

Ferndale School District  
**Special School Board Meeting**

Kelly's O'Deli  
5506 Nielsen Ave, Ferndale, WA 98248

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**School Board Attendees**

Kevin Erickson (School Board President), Lee Anne Riddle (School Board Member), Andrew McLaurin (School Board Member), Hugh Foulke (School Board Member), Candice Wilson (School Board Member), Ben Bagley (Student School Board Member), Jeremy Knapp (Student School Board Member), and Linda Quinn (Superintendent).

**Audience**

No audience members were present at this meeting.

**Call to Order**

At approximately 4:05 pm, President Erickson called the meeting to order and led the Board in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Report on the Opening of the School Year**

At approximately 4:10 pm, President Erickson called on Superintendent Quinn to provide an update on the first seven days of school. Quinn shared: (a) preliminary enrollment numbers by school; (b) draft data about the number of classes across the district above the negotiated target enrollment; and (c) information about four local school-related issues that have been, or likely will be, in the news. The four issues were: (1) a proposed attendance incentive program at Ferndale High School; (2) a dress code concern at Vista Middle School; (3) a student who brought a BB gun to Horizon Middle School; and (4) the provision of appropriate dressing rooms for transgender students at Ferndale High School. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions in order to understand the issues more deeply.

**Social Contract**

At approximately 4:50 pm, President Erickson asked Dr. Quinn to lead the group in the continuation of the process of developing a Social Contract, a voluntary agreement among members of a group about how they will interact with one another. Dr. Quinn presented a draft contract she compiled from input provided by Board members on August 8, 2017. (See attached document.) The Board reviewed the draft and made several suggestions for additions and enhancements. Dr. Quinn agreed to incorporate the changes and send out an updated version of the contract by the end of October. She will then put the Social Contract on the agenda of the November School Board meeting for final approval.

**Boards of Distinction Award**

At approximately 5:20 pm, President Erickson returned the attention of the Board to the annual WSSDA Boards of Distinction Award application. Ferndale's School Board has applied and been recognized by the state association for the past four consecutive years

(2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015). The due date for this year's completed application was September 21, 2016. Following a discussion of the pros and cons of submitting an application for 2016, Board members agreed they would not given the negative press this fall about the actions of a former member of the Ferndale Board.

### **Dinner**

At approximately 5:30 pm, President Erickson invited Board members to take a break and help themselves to a buffet dinner.

### **Plan for Conference Break-Out Sessions at WSSDA**

At approximately 5:50 pm, President Erickson reconvened the group to talk about the two breakout sessions Ferndale will be presenting at the 2016 WSSDA Fall Conference in November. The titles of the two sessions are: (1) Celebrating and supporting our Native American students; and (2) Partnering with the community to address social and emotional needs. Board members finalized who would be listed as presenters for each workshop. Dr. Quinn passed out a form for each to write a 200-character bio for the WSSDA program, which need to be completed and returned to Tammy Bengen or her by September 16. President Erickson directed Dr. Quinn to schedule planning meeting(s) with session presenters to determine the content and lesson plan for each workshop.

### **Professional Development**

At approximately 6:20 pm, President Erickson introduced a conversation about professional development by asking Board members what they wanted/needed to learn more about during the upcoming year. He said that he personally was interested in more leadership training. Director Riddle indicated she would like to delve deeper into questions of governance (which is the topic of the Early Bird Session she is attending in Spokane the day before this year's WASSDA Conference). Director Wilson said she is interested in learning more about the inner workings of the school district.

Director Riddle expressed interest in attending a National School Board Association Conference. Director Wilson said she would like to go to a National Indian Education Association Conference.

Director Riddle reminded her colleagues of the upcoming WSSDA Region 1 Meeting in Bellingham on October 6, which she planned to attend. Jeremy indicated that he would like to participate as well. The regional meetings are designed as opportunities for Board members to dialogue, network and share information with fellow school directors from around region. They also provide WSSDA a chance to deliver comprehensive, accurate and timely information on education issues to its members. As such, the regional meetings are a valuable source of professional development. The WSSDA Annual Fall Conference is another excellent learning experience. "The Fall Conference will help us figure out what we need to learn more about," declared one veteran member of the Ferndale Board.

