

LONGVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 122  
Board of Directors and Longview City Council Joint Session  
May 3, 2012

The joint session of the Board of Directors of Longview School District No. 122 and the Longview City Council was held on Thursday, May 3, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Longview School District Administration Building Board Room, 2715 Lilac Street.

**LONGVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board Members: Skip Urling, President  
Jerry Stinger, Vice President  
Jennifer Leach  
Barb Westrick  
Superintendent Suzanne Cusick  
Cabinet Members: Chris Fritsch  
Sandy Catt  
Dana Jones  
Assistant Secretary: Susan Hardy

**CITY OF LONGVIEW**

Mayor Dennis Weber  
Mayor Pro Tem Mary Jane Melink  
Council Members Don Jensen  
Ken Botero  
Chet Makinster  
Tom Hutchinson  
Mike Wallin  
City Manager Bob Gregory  
Police Department: Chief Jim Duscha  
Captain Deborah Johnson

Others Present: Steve Harvey, Melissa Taylor, Jennifer Keene, and Dorothy Hanson.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mary Jane Melink called the joint session to order at 6:05 p.m. Self-introductions and opening remarks followed.

**2010 CENSUS DATA**

Steve Harvey and Melissa Taylor were introduced to present the 2010 Census Data, to present an analysis of the data, and to respond to questions from the Board and City Council to aid in long-term planning.

Board President Skip Urling cited shrinking student enrollment and said the Board was curious to know what is happening more broadly. He reported we will have 350 fewer kids next year.

Melissa's presentation and analysis indicated the factors responsible.

- Fewer people are moving to Washington State.
- Kelso/Longview has a much greater loss.
- Migration to the south increased school enrollment in Woodland and Kalama.

- The county's natural population increase is slowing due to a steady birth rate plus a higher death rate as Baby Boomers age. (Baby Boomers born 1946 to 1964.)
- Baby Boomers are remaining in the area increasing the aging population. (Baby Boomers began to turn 65 in 2011; estimated to peak from 2027 to 2040.)
- The 80's economic decline by Boeing and logging caused a decline of school age children 5 to 17 years of age. There was a 1% population growth every decade except the 1980's.
- Significant decline in immigration due to anti-immigration policies and poor economy.
- Improving economic conditions in other countries.
- The recession caused a decline in household growth as people moved in with others or left the area seeking employment. (Households splitting out again will cause growth.)
- The recession has caused a trend in young adults to delay marriage and child bearing.
- The number of married couples with children is dropping.

Melissa is estimating that the population will continue to age throughout the next 30 years, peaking in 2027. We need to think differently. We must think how we become a county that attracts folks to our county.

Based on this analysis, Bob Gregory said the city may have over built facilities. Some state revenues are based on growth and we will get less from the state from the city service standpoint.

#### SCHOOL SAFETY

Longview Police Chief Jim Duscha and Assistant Superintendent Chris Fritsch reported on the traffic cameras in school zones. Chief Duscha presented statistics showing accidents have fallen by 10.2 percent city wide since cameras were installed in Mint Valley and CVG school zones in March 2011. Tickets issued each month are decreasing as drivers are slowing down.

Speeding data shows the highest numbers of violations are in the Broadway Learning Center school zone. Officers are collecting speed data from the remaining school sites through the end of the school year. New state law requires that before installing additional cameras, cities must do an analysis to show the need.

Board member, Barb Westrick, spoke of the use of an unmanned police truck in the Huntington school zone with a sign indicating the motorist's speed. She does not notice speeding in the zone and would be interested to know how effective that could be for Longview.

Chief Duscha welcomed input from the school board to add to his analysis. Ken Botero asked the chief to participate in a short work session with the city and school board when the department has gathered all the information.

Captain Deborah Johnson and Sandy Catt, Director of Communications and Technology, reported on the use of campus security cameras in Longview School District. Sandy reported that the Secure Our Schools grant of \$166,700 was an inter-local project providing hand held radios on a new frequency and the installation of cameras in the schools in 2012. In addition to the secondary schools, there are 32 cameras throughout the elementary schools.

School cameras are used primarily for student safety; secondarily to protect property. They provide anecdotal data and serve as a deterrent. Principals can substantiate details of what happened in an incident, and important information could be provided if a student disappeared. Some of the issues in today's schools involve drugs, arson, trespassers, gangs, school

violence, thefts, and weapons. Cameras are used in public areas without audio, and students are aware of them. Camera footage is not considered a public document and can be saved for evidence. R. A. Long will be adding another camera from their building budget. Most district's high schools now use cameras.

Lastly, Captain Johnson and Dana Jones, Executive Director Leadership and Learning, presented information on the School Resource Officer Program. Big issues are after-graduation suicides, suicide pacts, trespassers, gang issues, and cyber bullying. The effects of social media on and off campus create challenges for school districts as they address the issue within the confines of case law.

School resource officers (SROs) are viewed as regular staff members. Students are more willing to tell them what is happening on campus.

School counselors no longer have the time for mental health issues, but prevention specialists were valuable in providing intervention success stories. In their absence the SROs are now seen as a viable alternative to a school counselor and/or psychologist. Community partners are looking for a plan to provide continued support.

Jennifer Leach announced municipal leaders have scheduled a panel discussion on Thursday, May 10, focusing on after-school programs. Jennifer invited input from attendees and is willing to share it at the discussion. Engagement of youth in decision making and the importance of having an active teen council were suggestions offered.

#### CLOSING

In closing comments Board President Skip Urling and City Manager Bob Gregory agreed the joint meeting provided excellent discussion and future meetings would be very productive. All participants were thanked for their presentations.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the joint workshop was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Skip Urling, President

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Jerry Stinger, Vice President

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Jennifer Leach

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Barbara Westrick

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Attest: Secretary