

**MARYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL & MARYSVILLE SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT WORK SESSION
November 9, 2015
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. - Marysville City Hall**

CALL TO ORDER

Dinner was served from 5:00 to 5:15 p.m. The Joint Work Session of the Marysville City Council and the Marysville School District was called to order by Mayor Jon Nehring at 5:15 p.m. at the Marysville City Hall.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Jon Nehring

Council: Steve Muller, Kamille Norton, Michael Stevens, Jeff Vaughan, Donna Wright

Staff: Gloria Hirashima, Chief Administrative Officer; Sandy Langdon, Finance Director

School District: Dr. Becky Berg, School District Superintendent; Chris Nation, Board Vice President; Tom Albright, Board President; Mariana Maksimos, Board Member; Pete Lundberg, Board Member

Absent: Councilmembers: Jeff Seibert, Rob Toyer

City Update

Mayor Nehring welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Nehring expressed appreciation for the City's positive relationship with the Marysville School District. He also expressed appreciation for the work the School District does educating Marysville's kids. He thanked them for their service.

The City is watching the Washington State University program over in Everett. Mayor Nehring recalled that Marysville had the concept of having a branch campus in north Marysville several years ago. That didn't happen, but this is the next best thing. This is an important event for Marysville and for all north County. He commented how this is filling a huge need for the people in our community for education and training for higher

paying jobs. The Amtech training center is filling another need for training that can be achieved in a shorter timeframe. Mayor Nehring stressed the need to have the message get to our kids that these opportunities are available close to home. Downtown revitalization efforts are coming along nicely. The Qwuloolt project was successful and progressing well. The City is now moving into the ecotourism phase of that project including a trail around the natural preserve. The City is still working hard in the north end to get a Manufacturing Industrial Center designation with Arlington. He reviewed successes the City has had in this effort.

Youth Services Unit/School Resources Officers

Mayor Nehring commented that the City was very pleased with the grant received for the SRO. He is confident that this will help address issues in school in a proactive as well as reactive fashion. The grant funds one of the three officers. The City pays for the other two. It makes it so vital that the school district has indicated they would pay for two SRO's. This allows there to be a good five-member SRO unit.

Technology Plan Progress

Supt. Berg thanked the City for hosting the meeting. She congratulated councilmembers on their re-elections. Regarding STEM, the district is in the middle of teaching code.org to K-5 students. Associated Press came out last week to do a story on the schools teaching of code.

Supt. Berg distributed a Technology Update from Scott Beebe, Chief Technology Officer, showing a dramatic increase in the use of digital tools over the past three months. She commented that kids are heavily involved with using Chromebooks. At first it was mainly for Facebook, but that use has dropped dramatically. Teachers are adjusting as well to using the technology for planning and instruction. All of the Chromebooks will be deployed by Thanksgiving.

School Board VP Chris Nation explained that the District's phone system was also very outdated, but has also been upgraded.

Recovery Status

Supt. Berg thanked the City for its leadership and planning on the October 24 remembrance event. She especially expressed appreciation for Tara Mizell's extreme dedication and efforts. She commended Ms. Mizell for being a selfless leader throughout the process. Supt. Berg stated that the remembrance event felt like the right thing to happen. She noted that there are still 3,000 extra bulbs that need to be planted. She acknowledged Rotary for putting 5,000 holes in the ground.

Supt. Berg stated that she, the Director of Counseling Services, and the Assistant Superintendent travelled to Roseburg College in Oregon to provide support with the impacts of a recent mass shooting there. The School District tried to give the leadership

there as much support and tangible tips as possible, but it was a very difficult situation. She expressed appreciation for the City's leadership in dealing with the difficult situation.

Bond Discussion

She explained that there is a Citizens Advisory Committee that has been going since last year with about 40 members. It is a very diverse group. The School Board is serving only as technical advisors; there is a consultant managing the Committee. She spoke to the importance of getting a sense of the will of the community. The Committee's last meeting will be November 17, which is the same night as the *Paper Tiger* showing. Hopefully they will have a recommendation for the Board about the upcoming election by the end of that meeting. Members of the Committee have stated they feel very involved and included in the process. Board Member Lundberg stressed that the School District didn't have a preconceived idea about what the results would be. The group did tours of all the buildings throughout the district, and there were a lot of passionate opinions.

Round Table

- Board President Albright expressed appreciation for the City's help with the crisis support grant which will benefit both the schools and the City.
- Board Member Lundberg expressed appreciation for how well the District, the Board, the City, and the Tribes have worked together. It is about as good as it could be. He then asked what is going on with the waterfront area and if the City is buying additional land there. Mayor Nehring explained the City owns a good chunk of land there right now and is looking into the status of acquiring more. He explained that the vision is to transform the area with public projects to ultimately spur private investment. They are starting to see this happen a little bit. The goal is to have a more vibrant and walkable downtown. The City is intentionally trying to do something positive with that area.
- CAO Hirashima stated that the waterfront area has the potential to transform the entire community. The City hired a waterfront consultant to help with brainstorming and planning. The City is trying to complete the assembly of the area off of 3rd Street. The 528 interchange opens the opportunity of creating a different gateway for Marysville. This could recreate the image of entering Marysville. The consultant is looking at how those gateways and waterfront areas can be maximized. They are looking at how the waterfront can bridge the neighborhoods. Board Member Lundberg commented on the great opportunity for kayaking in that area.
- Council President Vaughan noted there is a great connection between the schools and what is happening out in the estuary right now. The children will be able to observe different species return to the area the way they did many years

ago. It is really a living laboratory. He noted that children in the Nisqually Delta area are able to travel to a learning center to observe the changes that have happened since the dike breach. In Marysville there are many streams that travel by the kids' schools that connect to the estuary. This is a great learning opportunity for the community on the interconnectedness of the environment. He is very excited about the whole project.

- Councilmember Donna Wright commented how waterways used to be the major mode of transportation. She noted that the waterways connect Marysville with Everett, Snohomish, and Tulalip. She suggested that water taxis could be a mode of transportation for the future when the roads get too crowded. She also noted that there are historical things still out in the area such as remnants from logging.
- School Board Member Lundberg noted that the waterfront project is a great one to promote a healthy community. He commented how he noticed more people outdoors last year jogging and walking than ever before. He imagines the improved waterfront will only increase this.
- School Board VP Nation expressed appreciation to the Parks Department for providing so many after school programs for kids. This is extremely valuable for kids and parents. He then asked about plans to improve the traffic flow of 88th and that area. Mayor Nehring commented that 88th is one of the City's biggest challenges because of the proximity to cemetery as well as other factors. The City is looking at a right-hand drop lane. The transportation package includes some money for 88th to do improvements. He hopes that the interchanges and other changes in the south may positively impact that situation.
- School Board President Albright commented that improvements to 51st have made a huge difference.
- School Board VP Nation stated that the Board passed a resolution regarding the oil and coal trains going through town. The Board is pushing to keep as few as possible of those going through the community. Mayor Nehring commented that the Council is in agreement; they passed a resolution a number of years ago on that. Additionally, Mayor Nehring is serving on a statewide committee regarding this topic with AWC. He noted this is a huge issue, but the main emphasis is on safety of the citizens. School Board VP Nation concurred and expressed concern about the potential for explosions and derailments, especially since there are a lot of schools in the proximity of the train tracks.
- School Board VP Nation suggested the possibility of the District, the Board, and the Tribes all meeting in the same room. As they move forward he thinks it is important to address cultural awareness in the community. There are many different cultures in the community.

