

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Friday, September 8, 2000**

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	United Way Campaign 2000 Kick - Off Breakfast (CottonTree Convention Center, 2300 Market Street, Mount Vernon).
*T 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Presentation and Signature – Interlocal Agreement with School Districts Implementing the 21st Century Learning Grant and the Best PLACE Program.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Friday, September 8, 2000, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robert Hart and Ted W. Anderson present.

**PRESENTATION AND SIGNATURE – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS IMPLEMENTING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNING GRANT AND THE BEST PLACE PROGRAM.**

Mike Woodmansee, County Administrator, advised that history and content of the Interlocal Agreement would follow, in addition to an explanation of the proposed agreements with the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA. He stated that the school districts, together with the Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA are all key partners.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that Skagit County and community organizations are “light years” ahead in working with kids as an alternative to incarceration. He read from a Seattle Times article quoting Bob Drewel of Snohomish County, detailing the large amounts of money spent to maintain the Sheriff’s Office and other criminal justice functions. The efforts of Skagit County have been to put fewer young people in jail and put the tax dollars to work developing crime prevention strategies. This is a statewide problem, with Yakima County, for example, spending 78% of its general fund on criminal justice. Skagit County spends 48% compared to King County’s 64%. Mr. Woodmansee reported that Skagit County is able to spend less money on the criminal justice system but at the same time invest money in the prevention of future crime and criminals. Consequently, Skagit County is on the right track. He spoke regarding the ability to collaborate and build on past successes. This year a consortium of partners, including every school district in the County and Skagit County was awarded an approximately \$20,000,000 grant which is unprecedented in the entire country. The grant includes provisions for early childcare for toddlers through preschoolers, with the capability of creating 1,000 early learning opportunities for children, together with creating after school programs at every grade school. These programs are currently up and running, and partnerships have been developed with Boys & Girls clubs and the YMCA to offer after school and evening opportunities for teenagers. There is also a component for an Adult Literacy program.

Mr. Woodmansee reported that the LaConner School District volunteered to be the lead on this grant application, which was originally Tim Bruce’s vision and desire to contribute to this huge opportunity. This grant is approximately the same size as or larger than the LaConner School District budget. LaConner will process payments for Skagit County and other consortium members for grant eligible costs. LaConner has also taken the responsibility to hire the Best PLACE Program Director, Maggie Thompson, who is now a LaConner School District employee. LaConner will also complete grant reporting requirements with the U.S. Department of Education, procure all portable classrooms in all districts, purchase all childcare facility equipment, handle utility bills from districts for modulars and reimburse the districts for site preparation work.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that the County is a huge player in the administration and utilization of the grant. The County will assist with service delivery, grant accounting and grant support, and will provide office space for staff, together with personnel hiring functions. The County will further manage the contract with the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA, and coordinate activities with Community Action. The County will

## RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Friday, September 8, 2000

Page #2

coordinate the registration and fee collection at the early learning centers and assume on-site problem solving. The County will also be responsible for maintaining ongoing communication with the school districts and grant consortium members.

Each district is cooperating with placement of classrooms, getting rezones, and directing cranes for the installation of the modular units. The school districts are also providing access to classrooms, technology labs, libraries, and other facilities. School cafeterias will provide food for early learning centers. The districts will also provide bus service to make the after school programs successful. The districts will cooperate fully with assessment and evaluation efforts and will provide access to student records, facility maintenance and insurance.

Mr. Woodmansee detailed the activities of the Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the County, and explained the desire to open additional sites in Sedro Woolley, Concrete and Burlington. The grant will reimburse Boys & Girls Clubs between \$8,300 to \$9,400 per month depending on the number of sites and the hours of service.

Similarly, the YMCA will offer an after school program site. The YMCA was selected as an alternative after-school and service provider due to being in a large community that needs more capacity for after school activities. The YMCA will be a non-school site and will offer services and programs similar to those of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Tim Bruce, LaConner School District, explained that the early learning center modular units are all procured by LaConner School District but will become the property of the school districts. Those facilities are intended to be self-sustaining by the time the grant ends, so they should be able to be utilized for years. He emphasized that the intent of the grant is to improve the reading abilities of children and entire families. He commented on the potential for the MacDonald's Foundation to give additional monies for computers and other support. He commented on the high level of cooperation that has been achieved.

Chairman Wolden asked about the future of the grant after the three-year initial term.

Mr. Bruce responded that there will no doubt be additional grants available, and the early learning centers will be self-sustaining at the end of the three-year term, if not earlier.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that the total yearly costs are running around \$10,000,000, rather than the \$6,800,000 provided by the grant. Other money is filtering in from DSHS and other entities to meet all of the costs and anticipated growth of the program. He spoke to the attention this grant is garnering from other parts of the State and Country, with Ms. Thompson scheduled to participate in a federal discussion of the program in California later this year. He indicated that if successful results are obtained, not only will our funding be continued, but this country will be scrambling to replicate what is being done here. Mr. Woodmansee explained that if we create quality programs and the results are positive, the money will be there, because the success will be so evident that it would be foolhardy to do anything different.

Commissioner Hart spoke to the need to enable students and individuals to be able to learn on their own, with reading being a key element. He noted, in this regard, the important component of the grant, which emphasizes literacy and involves not only children but parents and extended families. This enables citizens to succeed on their own. He commented on the great success that can be obtained by having local communities, volunteers and schools work together in this regard.

Commissioner Anderson commented on the duplication of the County's Best SELF in Yakima County.

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the School Districts as presented by Mr. Woodmansee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed with a unanimous vote. **(Contract No. 05036)**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**Friday, September 8, 2000**

**Page #3**

Commissioner Hart moved to approve a Personal Services Agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Skagit Valley for the period September 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001 at compensation rates detailed in Exhibit "B". Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05037)**

Commissioner Hart moved to approve a Personal Services Agreement with the Skagit Valley Family YMCA for the period June 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001 at compensation rates detailed in Exhibit "B." Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05038)**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

1. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, September 8, 2000, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Payroll warrants numbered 59583 through 60628 in the total dollar amount of \$902,435.27 (Transmittal No. P-34-2000); and

Payroll warrants numbered 953730 through 953794 in the total dollar amount of \$73,511.23 (Transmittal No. P-35-00).

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Chairman Wolden made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Harvey Wolden, Chairman

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Robert Hart, Commissioner

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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Patti J. Chambers, Clerk of the Board  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners