

Draft

45th Legislative District Democrats
General Meeting
February 4, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney at 7:03 pm.

Flag Salute

Kirkland City Councilwoman Jessica Greenway led the Flag Salute.

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to adopt the previous meeting minutes. Motion was passed.

Education Funding Issues: Kelly Munn, League of Education Voters

Martin introduced Kelly Munn from the League of Education Voters. Kelly talked about the League of Education Voters and its role. The League was organized 8 years ago. They have fought for smaller class sized and spearheaded the Simple Majority initiative last year.

The state of education is not good. The Washington has never invested in education thinking toward the future. We are always playing catch up. The number of students graduating has declined. An example from the job market is that Microsoft only hires 7% of their employees from Washington, that percentage should be higher. In Washington only 24% of 8th grade students take algebra. Washington is 41st in the nation in algebra. Until 2 years ago, Washington State only required high school students to take 2 years of math to graduate. The United States is not keeping pace with the rest of the world.

There is good news. There are two bills in the Washington State Legislature. The first bill was sponsored by teachers unions. It fully funds the existing education system. The second bill (HB1410, SB5444) was sponsored by the League of Education Voters. It is a bill aimed at reforming the education system. It would create accountability for students, teachers, principals and other school administration. There are several specific things that this bill would change.

- a. It would create a new salary structure for teachers. This is created to promote more quality teachers to get paid more for their performance. This is not based on student assessment scores, but on teacher performance.
- b. This bill will increase the credit load from 19 to 24 credits. Students who have a specific career goal in which the advanced classes are not necessary can opt out of the 24 credit load to a 19 credit load. Vocational and work force organizations have signed on to this bill because they want more qualified workers.

- c. This bill would create more early learning education to target at risk children early in life.
- d. Create more transparent and effective budgetary processes and formulas. Changing out the old formulas that do not make sense for a “Model School” approach. Formulas would be based off of a “Model School.” This would allow the public to understand the budgetary process better and show the communities how their schools are using the money they have.

Question: What are the new sources of funding for this bill?

Answer: There is no new source of funding. We need to reform the system, not just push money into the system. Talks are going on right now about places to find funding in the budget.

Question: In China, students respected teachers and obeyed rules. In the United States, students do not respect teachers or obey rules and it is viewed as cruel to make a student finish their homework by staying after school.

Answer: In other countries, they have worked hard to get where they are in the world today. In the U.S. we have taken our education system for granted. It is no longer viewed as a stepping stone to something better, but something that is just done.

Question: It is appalling that at some schools, one factor for the plans for high schools is the dropout rate of what that particular high school is going to be, they are planning to fail. There are some school districts having more success curbing the dropout rate. Is there something in your bill to help schools with the dropout rate?

Answer: It is appalling, the dropout rate is somewhere around 25%, but they also predict the prison rate of those students that dropout. Built into this bill is money for at-risk students, this is often tied to the free and reduced lunch rate at the individual schools. There is also an accountability measure within the bill to allow the state government to intervene when schools are failing. The government would intervene to help fix the problem and not take away money from the schools that may need the money most.

This would not be a mandatory program until 10 years after its implementation. All three of the 45th LD legislators (Sen. Eric Oemig, Rep. Roger Goodman, Rep. Larry Springer) are sponsoring the bill.

Legislative Action Activities, Kathleen Reynolds

Kathleen added that all of the 45th LD’s legislators (Sen. Eric Oemig, Rep. Roger Goodman, Rep. Larry Springer) are sponsoring the bill endorsed by the League of Education voters. The bills are HB1410 and SB5444.

Kathleen invited everyone to attend Legislative Action Day on Mon Feb 16th in Olympia. It is the same day as the Washington State Party Annual Crab Feed.

Kathleen added that Congress passed SCHIP. This will add more money for health insurance for kids.

If general members have not been getting the LAC emails, they need to sign up on the 45th LD announce list.

Kathleen said that at the King Co. LAC meeting a secure medicine return bill is being introduced in the legislature to provide safe disposal of unused or expired medicine.

Brad Larssen updated the members about labor issues in the legislature. It was moved and seconded to add labor to the LAC agenda, motion passed.

Director of Elections Election Report, Andrew Villeneuve

Sherril Huff as of Wednesday was winning with 45 percent of the vote.

Volunteer Opportunities

Martin discussed a new regular agenda item, volunteer opportunities. He will advocate for a different volunteer opportunity each month. This month the volunteer opportunity was data entry. Due to all the information gathered from the 2008 election, there was a lot of data to enter into the database.

PCO Appointments

Martin introduced Ken Albinger. Ken asked to be the service PCO of Kir 45-2933, it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Ken updated the members to the number of PCOs. There were 162 precincts in the 45th LD and there were currently 75 PCOs. The goal is to break 100 PCOs.

King County Alternate Committeewoman Election

Martin stated that we did not elect a King County Alternate Committeewoman at the re-organization meeting. He opened the floor for nominations for the position. Ken nominated Jin Yang. No further nominations were offered after 3 times asked. Motion to vote by acclaim, unanimously passed.