- School Board Member Maksimos said she is excited about the improvements on State Avenue which improve traffic flow. Supt. Berg expressed appreciation for the Sunnyside improvements. Mayor Nehring commended the TBD for starting the process in August before the funding was even received.
- Council President Vaughan addressed the advisory vote on fireworks. The Council will be taking the citizens' opinion into account. The Council has concerns about city property, as well as schools, being hit by fireworks. Regardless of what happens with an ordinance, the City will continue to do things to address the impacts the City. Because of the way state law is written, if a ban was written today it couldn't go into effect until 2017. There is a one-year lag time. Additionally, realistically, you are not going to see fireworks end the first year it goes into effect, but it is a process that improves over the years. He commented that the City is pretty unique with its proximity to Tulalip.
- Councilmember Stevens commented on the possibility of school district bonds for the community. He thinks this is something the community has needed and desired for a long time. He is eager to see how the message comes out. He is pleased to see Totem on the list. He commented that the location of Totem really has the potential to create a great civic presence along State Avenue. He expressed appreciation for the technical update document. He stated that this is really a success document for the school district and needs to be shared with the community. He thanked the school district for what they are doing for the community.
- CAO Hirashima let everyone know that the City is actively bumping up its emergency management planning and training. Part of what they are doing is more community participation, cert training and emergency response training. The response has been overwhelming. There is apparently a huge need in the community for this kind of training. There will be a citywide oil train drill next spring. The City is going to be leasing the opera house for the next year and will be promoting arts and cultural arts in the community. They hope to work with the school district to boost opportunities for the community.
- Councilmember Donna Wright said she just returned from the National League of Cities meeting in Nashville. The City has completely redeveloped its downtown area in the last 13 areas. She expressed appreciation for the group's focus on youth and education. She stated that at the national level they are looking at how trains are affecting the cities. She stressed the importance of local leadership for making real change. She commented that the future looks bright.
- Councilmember Norton thanked the District for reaching out to the community for feedback on the Thought Exchange. Regarding arts and music, she is a big proponent of music education for kids and the whole community. She expressed appreciation about the future of music at Getchell. She applauded the district for hiring a full time music teacher. She asked about possibly providing flexibility in

scheduling to allow for a wind ensemble an elite group at Getchell. She believes this would be a successful venture. Supt. Berg said this is part of a continuing discussion about how a great concept like an SLC evolves throughout the years. She thinks they will have discussions in the future about crossovers in music. She emphasized that she is also a very strong proponent of music education.

- Board VP Nation explained the District is working to manage challenging requirements from the State Department of Education and how they can best serve the whole child. The Board agrees that they want vibrant programs in the schools as well, but they struggle with how to do that and still manage the other responsibilities. Supt. Berg noted that they have added choir in the middle schools to fill the gap between elementary and high schools. Councilmember Norton thanked the district for the great work they do.
- Mayor Nehring expressed appreciation for incremental changes for starting times at Getchell. He asked about the nationwide debate regarding start times. Supt. Berg expressed appreciation for the feedback. She noted that research has come out about the teen brain and the importance of sleep. She commented that it is complicated changing school schedules because of all the impact of other schedules, especially sports.
- Board VP Nation explained that the juniors in the district were able to go on a tour of the community college campus and Amtech for the Opportunity Expo. It was eye opening for the kids to see the opportunities around them. Donna Wright commented that the focus on vocational education has deteriorated over the years. She recommended ramping up community participation in the advisory committees again. Board VP Nation explained that the District is trying to expand the CTE programs into middle schools to give them opportunities instead of waiting until high school. Hopefully this will intrigue and engage them as they continue to move up into higher levels. Supt. Berg added that they are trying to offer more high school credits in middle school to help ease pressure in high school.
- Mayor Nehring commended Mr. Christopher's TV3 program and commented they are picking topics that are very relevant and important. There will be a great connection with the TV program and the communications program at WSU in Everett.
- Supt. Berg expressed appreciation for the City's leadership.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business, Mayor Nehring adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Mayor
Jon Nehring

April O'Brien
Deputy City Clerk