

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
November 18, 2020

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
Steve Bump, Manager, Safety 7 Health Consulting NV5 Dade Moeller

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 1,302 staff and guests in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Robert Kramer, 658 Sherwood Street, Richland, commented on the Kennewick School District staff's safety with the COVID-19 risks and returning to distance learning.

Jessica Kramer, 658 Sherwood Street, Richland, shared that she is a 3rd-grade teacher at Washington Elementary. Ms. Kramer expressed concerns about the increased number of COVID cases and the effect on teachers. Ms. Kramer noted that students are in the classroom for six hours and eat twice a day without masks.

Curtis Kimble, 2475 W. 49th Ave, Kennewick, shared that Richland School District has elementary students attend school half days for five days a week. Mr. Kimble asked if the Kennewick School District could have the same half-day schedule for elementary students.

Brittany Russell, 10251 Ridgeline Drive, Kennewick, first thanked Ms. Sundvik for planning to visit her elementary school classroom. Ms. Russell expressed concerns over the rising numbers of COVID cases and students eating unmasked in her classroom for breakfast and lunch. Ms. Russell stated that teachers now must up their PPE. Ms. Russell added that the District needs to rethink the elementary school plan, asking the Board not to let this meeting end without discussing elementary schools.

Jordan En'wezoh, 741 N. Pittsburgh St., Kennewick, shared concerns for students returning to in-person schooling and asked the Board to pause and reflect on what is happening in the Tri-Cities with COVID numbers increasing.

Gretl Crawford, 4808 West 21st Avenue, Kennewick, expressed that kids need to go back to school. Ms. Crawford shared that she is a concerned and angry parent over schools still not opening. Ms. Crawford added that the District had eight months to figure out how to open schools safely. While there will always be fears, students have bigger problems than COVID; failing classes, being home alone, depression, anxiety, fear, hunger, abuse, graduating, and getting into college.

Stephanie Jones, 5008 Montague Lane, Pasco, shared that she is a school secretary and has concerns with COVID numbers rising and only partial staff in the buildings that there is no accurate way to gauge bringing back students. If all teachers and counselors, and support staff attend each building for several weeks, one could get a more precise gauge of how it would work with more bodies on campus. Ms. Jones added that she is concerned for her safety as well as others.

Mariann Bloxham, 3906 West 46th Ave., Kennewick, shared her concerns over students needing to be back in school for in-person instruction. Ms. Bloxham noted that with the high level of cleaning in our schools and PPE wearing, she doesn't see why students shouldn't be back in school. Ms. Bloxham added that her daughters are experiencing high anxiety levels, are overwhelmed with all the different apps and programs they have to download, and learn how to submit schoolwork, take quizzes, etc.

Allison Dabler, 1128 S. Tranquility PR SE, Kennewick, expressed concerns with community spread. Ms. Dabler noted that at the Special School Board meeting on September 30, Dr. Person shared that students were not spreaders; however, student cases of COVID are rising in our county. Ms. Dabler added that she hopes she can count on the local leadership to do the right thing.

Blaine Meek, 703 S. Montana, Kennewick, shared that he is a father of five Kennewick School District students and is an essential worker who wants students to have in-person classes. Mr. Meek expressed that we all weigh risks every day; other states have opened schools for in-person learning and have not seen the virus spread.

Aaron Chan, 1905 S. Arthur Street, Kennewick was not available to speak as he was with a patient, so his wife read a letter to the School Board on his behalf. Mr. Chan is a chiropractor and has children at Southridge High School. He would like to see middle and high school students return to in-person learning, and he hopes the Board will remember the oath they took to educate our children.

Karina Thorne, 1808 Hunt Ave, Richland, shared that she is a high school French teacher and would like to see the IT department create a position where high school students could go for help in learning all the different apps or programs that are required in high school to submit homework, exams, etc.

Melissa Hulburt, Kennewick, did not respond; her mic seemed to be muted.

RECOGNITION

Native American Heritage Month

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce read Governor Inslee's proclamation declaring November 2020 as Native American Heritage Month and declaring November 27, 2020, as Native American Heritage Day.

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 October 21, 2020
- Minutes of Special Board Meeting October 29, 2020
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified and Extracurricular
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending October 31, 2020
- Budget Status Report Year Ending August 31, 2020
- Budget Status Report Ending September 30, 2020
- Highly capable Program Annual Plan 2020 – 2021
- Memo: Authorize Purchase of Five Buses for Delivery Summer 2021

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Representative to the Board, Long Doan, reported on the Superintendent/Student Advisory Committee meeting held by Zoom on November 4, 2020.

Ron Mabry reported that he visited all three high schools, and he commends the staff for all their efforts to get schools ready for students to return to school. The staff completed everything that was asked of them.

Diane Sundvik reported that she attended the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce Diversity Conference, the WSSDA Fall Regional Meeting, the Racial Equity, and Social

Justice Coalition meeting, the Coffee with Karl meeting where she listened to Dr. Pierce speak and will be attending the 2020 WSSDA Annual Conference this week.

Michael Connors reported that he visited Amon Creek Elementary and was impressed with the job the staff and students were doing. Mr. Connors noted how happy the students were to be back in school and how happy the staff was to see their students in person.

