

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING / SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
January 13, 2021

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Dawn Adams, President of the Board; Heather Kintzley, Vice President of the Board; Ron Mabry, Legislative Representative of the Board; Michael Connors, Board Member; Diane Sundvik, Board Member; Long Doan, Student Representative to the Board; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Cabinet Members: Dr. Doug Christensen, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development; Jack Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Rob Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations; Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations; Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology.

Other Guest(s): Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer, Benton-Franklin Health District.

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 826 staff and guests in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Sophia Torres, 1509 West 41st Avenue Kennewick, shared that she attends Kennewick High School and started a petition opposing schools' reopening due to the COVID numbers continuing to be so high. Sophia asked the School Board to postpone schools' reopening and direct more money for students' mental health.

Nevaeh Vogtman, 20 West 19th Avenue Kennewick, shared that she attends Kennewick High School, and she wants students to return to school as remote learning is putting too much stress on students. Nevaeh added that she believes if students start attending the hybrid model, it will lessen everyone's anxiety. Nevaeh also commented that too many students are failing, and social interaction is something students need.

Jacob Vogtman, 20 West 19th Avenue Kennewick, commented that students are not getting the help they need, and students can choose to do the online academy.

Rashele VanDinter, 8752 West 12th Ave. Kennewick. Rashele was called on to speak by President Adams, but Zoom showed her as being muted. She did not unmute herself, so President Adams went on to the next person.

Kenzie Zimmerman, 328 West 12th Avenue Kennewick, commented on the dual-language remote learning and the lack of support for remote students. Ms. Zimmerman

shared that her 4th grade child has assignments sent to him with no interaction from the teacher.

Selena Perry, 101905 East Vaca Road Kennewick, shared that she is an employee of the Kennewick School District and a parent of three children who attend Kennewick Schools. As an elementary school teacher, Ms. Perry sees how happy the students are to be back in school but knows that secondary works differently. Ms. Perry commented that she strongly feels two days of school is not going to work and that it would be nice if middle school students could attend five days a week. Ms. Perry encouraged the Board to look at other schedules for the secondary students.

Timeo Kierthey, 10408 S. 952 PR. SE Kennewick. No response when called on.

Annie Osafo shared that she is new to the Kennewick School District and is here as an observer to get a feel of how things work with the schools in Kennewick. Ms. Asafo commented that she appreciates that students get to go outside and that they can attend school.

President Adams welcomed Ms. Osafo to the Kennewick School District.

Jonathan Calderon, 16127 South Clear View Loop Kennewick, shared that he has been a teacher in the Kennewick School District for 19 years and that he has a 7th and 9th grader in school. Mr. Calderon commented that his oldest child has struggled with not interacting with other students and would like to see middle and high school students return to in-person school. He noted that the elementary schools seem to be having great success with the procedures they are using to keep students safe. Mr. Calderon asked the Board to please move forward and get our children back in school.

Noemi Morales, 6420 Enzian Falls Dr. Pasco, commented that she would like to see an update to the dual language program update with more support for Spanish speaking students.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Heather Kintzley to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote:	Adams	Yes
	Kintzley	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Connors	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting December 16, 2020
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Foreign Exchange Agencies and Coordinators for 2021 – 2022
- 2020 – 2021 School Improvement Plans
- Candidates for Early Graduation

NEW BUSINESS

Remote and Hybrid Learning / Sports Status Update

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared an update on elementary, middle, and high school Remote and Hybrid Learning. Dr. Pierce then introduced Dr. Person, Health Officer, with the Benton-Franklin Health District.

Dr. Person explained that schools have demonstrated, with safety protocols in place, that they do not see the transmission of COVID cases in public schools or private schools providing in-person instruction. The state has also recognized that schools can operate safely. Dr. Person shared information regarding COVID and the current recommendation from the BFHD: “For those school districts who currently have returned elementary-aged children to the classroom, phased transition of secondary students can begin as early as January 25, 201.”

Dr. Pierce shared the District recommendation to the Board; begin middle school hybrid learning on January 25, 2021, and start high school hybrid learning on February 2, 2021.

Ms. Sundvik commented that she was told there are no bathroom breaks during class time. Dr. Pierce replied that bathroom breaks are allowed during class time and that the safety assessment done by NV5 showed that the Kennewick School District had good controls in place for bathroom breaks.

Ms. Sundvik asked Dr. Person if she had any idea of the positivity rate for the Tri-Cities area. Dr. Person replied that it has been challenging to predict, but it was anywhere from 9 – 15% in Benton-Franklin county last month.

Ms. Sundvik asked Dr. Person how many doses of the vaccine the Tri-City Community Health Center has to provide for our staff. Dr. Person replied that she knows they received a sufficient allocation. Dr. Person added that she had been asked not to release specific numbers. There is currently sufficient amounts to those eligible under Phase 1A of the state’s distribution plan, which would include our school nurses and staff providing health-related services.

Ms. Sundvik asked Dr. Person if she could estimate the number of cases she would expect to see in middle and high schools. Dr. Person replied that she did not know if she could adequately address that question. Dr. Person explained that there would be cases; however, the safety measures currently in place provide one layer of safety, and schools quickly identifying cases is another layer of safety.

Mr. Mabry asked Dr. Person if there is any chance that Kennewick School District could have in-school testing. Dr. Person replied that it would not be possible for her staff to do in-school testing. However, the BFHD does have rapid testing available.

Mr. Mabry asked Dr. Pierce if it was possible to start high school hybrid learning on February 1, a Monday. Dr. Pierce replied that February 2 is recommended due to Monday, February 1, being a teacher workday between semesters.

Heather Kintzley made a motion to begin middle school hybrid learning on January 25, 2021, and begin high school hybrid learning on February 2, 2021, as recommended by the Kennewick School District Administration and the Benton Franklin Health Department.

Ms. Kintzley added that she thinks this is a long time coming, and hopefully, we can get our kids back in school

Michael Connors seconded the motion.

President Adams shared that she agrees with Ms. Kintzley and is happy to have this chance to discuss getting our students back in school and to have the BFHD support.

Roll call vote:	Adams	Yes
	Kintzley	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Connors	Yes
	Sundvik	No

Motion carried 4-1

Dr. Pierce then introduced Jack Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, who presented a Sports Status update.

SUPERINTENDENT/SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT

The Retreat's purpose is for the Superintendent and School Board to conduct a semi-annual review of the District and plan for continued quality education and efficient operation of the Kennewick School District.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: The Board discussed the following topics:

- Annual Report and Strategic Plan
- Dual Language Expansion Plan Update
- Get to Know Kennewick Schools
- District Equity Team Update
- KSD Learner / Graduate Profile

No final decisions were made after any of the discussions, and Board Members asked that administration to bring back additional information on some of the topics at a future

meeting for discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Dawn Adams moved the Board into executive session for approximately 30 minutes at 8:09 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to conduct the Superintendent/Cabinet Performance Review. No further formal action of the Board to be taken.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

President Dawn Adams reconvened the regular session of the Board at 8:39 p.m. There being no further business requiring formal action, the School Board of Directors adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: January 27, 2021