

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 4/22

For those that didn't make it to the school board meeting, here's a little synopsis of it:

Donna Lurie (UniServe Rep for NEOPA) spoke during the association comments. She said our district is paying more attention toward choice programs and extra-curricular activities than basic education. It costs NSD \$400K to fund the elementary school music program, which is held in the morning, before school hours. I am hearing parents pay \$30 a year for this program. That is pretty darn cheap for music lessons.

This is just an example of where the district could have raised the cost of this program to the parents OR eliminate it (our school didn't have this when I was growing up).

Instead they cut the nurses in order to save \$150,000.

Meanwhile we can't substitute for sick staff for 5 days, or keep our schools clean or have nurse care.

She was almost comical when she said the office administrative staff is already bombarded having to multitask all day. If one becomes ill, the other will have to do the job of both for the first five days, along with having to care for the sick kids since there won't be a nurse. Then this second office staffer will become sick after taking care of the sick kids.

Just watching the process of the board voting this evening shows our district is getting ready for bargaining with NSEA, which starts on May 1st. I don't want to sound like a union rep here, but it definitely angers me when our children are being used as pawns by not having nurses in order for our teachers to not receive adequate salaries. Someone could reason that some districts don't even have nurses. Northshore has quality schools, which nurses are an integral part of this. This is what helps make Northshore special.

FYI, Here's the NSEA's blog:

<http://www.northshoreea.blogspot.com:80/>

I couldn't even tell you how many times I heard "87% of our expenditures is salary/labor" tonight. Thanks, Joan, for bringing this to our attention!

Dick Anastasi presented the I-728 for the upcoming year. I am not familiar with Initiative 728. Here is a definition of it:

About Initiative 728

I-728 is a statewide initiative passed by Washington voters. As a result of the initiative, districts will receive funding for the purpose of achieving higher academic standards for

all students through smaller class sizes and other improvements.

The I-728 funds must be used in any of the following six areas:

- Class size reduction K-4
- Selected class size reductions in grades 5-12
- Extended learning opportunities for students in K-12
- Additional professional development for educators
- Early assistance for children who need pre-kindergarten support
- Improvements or additions to school facilities that are directly related to class size reductions and extended learning.

Here is I-728 budgeted for next year:

I-728 Dollars per Dick Anastasi

70 certified staff is under I-728.

Budget for 2008-09 \$9,059,700

Allocation @ \$458.10 per prior year FTE

Note: this went up 1.8%, while COLA went

Up 4.4% 8,735,000

(Student Achievement/\$ coming in)

Estimated carry-over from 2007-08 512,469

Estimated amount available \$9,247,469

K-4 Class size \$2,035,000

5-12 Class size 3,365,000

9/10 Credit Retrieval 158,000

JHAP (Like an SAS pgm for Jr. High) 384,000

Level 1 & 2 in interventions (??) 500,000

Mentors & Mentor "TAP" 400,000

Professional Development 350,000

Early Childhood 100,000

LID Day 436,000

Indirect costs @ 15% 1,181,700

Head Start Program 150,000

I-728 Budget for 2008-09 \$9,059,700

Hmmm....isn't there almost \$200,000 extra here? I was looking at the Renton School

District, they only had a \$400 difference on the last I-728 on their website ...

The board decided to allow 10 people to speak on topics concerning the budget cuts that will be voted on this evening, including nurses & library techs.

A teacher at Inglemoor High spoke on behalf of the potential budget cut #3, which is Distance Learning, in the alternative budget reduction plan, for at risk or low performing students. This employes two FT teachers that address the needs of at risk students who have anxiety or medical disorders. The Distance Learning and Consulting program lowers the drop out rate and gives the best chance of these students to be able to graduate from high school. The program pays for itself as there is no other option for these kids and there are a number of waivers, which brings in \$ to our district.

Many spoke on the nurses behalf., with valid points and data on why it wasn't worth cutting \$150,000 from nurses that there are other areas where they could cut the budget instead.

After 10 people spoke, Cathy Swanson said they have a moral, legal & ethical obligation to pass a balanced budget.

Dawn McCravey asked if the 15% for the indirect costs @ 15% on I-728 couldn't be lowered. Dick answered with, "15% is the same percentage we used last year."

Yes, you heard right, Dawn's question wasn't answered.

Janet Quinn asked for more info about the distance program, and were there other considerations concerning the reduction of this?

Then Dawn asked if Instructional technology will be used instead. Dolores answered with, "What this does mean is it will be delivered in another way, with tighter program control and software used, though they won't know who will be the exact person yet."

Dawn asked if Tim (this was the teacher that spoke from Inglemoore) will have hands on time with the kids on the computer?

Dolores: Three programs will be going on in a room with Tim in there. Using technology minimizes the costs.

They then voted on the alternative budget reduction that was presented last Tuesday. All voted yes, with Dawn voting No.

Sue Buske asked if Risk Management was considered regarding nurses. Dolores said the state does not support nurses, therefore risk management pool is not a part of that. Risk Management only advises us on what is considered basic education. Nurses are not considered basic education. Dolores continued saying that we need to convince the state to change this.

Gene Hawkridge then provided the questions from a parent(?) regarding the needs analysis - the weighted measures on who gets F/T nurses. Dolores read the eight paragraphs of the letter.

Dolores said this comes down to the 87% of labor & salary ...

Janet Quinn said this has caused her more sleepless nights and that the legislators need to hear about this.

Dawn McCravey asked if they could separate and vote on all 5 topics, separately. Cathy said yes.

First one: Library techs: Sue Buske says it pains her to do this, but ...voted in favor. 4 voted in favor. Dawn opposed.

Second: HSN - All in favor (salary based cuts for HSN)

Third: Nurses - Sue commented how valuable the nurses are and she wanted to be sure the children would be taken care of.

Dawn said how can we focus/educate on the whole child when they are sick, or sent home or are dead?

4 voted in favor - Sue did "reluctantly." Dawn opposed.

We listened to more speakers that were VERY well spoken and I am still flabbergasted that the board cut the nurses after what they heard tonight.

I ended up chatting with people in the hallway, so never listened to the rest of the meeting.

NOTE: Dawn Pearl (?) Not sure of the name, from Bear Creek and informed me she spoke with Dolores who agreed if the NPEF came up with \$150,000, then Dolores will give NPEF 12 months to come up with \$150,000 sustainable income and they will keep the nurses afloat until then. Dawn informed me that all donations will be matched by Microsoft, Boeing, etc. and that you need to write on the check, "For Nurses." She also said that we can do the same during the NPEF lunch on May 7th.

BUT(!!!!) Before you write that check out though, I wanted to confirm this and spoke with Nannette Bamesburger, who oversees the NPEF. She said I needed to check with her husband, Gary, on this first to be sure this is right. I'll get back to you as soon as I hear.

Gayle