

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
February 23, 2022

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Michael Connors, President of the Board; Ron Mabry, Vice President of the Board; Diane Sundvik, Legislative Representative of the Board; Micah Valentine, Board Member (attending remotely); Gabe Galbraith, Board Member; Zachary Glenn, 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
Bronson Brown, District Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 301 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

National Board-Certified Teachers

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Doug Christensen recognized twelve teachers who renewed their National Board Certification and teachers Morgan Gamboa and Kaycee Ferguson for newly earning their National Board Certification.

Career and Technical Education Month

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce presented information on Kennewick School District's Career and Technical Education offerings in recognition of Career and Technical Education Month.

School Bus Driver Appreciation Week

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared statistics from April Heiser, Director of Transportation, recognizing School Bus Driver Appreciation Week.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Chris Kenoyer, 330 Casey Ave, Richland; commented on the mask mandate and stated that teachers are not abusing children.

Aurora Salis, 4503 S. Underwood Pl; commented on the need to implement a school policy against hatred of the LGBTQ community and stated that people should stop making hateful comments.

Suzanne Grandinetti, 4110 S. Irby St; commented on the need for the school board to implement policies where inappropriate comments can be addressed and that the policies for transgender students can be updated to follow OSPI.

David Hall, 639 Cullum #135, Richland; shared a story on crying wolf and commented on making masks optional.

Katherine Chumney, 2508 S. Grant St; commented on the need for the levy and for support staff.

Jason Goodwin, 4512 S. Dayton Ct.; commented on the proclamation to support senate and house bills that limit governors' powers and commented on why he believes the levy did not pass. He thanked the Board for supporting Tri-Tech Skills Center.

Sue Ingraham, 1206 W. 15th Ave; thanked the School Board President, School Board Members, and Superintendent for doing the right thing regarding the mask mandate knowing what the legal ramifications would be for children if the mandate is not followed. She stated that the goal for education is to serve all kids.

Scott Rogers, 2001 S. Edison St; shared his opinions on the importance of following the mask mandate and knowingly breaking the law.

Tina Gregory, 5208 W. 10th Ave; commented on her opposition to the mask mandate. She encouraged the Board to follow the constitution and stated there is still no FDA-approved vaccine for COVID-19.

JoJo Davis, 4300 W. 15th Ave; commented on Highlands Middle School and equity for all children. She invited the Board to visit Highlands Middle School and talk with the students and to visit the neighborhoods where the students live.

Marianne Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave; commented on her belief that students should have a choice to wear a mask even if staff are required to wear them not to lose insurance.

McKinnon Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave; commented on the United States Constitution and reminded the Board of their oath to support the constitution.

Annette Rose, 633 S. Young St.; commented on the United States Constitution and the

levy.

Claudia Johnson commented on harassment directed towards the transgender students and encouraged the Board to enact a policy to ensure transgender students are safe.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting February 9, 2022
- Minutes of Special School Board Meeting February 16, 2022
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Budget Status Report Ending January 31, 2022
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending September 30, 2020
- Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2021 - 2022

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reminded parents of the opportunity for families to access free tutoring with Varsity Tutors for students in grades 4-12. She stated that the district is using ESSER dollars to help support students and to provide the tutoring program.

Student Representative to the Board, Zachary Glenn, reported that he attended the Richland School District School Board meeting and the WSSDA Student Representative Network, where he was able to and vote on some of the issues.

Micah Valentine reported that he appreciated meeting with Kennewick School District administrators and being able to talk about parents in schools.

Gabe Galbraith reported that he toured five schools and was impressed by the students' eagerness to share with him. He thanked the administrators whose schools he visited.

Diane Sundvik reported that, as the Board's legislative representative, she sent emails to the 8th Legislative District representatives and senator regarding E2SSB 5155 Prejudgment Interest on Tort Claims and HB 1590 Enrollment Stabilization Funding. Ms.

Sundvik shared that she attended the following meetings: WSSDA State-wide Networking Webinars (Zoom); League of Education Voters (LEV) LEVinar “Student Perspective on Washington’s Professional Educators Standards Board (PESB) Draft for Cultural Competency, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Standards (Zoom); Tri Cities Racial Equity and Social Justice Coalition monthly meeting (Zoom); WSSDA Budget Training webinar (Zoom); RSD emergency school board meetings (Zoom); League of Education Voters (LEV) LEVinar “Student activists from across Washington state share how current school year is going for them, what they need now to make things better, and ways to advocate to make it happen.” (Zoom); Gov. Inslee’s Press Conference regarding date for removal of mask mandate (TVW); KEY (Kennewick Empowering Youth) Connections monthly meeting (Zoom); RSD regular board meeting (Zoom); and the Washington State Auditor’s Office entrance interview for the KSD annual audit (Teams). Ms. Sundvik also shared that she spoke with Vic Roberts regarding ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) accessible playground equipment.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

2021 – 2022 Budget Update

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts presented an update on the 2021-22 general fund budget and the outlook for 2022-23. The general fund currently has a deficit of about \$10.4 million because of lower-than-budgeted enrollment and other factors. However, federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding and possibly additional state funding will offset the deficit. In 2022-23, enrollment is projected to slowly increase. The district will continue to use ESSER funding and the fund balance to offset the projected budget deficit over the next two years.

Capital Projects Update – Ridge View

Ryan Jones Capital Projects Manager reported on Kennewick High School Phase III, which is currently in construction and includes a soccer field, staff parking lot, and baseball field; Project completion is set for summer 2022. Mr. Jones presented architect designs for the new Ridge View Elementary School with a target open date of December 2023.

Board members asked Mr. Jones to look into security at the Fruitland Building, which will house elementary students during the construction of the new Ridge View Elementary School.

Mask Update

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported that the statewide mask mandate ends on March 21. At that time, masks will be optional but not required in schools. Due to a federal mandate, masks will still be required on buses. Dr. Pierce noted that the district is committed to a smooth transition and will work to ensure that families, students, and staff can freely make the mask choice that is best for them. Until March 21, the district will continue to follow mask laws and mandates for schools as it prepares for "masks optional."

Mr. Galbraith asked Dr. Pierce for another mask update at the next Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Vaccine

Dr. Pierce provided information on the Washington State Board of Health's technical advisory group process for making a recommendation to the state Board of Health regarding whether COVID-19 vaccination should be added to the list of the vaccines required for school enrollment.

Dr. Pierce and Bronson Brown presented a draft resolution opposing adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of required immunizations was presented for Board consideration. The resolution has been submitted to the state Board of Health.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to approve Resolution No. 9, 2021-2022: Opposing Required COVID-19 Vaccines of Students.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 8, 2021-2022: Educational Programs and Operations Levy

Dr. Pierce and Vic Roberts presented levy survey information and an updated draft levy resolution for a two-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy for the April 26 ballot.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to approve Resolution No. 8, 2021-2022: Educational Programs and Operations Levy.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Pierce presented the names of the people who submitted interest in writing “For” statement for the voters’ pamphlet in support of the Educational Programs and Operations Levy. No names were submitted for the “Against” committee.

Motion by Gabe Galbraith to approve the Board appointing the following individuals to serve as the committee to write the “For” statement for the levies for the voters’ pamphlet: Mary Lynn Merriman, Jan Fraley, and Pat Mastaler.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda. Per Board request, an update on masks will be added to the list of items below.

- A. 2022-23 Preliminary Budget
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Family/Parent Involvement and Engagement Efforts
- D. Action Plan: School Drinking Water (RCW 28A.201.410)

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: March 9, 2022