### **Student Voice**

At approximately 6:30 pm, President Erickson yielded the floor to Jeremy and Ben to share their thoughts and plans about soliciting and encouraging more student voice throughout the district beginning at the high school level. Ben has worked with Principal Gardner at

Ferndale High School to schedule four student forums that he will facilitate during the year. Similarly, Jeremy has worked with Principal Hawes to co-opt part of the Windward High School Community Meeting on the first Friday of every month to host a conversation with the WHS student body about a topic of interest (attendance, dress code, transgender students, facilities, and so on). Following these conversations in their respective schools, Student Board Members Knapp and Bagley will compile a summary of comments and share them with the other members of the Board.

### **Communication with Constituents**

At approximately 6:50 pm, President Erickson transitioned from the conversation about student voice to a consideration of the best ways for all Board members to communicate with constituents. The group considered current venues and mediums for communication including: public comment at business meetings, monthly written responses to community concerns, study sessions, the “Let’s Talk” portal on the website, Facebook, email, school visits, the Ferndale Street Festival, the annual Communications Advisory Committee sponsored Gold Mine event, district-sponsored public forums, and so on. In recent years, the Board has gotten away from hosting an informal “Meet and Greet” session before each business meeting or hosting a “Meet the School Board” table at individual school events.

Through a lively discussion, Board members identified the following strategies for improving communication with constituents during the 2016-2017 school year:

- Focus more energy on being present in schools.
- Request that Tammy notify Board members of upcoming school events.
- As principals to issue invitations to Board members to participate in school or classroom-based activities.
- Feed people! Consider one Board member teaming up with one Executive Team member to take snacks to a school staff meeting during the year.
- Attend PTO meetings.
- Update “Meet the School Board” pamphlets or flyers.
- Acquire another set of magnetic School Board name badges.

### **Review of Several Policies**

At approximately 7:15 pm, President Erickson introduced several School Board policies for consideration and discussion. At Principal Gardner’s request, the Board revisited Policy 3442 on Closed Campus. The policy reads: “Students will remain on school grounds from time of arrival until close of school unless officially excused.” The consensus of the Board was that this policy is not in conflict with FHS’s open campus at lunch time, since they believe this exception has traditionally been provided through an “official excuse.”

Board members also reviewed Policies 1110, 1114, and 1610, all of which speak to or suggest something about the required qualifications for School Board members. During the recent process to fill an empty seat on the Ferndale School Board, these policies were confusing in that they seem to suggest that a district employee can serve on the Board, even though this has never been the understanding nor the intent of the Superintendent or the Board, even though it directly contradicts the application materials we have been using for years, and even though the district’s legal counsel strongly advised against such practice.

Board members directed Superintendent Quinn to revise the three policies in question to make sure they clearly state that an employee of the district is not eligible to serve on the Board and then to place the new clarified versions of the policies on the agenda of an upcoming School Board business meeting.

### **Year-Long Board Calendar**

At approximately 7:30 pm, President Erickson, in collaboration with the rest of the Board, made the decision to table indefinitely the creation of a year-long calendar, mainly because we have too many new members to be able to do justice to the task at this time of year.

### **Continued Discussion of Capital Bond**

At approximately 7:35 pm, President Erickson reintroduced the topic of running a Capital Bond to address facilities needs. The Board reiterated their preference for contracting with someone who specializes in working with school districts to develop bond packages that meet the unique needs of their communities. Superintendent Quinn reported that she and members of the Executive Team were investigating three potential consultants. She recommended the Board devote its October Study Session to this topic. They agreed and settled on Monday, October 10, 2016, 7:00 pm, as a date and time that could work for everyone. Dr. Quinn committed to developing a “lesson plan” for the study session.

### **Growth Areas for the School Board/WSSDA Self-Assessment**

At approximately 7:50 pm, President Erickson, in collaboration with the rest of the Board, made the decision to table indefinitely the setting of Board improvement goals based on the results of the WSSDA self-assessment. This decision was made because the constitution of the current Board is not the same as that of the Board that took the assessment.

### **Board and Superintendent Sharing**

At approximately 7:55 pm, President Erickson thanked the other members of the Board for their active engagement, frank discussion, and creative problem-solving. He also gave each Board member an opportunity to express a final thought.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:00 pm, President Erickson adjourned the meeting.