

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MEETING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD  
OF  
SHERIDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 48J**

July 8, 2015

The Board of Directors of District No. 48J, Yamhill County, State of Oregon, by common consent convened in Work Session – Lighthouse Project at the Sheridan School District Office in said district at 4:03 p.m. on the 8th day of July, 2015.

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Mrs. Breeden called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Board:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael, Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Deibel, Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Ashlock, Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judy Breeden, Chairperson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terry Chrisman, Director, absent

**Others Present:**

Steve Sugg, Superintendent  
Penny Elliott

**3. PRESENTATION: Lighthouse Project – by Renee Sessler/Steve Kelly**

The Board met for the Lighthouse Project Training.

**Session #17 – Module 10 – School-Community Connection: It’s all about Relationships**

**Fundamental Question:**

Why community engagement; what do we hope to achieve?

1. Involvement of older citizens – (i.e. SMART)
2. General whole community involvement
3. Fundraisers / Feed them
4. \*\*\*Attendance at student activities
5. Show the community what SSD is doing & what we’re about (ie Bulletin Board paper)
6. Communication from the community’s expectations of the district
7. Building business partnerships (helping kids see needed skill’s, help teachers know what skills to teach)
8. Mentor program for students

**Involvement:**

- # of calls to DO asking about events
- Joining booster clubs
- Club advisors
- Parent-Teacher conference
- Attend board meetings
- Volunteer in schools (teacher identify opportunities)
- Communication with board members / more talk in the community

In considering what you hope to achieve – keep in mind what it is what you hope to achieve and what you glean from the information to help you.

Nobody does anything if there is no pay back for them.

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Key Area of Board Performance:

Connecting with the community and building the public will to improve achievement;

Establishing meaningful relationships and mutual partnerships with parents, community members, and groups or businesses within the community

This is the board's responsibility to engage the community.

Having a plan by the district to engage and utilize the community members.

**Board's roles:**

1. Learning as a board/superintendent team
  - a. Topical work sessions
2. Set expectations
  - a. Via discussions & taking action
3. Providing support
  - a. Via discussions & taking action
4. Monitor activity and impact (hold system accountable)
  - a. Work sessions with district leadership
5. Create your community engagement

It is all about the Board working together.

A New Wave of Evidence (2002): The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement

Themes:

- Family involvement
  - Evidenced in student learning data
- Programs exist for people to participate in
- Diversity (racial, cultural, financial) is recognized and addressed by providing ways for strengths to be used. So all feel valued
- Parents feel empowered because they are involved
- Their involvement linked to student learning outcomes had impacted student achievement

Believe:

Our families' value education!  
Engagement is important  
It's challenging  
It can be done, We Can Do It!!!

Staff believe in it, too

- Partnerships
- Decision-making
- Shared power (responsible)

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- Parents & Staff equal partners
- Build relationship:
  - ✓ Respect
  - ✓ Welcoming
  - ✓ Trust
  - ✓ Going to people (coffee shop)
  - ✓ Talking/story sharing
  - ✓ Listening to their stories
  - ✓ Eating together

Family, School & Community Connections

1. What is this district doing to improve Student Achievement
2. Do we truly partner? If so, what is it focused on?
3. What are our beliefs about parents/families?
4. How have we defined involvement?
5. Are we ready to do this hard work and do it well?

Low score to question: The school district is very aggressive in recruiting community involvement in the school district.

Aggressive means the message is getting out there.

Community members are well informed about student achievement. – Publications (newspaper)

Community members take responsibility for ensuring the school district succeeds in meeting its improvement goals.

A Family Literacy Community of Practice:

- ✓ Read the vignette
- ✓ Underline/highlight areas of interest
- ✓ Discuss findings and consider how/if they apply here

Every 3 to 4 weeks for 3 years = 10 – 12 mtgs per year of their own time.

Teachers – teachers & 2 parents – 50+

It takes time!

Structured process – lots of planning

It's okay to feel uncomfortable when learning something new.

Where to go from here?

The Board's Role: Engaging families to improve learning.

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Homework: Using the Iowa Briefing Guiding Questions have a meaningful discussion at your next board meeting about fulfilling community / family engagement.

Why should Sheridan SD engage in improving student learning outcomes?

- Create great community
- All students can learn & deserve quality education
- To attract & retain quality staff
- To create a culture of high expectations for all
- So every student believes s/he matters
- It's what we should do so why not?

**Adjourned at: 7:20 pm**

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Penny Elliott

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Superintendent/Designee

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Board Chair/Designee