Other Officer Appointments

- Communications Chair:
 - Martin announced that Melissa Waldie was recommended to be appointed. It was moved and seconded to appoint Melissa Waldie. Motion passed.
- Sammamish Relations Chair
 - Martin announced that Celia Wu was recommended to be appointed. It was moved and seconded to appoint Celia. Motion passed.
- Kirkland Relations Chair
 - Martin announced that Ken Nelson was appointed.
- Labor Relations Chair
 - Martin announced that Brad Larssen was appointed.
- Affirmative Action and Outreach Committee
 - Martin announced that Priscilla O'Leary was appointed.

2009 Event Planning

Martin explained what is needed to help set up for upcoming events. The responsibility of planning an event include the need to monitor city and chamber of commerce websites to find out when we need to sign up for booths and parades, finding the nonprofit rate, coordinate with 48th LD in Kirkland and Redmond events, and send out notices to get volunteers for the events.

- Woodinville All Fools Day – March 28th

- Martin asked for volunteers to help organize the Woodinville All Fools Day. Wayne Farrer volunteered. Martin appointed Wayne to head the Woodinville All Fools Day planning committee.
- Duvall Days – June 6th
 - Martin asked for volunteers to help organize the Duvall Days event. Wayne Farrer volunteered. Martin appointed Wayne to head the Duvall Days planning committee.
- Carnation and Kirkland Parades – July 4th
 - Martin asked for volunteers to help organize the Carnation and Kirkland Parades. Pat Trotter volunteered for Kirkland parade. Martin appointed Pat to head the Kirkland parade planning committee.
- Redmond Derby Days – July 11th
 - Martin asked for volunteers to help organize the Redmond Derby Days. No one volunteered.
- Annual Picnic – August
 - Martin asked for volunteers to help organize the Annual Picnic. Judith Shattuck volunteered for the Annual Picnic. Martin appointed Judith to head the Annual Picnic planning committee.
- Eastside Dinner – September
 - Martin asked for volunteers to help organize the Eastside Dinner. Kat Crowley-York volunteered for the Eastside Dinner.
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KCDCC Executive Board Report – Ken Nelson, Becky Chaney

Ken Nelson informed the members that the King County Democratic Party have endorsed HB 1738, a bill to publicly fund judicial races. A resolution was passed to rename the West Seattle Bridge to the Jeanette Williams Bridge.

Question: Does the state or county party have a role in naming the successor for Ron Sims, King County Executive?

Answer: Martin said that Ron Sims was chosen to become a member of the Obama Administration. It is a non-partisan office, the party has no official role. The King County Council will appoint someone as an interim County Executive. The Council will be willing to take advise from the King County Democratic Party. Sims asked for a caretaker to take over the position until the election. Susie Sheary asked for the input from the Legislative District parties before the King County Democrats meeting. Martin asked if there were any names that should be put forth for the interim position.

Martin entertained motions for names of interim King County Executives. It was moved to appoint someone who will run for the position in the 2010 election as candidate. The motion was removed. Martin will pass on to Susie Sheary that the members are not unanimous in wanting to nominate someone who will run as a candidate in the election.

WSDCC Report – Ralph Gorin

Dwight Pelz had a challenger run against him for State Party Chairman, Dwight Pelz won reelection. Eileen Macoll was challenged by Sharon Smith. Sharon Smith unseated Eileen Macoll. All other officers were retained in their offices.

Other Committee, Officer and Representative Reports

There were no other reports.

Short Topics/ Open Forum

An amendment to the endorsement rules was introduced to be voted on the next meeting by a member. The Resolution was to ensure there was an open field and not to endorse candidates until after the primary.

Environmental Priorities Lobby Day is on Feb. 19th, 2009. Find out more at the People for Puget Sound website, www.pugetsound.org.

Maria Cantwell introduced a bill in the Senate S320 to include tax credits for green technology. House rules committee took out \$200 million to refurbish the national mall. We need to keep watching what is being put in and taken out of the Stimulus Package and Budget.

Good of the Order

There is a new website to track Congressman Dave Reichert, www.davereichert.org. It is called the Reichert Report. It shows Congressman Reichert's voting record and is updated every week.

Andrew Villeneuve introduced the new social network for the 45th LD Democrats. This is to make it easier to get things accomplished and organized. Groups can organize and send messages to get together and accomplish tasks. And much like Facebook, people can sign up for groups, have friends, and personalize their account. There are forums for conversations and eventually there will be news, events, and the agendas and minutes on the network. Sign up at www.45thdemocrats.info. Andrew demonstrated to the general members how to register on the social network.

Question: Can anyone join?

Answer: Yes, but Andrew gets an email and can delete a user if they are found to be unfriendly. Additionally, emails cannot be accessed.

Comment: This type of format helped President Obama get Elected. The cost of a few people being unfriendly does not outway the benefit of being able to organize.

Answer: There is a privacy protection.

Comment: this is nothing on this that they can't get from other

Question: Are we crosschecking people who sign up for account who are not members, can we send them a message to join as a member?

Answer: No, but we can create some sort of message to send to everyone who signs up.

Martin commented that as far as security concerns, Andrew is keeping track of the network and the software allows us to create stricter guidelines if we find that they are needed.

Many of us are aware of the problems in the world today, we cannot rest on what we have accomplished. We need to stay active and don't bail now that President Obama has been elected. We need to work just as hard as before for the issues that are important to us. www.Change.org still going and the 10 top issues have been chosen, their top issues

are similar to our top issues. We need to lean on the democrats in the house to cooperate with President Obama.

Question: Where can we go to get information about the stimulus package?

Answer: Senator Murray has information about the stimulus package on her website.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.