, District (5/6/06); Christina Davis, Deaf Interpreter, EJHS; Jacqueline Hannah, Cashier, Washington; Norman Rogers, Bus Driver, Transportation (9/1/06).

Support Personnel – Deaths

Jacob Kukurich, Bus Driver, Transportation (8/25/06).

Support Personnel – Termination Recommended

Brandon Wallis, Computer Technician, Media Center (8/24/06).

Correction to August 17th Personnel Agenda

Effective date for Business Operations Manager is 8/2/06.

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lawton Board of Education is Thursday, September 21. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. in the auditorium of the John Shoemaker Education Center and is open to the public.

- ADJOURNMENT -