

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
May 12, 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; 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): Cathy Guajardo, Assistant Principal Chinook Middle School

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Long Doan, Student Representative to the Board, Excused

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with 47 online guests and approximately 25 staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Certificated Employees Appreciation Week and Teacher Appreciation Day
Superintendent Dr. Pierce recognized the certificated employees and expressed appreciation for all they do in our District. Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations, presented a video to honor the certificated staff.

Dr. Pierce recognized Michaela Ledford and Kyrin Gregory, two of the District's special education teachers, named 2020 – 2021 Outstanding Educators by the Benton-Franklin counties Special Education PTA.

Dr. Pierce gave special recognition to the ATP team and all the fantastic work they are doing.

Mr. Phillips introduced Cathy Guajardo as the new principal at Canyon View Elementary School.

President Adams asked Dr. Pierce to please communicate the Board's appreciation to all the certificated staff.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Kelly McFadden, Chair for KSD Music Curriculum Advisory Committee, thanked the Board for their commitment to education and their support for Arts education in our schools. Ms. McFadden invited the Board to pass the Arts ARE Education Resolution asking the school board and cabinet members to resolve that the District will continue to fully fund and provide appropriate resources to support Arts education programs during the 2021 - 2022 school year and beyond. All Board members received a copy of a letter from Ms. McFadden.

President Adams asked that Arts are Education be placed on the upcoming retreat agenda.

Keri Hester, (online) 1914 W. 9th Avenue, Kennewick – Ms. Hester was called on to speak, but due to audio problems, Ms. Adams called on the next guest.

Gary Bullert, 222 Katie Court, Kennewick, read a statement expressing his concern regarding what he believes is the usurpation of the governing authority of local school boards by the state and federal government. He expressed his concerns that Washington state is mandating a model for social-emotional learning that functions as a platform for the indoctrination of critical race theory, and he provided a packet of materials for the Board.

President Adams asked Superintendent Dr. Pierce to share the information she had regarding Critical Race Theory in her superintendent's report.

Gab Galbraith, 5742 W. 41st Ave, Kennewick, commented on the mask mandates as he wants to keep the topic in front of the Board as they look toward the next school year. He wants to be sure our kids are not suffering from using the masks out at recess. Mr. Galbraith stated that he believes the use of masks should be optional.

Chris Price, 294 Rachel Road, Kennewick, shared that he has two kids in the Kennewick School District. Mr. Price stated that he would like to know where the District stands on the Senate Bill 5044, signed by Governor Inslee regarding critical race theory (CRT). Mr. Price expressed that he wanted to know if CRT will be taught and whether parents will have the option to have their children opt-out. Mr. Price added that he believes there is no place for CRT in our schools.

Keri Hester, (online) 1914 W. 9th Avenue, Kennewick – Ms. Hester was called on to speak, but she could not share due to continuing audio problems.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Heather Kintzley.

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 April 21, 2021
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Resolution No. 6, 2020 – 2021: Delegating Authority to WIAA 2021 – 2022
- Curriculum Adoption: Curriculum Adoption:
 - ***Outliers Non-fiction book***, author Malcolm Gladwell, published by Little Brown and Company. This material will be used in 9th grade English ½, and Honors English ½ classes at Kennewick High School.
 - ***The Misadventures of Edgar & Allan Poe***, a novel author, Gordon McAlpine, published by Puffin Books. This material will be used in 4th-grade classes at Amon Creek Elementary.
- 2020 - 2021 Certificated Contract Holders Returning for 2021 – 2022 School Year

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Pierce stated that Senate Bill 5044 passed both houses of the legislature and was signed into law. She stated that she has not yet read through the new law in fine detail and that the District is waiting for additional information from the state now that the bill has been signed into law. She shared that she does know that the new law requires districts to use one of their professional learning days to provide staff training on “cultural competency, diversity, equity or inclusion.” She stated that the law focuses on training for staff and not on the curriculum for students and that there has been similar training required for paraeducators over the past few years. The training focuses on helping staff work with a wide diversity of students. Dr. Pierce stated that she needs to read through the law in detail, but she did not see critical race theory mentioned in the law. Dr. Pierce stated that she did not have the law in front of her and that she would be happy to provide a full report for the Board at an upcoming Board meeting once the District received some additional information from the state.

Dr. Pierce provided some additional information on the upcoming June 9 Board retreat and shared information from the WSSDA facilitator regarding the School Board Self-Assessment Survey. The survey results will help the facilitator customize the session for the Board. Dr. Pierce added that she would send a follow-up email after the meeting with a link to the survey.

Dr. Pierce reminded the Board that graduation is coming up and asked each Board member to indicate which ceremonies they plan to attend on a graduation schedule document.

Diane Sundvik reported that she attended the following meetings: Weekly WSSDA Networking calls, Monthly KEY Connections meeting, Weekly WA DOH COVID media briefings, Monthly League of Urban Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Monthly Tri-Cities Racial Equity & Social Justice Coalition meeting, RSD Board meeting, and KSD ATP End of the Year celebration.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

2021 – 2022 Preliminary Budget

Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations, presented Preliminary 2021 - 2022 General Fund budget information noting changes in revenues and expenditures as compared to the presentation on April 21. The General Fund budget deficit is projected at \$10.9M. Federal Emergency Relief funding received as a result of the COVID pandemic would be used to offset the deficit. Preliminary 2021 - 2022 Capital Fund and Self-Insured Program budgets were presented. The remaining \$40.0M of bonds from the 2019 voter-approved \$125.0M construction bond will be sold in June 2021, with those funds to be deposited in the Capital Fund by the end of July. Self-insured programs reviewed included Worker's Compensation and Unemployment.

Mr. Mabry asked how confident Mr. Roberts was that the District would have mental health supports in place for high school students in the fall, and Mr. Roberts indicated he was 100% certain.

Mr. Mabry asked if he was correct in stating that the ESSER funds are not deductions to the state funding presented, and Mr. Roberts replied that Mr. Mabry was correct.

Annual K-12 Student Goal Report

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Jack Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Rob Phillips, and Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported annual district progress. Overall, results from the spring 2021 survey of students in grades 3-12 showed 89 percent of students reported feeling safe, included, and welcomed at school. While discipline attendance data for the 2019-20 school year was affected by COVID-19 school closures, data shows the districtwide discipline rate was 2.7 percent and that approximately 87 percent of students regularly attended school (with fewer than two absences per month). Overall, data shows positive progress toward meeting the "All students are safe, known and valued" goal.

President Adams commented that the report is telling and shows the District has some work to do. Mr. Phillips noted that there is a plan in place to address the areas of concern.

Ms. Sundvik commented that since students who attend Legacy do not ride the school bus but will sometimes ride a transit bus would it be possible to change the question on the survey to include feeling safe on a transit bus. Mr. Anderson replied that he thought they

could change the question to include transit.

Mr. Mabry asked if there is a way to address some of the social, economic indicators in the data. Dr. Pierce shared that the District does receive federal Title 1 funds, which are focused on helping to mitigate the effects of poverty. She also noted that the District is in the process of adopting a data system that can look at multiple factors of student data.

President Adams excused Board member Michael Connors at 7:01 p.m.

Academic & Student Well-Being Recovery Plan

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported that districts must complete an Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan to access Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding. Dr. Pierce explained that the plan is focused on addressing academic recovery and acceleration for students. The plan will be a three-phase plan beginning June 2021. Dr. Pierce concluded by sharing a timeline, with the plan presented for Board approval on May 26.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

English Language Arts (ELA) Electives Curriculum Materials Adoption, Grades 11-12

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development, Matt Scott, reported on the ELA electives curriculum adoption process and recommended Board approval.

Motion by Ron Mabry to approve all materials as presented by the English Language Arts High School Electives Adoption Committees, with input from parents and community members.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote:	Adams	Yes
	Kintzley	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Connors (Absent)	
	Sundvik	Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: May 26, 2021