Heather Kintzley reported that she echoed similar comments as Mr. Connors. Ms. Kintzley visited Ridge View Elementary and noted the excellent job the staff and students were doing with wearing masks.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Hybrid Learning Timeline: Middle and High Schools

Superintendent Dr. Pierce reviewed the timeline and actions that have been taken to date to prepare for hybrid learning along and shared the results, recommendation, and summary of the third-party safety assessment. Dr. Pierce introduced Mr. Steve Bump, Safety and Health Consulting Manager, with NV5 Dade Moeller, who shared his findings and answered questions regarding the safety assessment. Overall, Mr. Bump expressed how very impressed he was with how the District and principals had things in place for schools to open safely.

Mr. Connors asked Mr. Bump how Kennewick School District compared to other school districts. Mr. Bump replied that he has only walked through the elementary schools for the Richland School District and is scheduled to walk through their secondary schools tomorrow; however, the preparations he saw at both districts were on par.

Mr. Mabry asked if Mr. Bump had an opportunity to go into the special needs classrooms. Mr. Bump shared that to minimize exposure to students, they talked about all the PPE equipment to be used, and he was informed that all the equipment was in place and ready to go. Mr. Bump added that the teachers he did see in the Tier 3 classes were all wearing the correct PPE equipment and were engaged in taking all the appropriate steps. Mr. Mabry asked if Mr. Bump had a chance to discuss the school bus protocols. Mr. Bump replied that he was able to talk with the Transportation Manager, the Director of Maintenance, and the Custodial Supervisor noting that busing is a concern. Still, everything that has is recommended is being implemented.

Ms. Sundvik asked about the time involved during the bus drop-offs. Mr. Bump shared that the District is planning to have buses pull up one at a time until the students clear the area, and then the next bus would begin to unload students. Ms. Sundvik asked about bathrooms and how teachers would know how many students were in the bathroom. Mr. Bump explained how some schools have an app that students can log into on their Chromebook and request a bathroom pass; school administrators have the same app on their phone to see where students should be. Mr. Bump explained that some schools are setting up hall passes with a lanyard and have placed hooks outside the bathroom. The student puts the lanyard on the hook before he enters the bathroom. If the hooks are full, the student would know they

cannot enter the bathroom.

Ms. Sundvik asked about plexiglass being available for teachers and if Mr. Bump would be assessing the elementary schools. Dr. Pierce shared that the District has plexiglass in stock, along with face shields with drapes, which are almost like a moving Plexiglass. This assessment was part one, and elementary schools would be part of this multi-step process.

President Adams shared that Mr. Bump's assessment has addressed the concerns she had with school readiness; however, she is still receiving emails about schools not being ready. President Adams encouraged Dr. Pierce to continue talking with the staff and sharing the assessment with them.

Dr. Pierce highlighted progress on the modified middle and high school schedules, which reduces the number of class changes per day for all students.

Ms. Sundvik asked how the District would make sure students were not grouping together during the five-minute passing times. Dr. Pierce explained that the schools have traffic patterns set up with what door they exit and what door they enter along with one-way hallways.

Ms. Kintzley asked if the schedule Kennewick School District will be using was modeled after another District or if it has been tested. Dr. Pierce shared that she had not seen a model that provides for Zoom time in the afternoon, but she had seen schedules that had students picking up their lunch and going home.

President Adams asked if students can choose to remain remote and attend the classes. Dr. Pierce explained that a remote-only student could still have the opportunity to Zoom and have time with their teachers in the afternoon.

Dr. Pierce introduced Dr. Person from the Benton-Franklin Health Department, who shared the updated recommendation for school districts in Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco to pause their middle school and high school reopening to in-person learning.

Mr. Mabry asked if it was a possibility for the local health department to work with the District to receive quick tests. Dr. Person replied that it would be a possibility.

Ms. Sundvik asked if there was a particular metric for elementary schools to keep them open to in-person learning or move them back to online. Dr. Person explained that there is no specific metric, but they use information that they receive from individuals who test positive and contact tracing details. Ms. Sundvik asked if Dr. Person is concerned about people who may be reluctant to share information. Dr. Person commented that school settings are one place they don't have that issue because of the close communications the health department has with the schools.

President Adams commented that her concerns from the last Board meeting had been achieved, and she thanked Dr. Pierce for following up with those concerns and coming up with creative ways to meet those needs.

Dr. Pierce shared that the Board would meet again in January and would continue to look at things.

Ms. Sundvik asked if there was a specific date in January for the Board to discuss plans moving forward. Dr. Pierce replied that she is not proposing a specific date to look at opening secondary schools to in-person learning; she just meant there is a Board meeting scheduled on January 13.

Ms. Kintzley commented that she does not want to be date driven by a calendar but by the Benton-Franklin Health Departments' advice when an opening is on the horizon, and we need to meet to get students back into school as soon as possible.

Mr. Connors shared that he agreed with not being date-driven and that he wants to open schools as soon as we see the numbers drop, showing we need to reconvene directly.

Legislative Priorities

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce presented the Board with a list of legislative priorities and asked for feedback on additions or deletions to the list.

Mr. Mabry would like to see the legislator pick up some of the costs that were not funded by the state when it comes to the internet hotspots.

Ms. Sundvik agreed, and she too would like to see Wi-Fi available everywhere.

Ron Mabry made a motion to accept the legislative priorities with the addition of funding for previous costs to update internet infrastructure.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: December 16, 2020