

**MARYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL & MARYSVILLE SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT WORK SESSION
October 29, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Work Session of the Marysville City Council and the Marysville School District was called to order by Marysville School Board Director Cindy Erickson at 6:38 p.m. at the Marysville School District Board Room.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Dennis Kendall

Council: Jon Nehring, Lee Phillips, Carmen Rasmussen, Jeff Seibert, John Soriano, Jeff Vaughan and Donna Wright.

Staff: Mary Swenson, Chief Administrative Office

School District: Dr. Larry Nyland, Marysville School District Superintendent and Board Secretary; Cindy Erickson, School Board Director; Sherri Crenshaw, Director; Darci Becker, Director

Absent: School Board Members Don Hatch, Jr., and Michael Kundu.

Introductions

**City Council Update – Mayor Dennis Kendall
(Partnerships, City Growth, Roads, Graffiti Task Force)**

Mayor Kendall thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the meeting. He introduced Chief Administrative Officer Swenson.

Mary Swenson discussed tremendous growth occurring in Marysville. The City is looking at annexing the entire Urban Growth Area which will bring the population up to 58,000 and will make Marysville the second largest city within Snohomish County. As part of this the City is analyzing all of its facilities, including the roads. She gave an update on roads projects, including Ingraham Blvd. She noted that the City has been working closely with School District staff on Grove Street permitting. The high school project is very significant. The City is working with school district staff to get permitting

handled. There has been much discussion on city staff level to move this along quickly and smoothly.

Ms. Swenson reported that Councilmember Jeff Vaughan, along with the school district staff, police department and city staff, has taken on the issue of graffiti with the Graffiti Task Force. This has been a really good partnership. Ursula Reinke has been very helpful in dealing with some of the cultural issues.

Councilmember Jeff Vaughan added that there has been a lot of success with their efforts. The county has been watching what has been happening in Marysville and is patterning a lot of their efforts after what the City has been doing. The involvement of the school district has been very important because most of the vandals are coming from the middle school age group.

Chief Administrative Officer Swenson discussed the funding challenges of the School Resource Officers. She noted that it was important to work closely together on this. The security of the schools is very important.

Mayor Kendall added that the Parks Department works very closely with the School District on facilities. In the last year, the School District has been involved in Healthy Communities. The School District took the first step by changing their menus a few years ago. The City joined in and there has been a lot of publicity. The YMCA has joined the partnership with Pioneering Healthy Communities and will help to provide funding in the near future. The City hopes to provide funding as well. They expect to kick things off in the spring. He stated that they would continue to try to work with on the SRO issue. Chief Smith has been meeting with the School District as well.

Mary Swenson said that they have contacted legislators to see if there is an opportunity for grant funding.

Discussion:

Board Director Darci Becker asked if the graffiti task force has looked at ways to allow kids alternative ways to express themselves. Councilmember Jeff Vaughan responded that cities that have put up graffiti walls have experienced significant issues with them. A lot of what is going on is this is communication, the newspaper of the streets. The City is making sure that this is getting cleaned up quickly so they are unable to communicate. He discussed how the materials used for vandalizing are changing as the City is getting quicker at cleaning up graffiti.

Mayor Kendall reported that the City is able to map where locations are. Chief Smith said they have made quite a few arrests on taggers. He stated that graffiti goes in cycles. It is best to continue in the manner that they are right now in order to limit the amount of graffiti. The parks department made a great video regarding graffiti to help get the message out. Technology, analysis and plotting have been very helpful tools. The Graffiti Task Force has been a tremendous vehicle for getting the message out

there. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Ballew stated that there have been 293 incidents since August. They are now beginning to track monikers. The mapping technology has been a great tool.

Carmen Rasmussen commented that they are also working on a culture shift in the middle school age group. She discussed her interactions with Totem middle school students regarding local government issues. The more we can work together on that kind of culture shift the better it will be.

Director Sherri Crenshaw asked if the anti-graffiti video has been shown in schools yet. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Ballew said that it hasn't yet because they are working on a curriculum to accompany this to ensure that the proper message is sent.

Director Darci Becker asked about the types of families that these kids are coming from. Chief Smith said it was difficult to stereotype them.

Director Sherri Crenshaw asked if part of the punishment that the kids receive could be that they go back to schools to talk to other kids about the effects of their actions. Chief Smith replied that it depends on the judge, especially with juveniles. There are limitations with juveniles. He discussed the definition of vandalism. He suggested that schools write down any incidents that they had and report them to the security who could report them to the police department.

City of Marysville Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Kevin Nielsen discussed how manpower is the highest cost in cleaning up. Dr. Nyland concurred and noted that it is the same for the School District.

Carmen Rasmussen commented how they are looking into civil penalties to see if these can be applied to vandalism offenders to help alleviate some of the burden on property owners and businesses.

Jeff Seibert noted that six years ago Officer Wade was very involved in this. She formed a club of kids who helped clean up graffiti. This was very effective.

**School District Update – Larry Nyland, Superintendent
(Partnerships, Construction, SLCs, Youth Assets, Respect, 4204)**

Partnerships – The School District is very appreciative of partnerships, especially on Grove, Getchell, Healthy Communities,

Construction – Three projects are moving ahead

John Bingham gave an update on 10th Street School, Tulalip Heritage School, Secondary Options/Arts and Technology High School; MGHS; Grove. Councilmember Donna Wright asked about access to the Grove Street. Mr. Bingham reviewed that.

Dr. Nyland explained that part of the bond issue was to buy property. The School District has bought property that should be sufficient for the next 10-15 years to allow about 40% growth. They have had discussions with city staff about what full build-out for Marysville would look like. Enrollment this year was about even with last year which was a surprising development. He reviewed the sites for secondary and four elementary sites that have been determined.

SLCs (Small Learning Communities) – These are high interest courses with more positive relationships with each other and with staff, partnerships with local colleges to encourage real world learning. Scheduling has been a problem with SLCs.

Youth Assets – The School District has been part of a national planning model called the Kellogg Model. They have a grant request in to help coordinate community offerings (311 concept). United Way targeted Marysville for part of their assets studies. He discussed the Youth Network being developed by Jim Strickland.

Board Goals – consistency of discipline across the district.

Multicultural Respect – This has emerged as a community issue during our boundary revisions. There are still issues in the community and schools that are not conducive to respectful relationships. They are working internally through literacy work and respect committee. They are looking for ways to continue dialog and have community conversations about issues that are important.

Improving instruction – The School District is investing in teacher training. Students graduating this year are the first group who must pass the WASL. There is a lot of work still to do in the areas of math. There was some discussion about dropouts possibly as a result of the WASL.

4204 – Simple Majority for Schools – Dr. Nyland gave an overview of this.

Mayor Kendall commented that the legislature is looking at bringing forward a bill this session that will force all public jurisdictions to record their executive sessions.

Councilmember Seibert asked what happens to kids that don't pass the WASL. Dr. Nyland said they are still trying to figure out some of those alternatives. Students can take it five times. They are also having conversations with small learning communities about other alternatives. He noted that that they may be pushing out 1-2% of students who go on to take the GED.

Carmen Rasmussen asked if there is research being done statewide to see if the CORE math curriculum is the most appropriate. Dr. Nyland discussed this. OSPI had a listing of assessment of math curriculums. CORE was one of them. Dr. Nyland noted that there seem to be two different ways of learning math.

Councilmember Nehring asked about the reasoning for the portables at the Grove Street schools. Dr. Nyland discussed the state formula for funding and how this results in schools having more portables.

Councilmember Nehring commented on the low growth rate and possible reasons for this.

Councilmember Soriano referred to the district enrollment, which is 25% minority students. He wondered how this compares to other districts. Dr. Nyland replied that poverty-wise we are one of the lowest, 8-9 % Hispanic, 6-7 % Asian, 7-8% Native, 646 ELL students. It was noted that Boeing hires a very diverse workforce and this impacts our schools. There has been difficulty getting minorities involved with the schools. Director Darci Becker suggested utilizing churches to help communicate to minorities that the School District welcomes their involvement.

Go Round

Mary Swenson remarked that the interaction with the School District staff has been great. She and John Bingham meet on a regular basis.

Carmen Rasmussen applauded the School District for the great job they are doing. She has only had positive experiences with the schools. She has also worked with many staff members who are outstanding and totally committed to the youth.

Dr. Nyland echoed his appreciation for the partnership. He thanked the City for the leadership in the university effort.

Director Sherri Crenshaw requested ideas for involving minority families. Regarding the 200-plus students who are in danger of failing the WASL, she said that this is very frightening. She added that it was unfortunate the way the newspaper reported about the lockdown at the high school, but there were two student editorials in the last few days that gave a different perspective.

Director Darci Becker said she wished there were ways to encourage a positive creative outlet for graffiti "artists" She discussed how Totem has helped encourage creativity with decorating the outside of schools

Councilmember Jeff Vaughan said they have looked into this a lot also. They have tried to get the involvement of churches in the graffiti task force and have not had much interest, but they have seen some interest by Boy Scouts groups. He stated that it comes down to families. Moms and dads aren't at home and don't know what the kids are doing. If the community can help parents be better prepared they might help keep better tabs on their kids. These kids are not aspiring artists. They are part of a counter-culture and are looking for a group to belong to.

Director Darci Becker stated that it may not be a family issue all the time. She discussed the role that the lack of mental health care plays in this.


Jim Strickland gave an update on the Youth Network, which is a tool for communication with the goal of bringing people together around common interests, passions, concerns to link youth with community leaders who can help them. Partnering has been outstanding. There is a lot of energy out there right now. He thanked the Council for supporting what they are doing.

Director Cindy Erickson thanked everyone for coming tonight. She hopes that the City is able to get money from the federal government for the SRO. The video sounds like it will help.

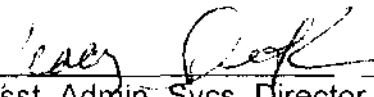
Adjournment

Seeing no further business, Director Cindy Erickson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

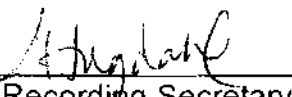
Approved this 13th day of November, 2007.



Mayor
Dennis Kendall



Asst. Admin. Svcs. Director
Tracy Jeffries



Recording Secretary
Laurie Hugdahl

Pro Tem Jon Nehring