

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & Remote Board Meeting
March 10, 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 (Remote); Ron Mabry, Legislative Representative of the Board; Michael Connors, Board Member; Diane Sundvik, Board Member; Long Doan, Student Representative to the Board (Remote); and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Cabinet Members: Dr. Doug Christensen, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources (Remote); 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): Victoria Russell, President, Benton/Franklin School Retirees Association
Dottie Stevens, Immediate Past President, Benton/Franklin School Retirees Association

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 19 in-person and 75 remote staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

School Retirees

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce introduced Victoria Russell, President for the Benton-Franklin School Retirees' Association, and Immediate Past President, Dottie Stevens. Dr. Pierce read Governor Inslee's proclamation declaring March 15-19, 2021 as School Retirees Appreciation Week, adding that she appreciates them for their service and is honored to recognize them. Ms. Russell provided a summary of the supports that the Benton-Franklin School Retirees' Association provides to schools.

Education Support Professionals Week

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared some thoughts about the many Education Support Professionals who make our schools a great place to be for staff, students, and families. Dr. Pierce read Governor Inslee's proclamation declaring March 8-12, 2021, as Education Support Professionals Week. A video honoring Education Support Professionals was shared.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Sylvia Loosveldt, 6058 W. 38th Ave. Kennewick, shared her concerns regarding what she believes to be “BLM Marxist socialist material” posted on the Kennewick School District Professional Development website. She asked that the materials be removed.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Diane Sundvik to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Michael Connors.

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 February 24, 2021
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2020 – 2021
- Updated 2021 – 2022 School Calendar

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce updated the Board on staff vaccinations and hybrid learning/safety assessments. Next, Dr. Pierce shared that she had spoken with President Adams regarding the opportunity for Board training and development, an interest shared by several Board members. Dr. Pierce noted that she had reached out to Tricia Lubach from WSSDA, who would be available to facilitate a session during the Board retreat in June.

Student Representative to the Board, Long Doan, reported on the District Equity Team meeting held on March 3, 2021. Long shared that fellow students suggested having a mental health survey.

Legislative Representative of the Board, Ron Mabry, gave an update on what is happening in the Legislative sessions regarding transportation funding and internet access for all. Mr. Mabry added that Long Doan is doing a great job on the local level as the Student Representative to the Board, and he encouraged Long to get involved at the state level.

Board Member Diane Sundvik also attended some of the Legislative sessions along with three virtual meetings. Ms. Sundvik noted that Kennewick School District is far ahead of other districts in getting students back to school.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Legislative Update

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce presented an overview of the legislative session timeline and the status of key funding bills, SB 5128 Pupil Transportation Funding and HB 1476 Enrollment Stabilization, along with other vital bills. Dr. Pierce shared the Republican reopening plan and noted that while the DOH K-12 In-Person Learning Provisions Toolkit provides metrics and guidance for when schools can expand access to in-person learning, the 6-foot distancing requirement prevents schools from proceeding with expanding access.

2021 – 2022 Preliminary Budget

Executive Director of Business Operations, Vic Roberts, updated the Board on district basic education staff cost as related to student enrollment and the state funded implicit price deflator adjustment. The annual increase in district staff wage/benefit cost was compared to state basic education funding received through the state funding formula. It was explained that for school year 2020-21 the increase in basic education funding was \$1.75M while the cost to the district for the increase in staff cost was \$5.35M. Mr. Roberts indicated that the shortage of \$3.6M is funded primarily with increased levy dollars, but the increased levy funding for 2020-21 was only \$1.85M.

The district increase in staff cost is much more than the state funds due to a number pay related items that include the district continuing to advance teachers through the salary scale for years of service and advancement for credits attained. It was explained that when the state implemented the McCleary ruling, the state salary scale that had funded years of service and credits was eliminated. Mr. Roberts discussed the sustainability of the current district model and discussed challenges with financially supporting the current model at future levy amounts including amounts that reach the maximum allowed rate of \$2.50. Over the next several months renewal levy amounts will need to be decided with Board approval of those amounts in October or November for voter approval on February 8, 2022.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Adoption

Dr. Traci Pierce reviewed the development and feedback process and a timeline for how the new strategic plan was developed and refined. She presented an annual updating and

reporting cycle, and a recommendation to the Board to approve the strategic plan and the annual updating and reporting cycle.

Motion by Ron Mabry to approve the strategic plan and the annual updating and reporting cycle.

Seconded by Michael Connors.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Policy No. 1420, BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Quorum, First Reading

Dr. Traci Pierce reviewed the current policy language and shared new language, aligned with WSSDA model policy.

Motion by Heather Kintzley to approve Policy No. 1420, BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Quorum for first and second reading.

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Following Board discussion regarding the present technical challenges and limitations with adding an in-person component to the remote access to School Board meetings, the consensus was to hold the March 24 School Board meeting fully remotely, in order to provide time for the District to implement technical improvements that will allow better quality simultaneous in-person and remote meeting access. The goal is to have the technology in place for the April 21 School Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Dr. Pierce and the Board discussed focusing the June Board retreat on Board Development, based on Board-determined priorities and the results of the WSSDA Board self-assessment, which Board members could potentially complete in May.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Approved: March 24, 2021

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD