

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Remote Board Meeting  
March 24, 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): Ryan Jones, Capital Projects Manager  
Lori McCord, Principal, Highlands Middle School  
Abby Mattson, Assistant Director, Career & Technical Education  
Lupe Mares, Executive Director, Communities in Schools (CIS)  
Athena Miranda, CIS Site Coordinator, Highlands Middle School  
Brenda Gonzalez, Program Director, CIS

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 691 staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

National Board Certified Teachers

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Doug Christensen recognized Dominique Cook, Jeremy Holbrook, Rebecca Melone, Jessica Reyes, and Julie Troxel for receiving National Board Teacher certification.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Mike Vickery, 2829 S. Dawes Pl, Kennewick, commented on the three-foot distancing rule and students returning to full-time school. Mr. Vickery added that while eating lunches, students must still maintain six-foot distancing.

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 March 10, 2021
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Out of endorsement Teacher Plans 2020 - 2021
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending February 28, 2021
- Budget Status Report Ending February 28, 2021
- Curriculum Adoption:
  - *Master Harold...And the Boys*, a play, Author, Athol Fugard, published by Vintage Books. This material will be used in a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-IB course at Kennewick High School.
  - *Great Expectations: The Graphic Novel*, Author, Charles Dickens, adaptation by Jen Green and Joe Sutliff Sanders, published by Classical Comics Ltd. This material will be used in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Honors classes at Kennewick High School.

## SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Ron Mabry reported that he attended a productive meeting with state legislators and representatives last week, noting that they have our list of concerns and are on Board and agree with them.

Diane Sundvik shared that she too attended the state legislators meeting along with the 8<sup>th</sup> LD Legislative Town Hall, League of Education Voters (LEV) Principals Across WA State in the Time of COVID, LEV webinar with SPI Reykdal, KEY Connections, Richland School District Board meeting, weekly DOH media briefings, and weekly WSSDA Networking calls.

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Communities In Schools

Abby Mattson, Assistant Director, Career & Technical Education, introduced Lupe Mares, Executive Director, Communities in Schools (CIS). Ms. Mares shared how CIS ensures every student, regardless of race, zip code, or socioeconomic background, has what they need to realize their potential in school and beyond. Ms. Mares reported that through March of 2020 – 2021 number of student-managed cases was 146. Brenda

Gonzalez, Program Director, shared quotes about the program from two of our schools. Lori McCord, Principal of Highlands Middle School, highlighted the partnership that CIS has with Highlands Middle School. Athena Miranda, the CIS Site Coordinator at Highlands, highlighted the Highlands Scottie Shop, where students have a safe and welcoming environment to check in with another trusted adult and receive items they need. Ms. Miranda shared virtual examples of how they have been able to reach out to support students.

Middle and High School Hybrid Learning, Safety Assessment Results, Updated Hybrid Schedules, and Updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce presented an overview and data associated with secondary hybrid learning, followed by the findings/results, recommendations, and summary of the third-party review/safety assessment by NV5 Dade Moeller. Dr. Pierce shared updated hybrid schedules for middle and high school students with expanded access to in-person learning. The new middle and high school schedules that were discussed and developed with KEA would be implemented immediately following spring break on April 12. Dr. Pierce added that KEA members are voting this week, and we should have final information communicated with families on Monday, March 29. Next, Dr. Pierce reviewed the updated CDC Guidance as of Friday, March 19. In anticipation of potential updated state and local guidance, the District is proactively planning with principals and working with local employee bargaining units to negotiate updated agreements. A recommendation was made for the Board to authorize the District to implement a full-time, in-person learning model.

Heather Kintzley asked if the new schedule was necessary if the 3-foot distancing rule occurs. Dr. Pierce replied the new schedule was scheduled to be implemented immediately after spring break, and the full-day hybrid schedules would then transition to full-day schedules five days per week when the full-time, in-person learning model is implemented.

Long Doan, Student Representative to the Board, asked if free lunches would continue if we changed to a full-time model. Dr. Pierce explained that free breakfast and lunch would continue through the school year and throughout the summer.

Ms. Sundvik asked about the length of time to order tables and chairs and the cost. Dr. Pierce explained that the District is working on numbers and timelines, with items purchased out of ESSER funds.

Heather Kintzley made a motion to authorize the District implementation of a full-time, in-person learning model contingent upon when the Washington State Department of Health and the Benton-Franklin Health District allows for reduction of the 6-foot distancing rule to 3 feet.

Seconded by Mike Connors.

President Adams commented that every time we change the school day, it requires transition for students, families and staff. Dr. Pierce explained that the expanded hybrid schedules for middle and high school have students on campus a full day two days per week, which will

be an easy transition when the district moves from the hybrid learning model to the full-time, in-person learning model five days per week.

Mr. Connors asked if the district is looking at the hybrid model expansion to happen on April 12, and asked if it practical to think the district could be full-time by April 19. Dr. Pierce shared that the district first needs to receive the updated guidance from the state, develop plans, and continue productive negotiations with KEA planning and logistics before a specific date for implementation can be communicated..

Ms. Sundvik asked if the District has enough para support staff to separate students for lunch and recess. Dr. Pierce replied that it might involve additional hours and staff and that the district can use ESSER funds, which are one-time dollars to help us in this situation.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

#### Asset Preservation

Capital Projects Manager Ryan Jones reviewed the District's Asset Preservation Program required by OSPI to demonstrate that districts maintain the taxpayers' investment in their buildings through their infrastructure and operations. One of the state's requirements is to ensure a certified evaluator completes a building condition evaluation every six years. Mr. Jones reported that the evaluation was completed in March of 2020. He then reviewed the building assessment scores.

#### Budget Update 2021 - 20222

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts gave a refresher of last year's adopted 2020 – 2021 budget, along with preliminary estimates for the 2021-2022 General Fund budget. Lost revenue related to students not attending school was discussed and included enrollment and transportation funding decreases for school year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Projected revenues were reviewed with an implicit price deflator estimated at 2.0%. Property tax collections and staff cost increases were also reviewed. Projections using the budgeted enrollment for school year 2020-2021 showed a budget deficit of \$9.4M. Projections accounting for lost enrollment, transportation and special education funding showed a projected deficit of \$16.07M. It was indicated that ESSER funding would be used to backfill the deficit and projected deficits over the next two years. Legislation session funding items and the 2021 – 2022 budget timeline were also reviewed.

Ms. Sundvik shared that the legislature talked about transportation funding and going back to 2019 – 2020 enrollment numbers. Mr. Roberts replied that the legislature is discussing ways to help with transportation funding, but they may require districts to first

use their ESSER fund allocation to address any funding gaps. It was noted that Kennewick School District is projected to receive close to \$58.0M of ESSER funding.

District Website Update

Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations, Robyn Chastain, presented an update on the new website development with an estimated launch date for the district site design to be the end of April and the school sites to launch at the end of May.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Grades 6 – 11 English Language Arts (ELA) Core Adoption

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development, Matt Scott, presented the ELA adoption committee’s process, the adoption parameters, the selection criteria, and the four publishers considered. The adoption committee overwhelmingly recommended McGraw Hill’s “StudySync” as the preferred curriculum instructional resource. Mr. Scott shared comments from the committee, parents, and community. The ELA Adoption Committee, with input from parents and community members, recommended McGraw Hill “StudySync” for adoption as the core curricular materials for 6-10<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts courses and the Grade 11 American Literature elective course.

Motion made by Heather Kintzley to approve the McGraw Hill “StudySync” for adoption as the core curricular materials for 6 – 10<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts courses and the Grade 11 American Literature elective course.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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RECORDING SECRETARY

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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Approved: April 21, 2021

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SECRETARY OF THE BOARD