I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Ms. Debra Lisser, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM:

The Chair recognized that a quorum of Board members were present.

III. STUDY SESSION: Proposed Skagit County Technical Skills Center

Dr. Tollefson welcomed Mr. Tim Bruce, La Conner School Superintendent; Mr. Dick Nord, Chair of the Northwest Workforce Development Council; Mr. Mark Venn, Sedro-Woolley School Superintendent; and Mr. Don Wick, Executive Director of the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Mr. Bruce presented information to the Trustees on the proposed skills center using a PowerPoint presentation and distributed copies of a recently completed feasibility study.

The proposed skills center would be a partnership between the six Skagit County school districts and Skagit Valley College; it would be located on the SVC Mount Vernon Campus. It would provide an educational resource that individual school districts are unable to implement individually and will offer students an expanded career pathway from high school CTE programs to post-secondary training and education.

Mr. Nord and Mr. Wick voiced their support of the proposed skills center and said that local businesses need a larger skilled workforce to meet the region’s economic and employment needs.
Mr. Venn stated that he and the Sedro-Woolley School Board are supportive of the proposed skills center and see it as a good way to keep students connected to school.

Mr. Bruce stated that an agreement will need to be reached as to whether the college will sell or lease property for the skills center. The agreement will need to be finalized soon in order to pursue the $23 million in state funding that has been allocated for construction of skills centers for 2007-09.

Dr. Tollefson displayed a map of the Mount Vernon Campus showing the existing land use and identified the area where the proposed skills center would be located. He stated that he will begin to work with the Assistant Attorney General on an agreement for land use.

Mr. Bruce stated that either selling the land or leasing the land would be acceptable but that sale of the land is preferred, although no precedent has been established to purchase land for a skills center.

Trustees Rojas and Takehara both stated their support of the proposed skills center.

Dr. Tollefson thanked all the participants for attending the meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business and no action taken, the study session was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Debra Lisser, Chair   Gary Tollefson, President
Executive Secretary to the Board
Lisa Radeleff, Secretary to the President