

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
December 8, 2021

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Ron Mabry, Legislative Representative of the Board; Michael Connors, Board Member; Diane Sundvik, Board Member; Micah Valentine, Board Member; 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): Mike Johnson, Principal Delta High School
Paul Randall, Principal Tri-Tech Skills Center
Paul Osborne, Principal Legacy High School
Attorney Bronson Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Legislative Representative of the Board Ron Mabry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 182 staff and guests in attendance, including online and in person.

OATH OF OFFICE

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce administered the oath of office to newly elected Board members Gabe Galbraith and Micah Valentine.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was held per RCW 28A.330.010.

President

Michael Connors was nominated for President by Micah Valentine and seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:	Mabry	Yes
	Connors	Yes

Sundvik	Yes
Valentine	Yes
Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Vice President

Ron Mabry was nominated for Vice-President by Diane Sundvik and seconded by Micah Valentine.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Legislative Representative

Micah Valentine was nominated for Legislative Representative by Gabe Galbraith.

Diane Sundvik was nominated for Legislative Representative by Ron Mabry.

Nominations closed.

Roll call vote for Micah Valentine:	Connors	No
	Mabry	No
	Sundvik	No
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 2-3.

Roll call vote for Diane Sundvik:	Connors	yes
	Mabry	yes
	Sundvik	yes
	Valentine	no
	Galbraith	no

Motion carried 3-2.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Jeff Dress, 83674 Country Heights Drive, Kennewick, commented that it is time to remove masks as he believes they do more harm than good.

Stephanie Galbraith, 5742 West 41st Ave., Kennewick, commented that children are not

doing okay mentally. She indicated that students are being shamed for not wearing masks properly. She noted that teachers are docking grades for students not wearing masks properly.

Jo Jo Davis, 4300 West 15th Ave, Kennewick, commented on the need for a new Highlands Middle School building, and she shared concerns about the new track, crosswalks, and parking lots. Ms. Davis noted that the Highlands staff is excellent, and she stated that she would like the best for Highland students like the district has done for all other students.

Ms. Sundvik asked for a follow-up by the District on Ms. Davis's concerns.

Annette Rose, 6335 Young Street, Kennewick, commented that as a parent, she felt very unheard in the last year in a half as she sent many emails and did not receive a response from anyone. Ms. Rose stated that she has signatures of thousands of parents that want the mask mandate revoked. She said that parents and School Boards should have a common goal of assuring the best education possible for our children.

Deb Puku, 809 S. Nelson, Kennewick, asked the Board to share with parents the primary justification for forcing the wearing of masks and any evidence that masks and vaccines work.

Dustin Petersen, 2003 S. Neel Street, Kennewick, commented against wearing masks and asked the Board members to advocate for reform of the mask mandate.

Cedro Rodriguez, 193707 E. 30th, Kennewick, commented that there are no exemptions or opt-outs for students regarding vaccines or testing twice a week to participate in sports or cheerleading. Mr. Rodriguez indicated that there are not many choices for students and families. He stated that he believes it's time to find out what's going on and take action.

Mr. Valentine requested a follow-up on student options.

Lynda Trumpour, 144 Bear Drive, Richland, shared her perspective on masks and vaccines.

Megan Benedict, 3981 S. McKinley Street, Kennewick, commented that it is no secret that grades are down due to the pandemic. She stated that she does not believe that schools should be doing open book tests, group tests, and test retakes. Ms. Benedict added that she believes students should not eat lunch without a table.

Nikky Sesslee, 84009 W. Ole, Kennewick, commented that we have lived in fear and compliance too long; she believes parents are the final authority when it comes to children, and parents will not co-parent with the government or other authorities.

Amanda Brown, 4503 Cactus Ct., Pasco, shared that she is a teacher at Fuerza Elementary School. She stated that she has been teaching her students how we elect officials. The students have learned that we have rules in place that govern our society to

be safe. Ms. Brown thanked the Board for enforcing the rules of mask-wearing and vaccines.



David Hall, 639 Cullum #135, Richland, commented on mask mandates and how there is talk about diversity and equity, yet we offer no choice.

John Trumbo wanted to encourage the Board to work together and secondly to say that he is not in favor of a mask mandate, but he is wearing the mask out of courtesy to everyone by his choice.

Brandy Taylor, 6825 W. Kennewick Ave #4, commented that she believes the mandates need to go. She stated that she does not feel it is okay for students to have to choose to get a test or vaccine to attend the homecoming dance.

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 November 17, 2021
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2021-22
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending September 30, 2020
- Budget Status Report Year Ending August 31, 2021
- Budget Status Report Ending September 30, 2021
- Kennewick Association of Education Support Professionals (KAESP) contract 2021 – 2023
- Resolution No. 4, 2021 – 2022: Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants
- Resolution No. 5, 2021 – 2022: Tri-Tech Skills Center – Growth Project Commissioning Report Acceptance
- Resolution No. 6, 2021 – 2022: Racial Balance for the New-In-Lieu Construction Project of Ridge View Elementary School
- Curriculum Adoption:
 - ***Introducing Anthropology, textbook.*** Author, Laura Pountney and Tomislav Maric, published by Polity Press. This material will be used in 11th and 12th grade IB Social and Cultural Anthropology Classes at Kennewick High School.

- *The Trobriander's of Papua New Guinea, book.* Author, Annette B. Weiner, published by Cengage Learning. This material will be used in 11th and 12th grade IB Social and Cultural Anthropology classes at Kennewick High School.
- 2021 – 2022 High School ASB Fees and Yearbook Prices

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared a message from outgoing President Dawn Adams. Dr. Pierce then gave an update on the consultation with the Yakama Nation Tribal Council. She shared that, as a result of the district's consultation with the Tribal Council, they decided to pass a resolution to allow Kamiakin High School to continue to use the Braves mascot for the next year while the district and tribe continue the consultation process per Substitute House Bill 1356. Dr. Pierce updated the Board on the legislative priorities and shared that she would proceed to get meetings scheduled with the Board President and Legislative Representative and our legislators before the start of the legislative session on January 10.

Student Representative to the Board, Zachary Glenn, reported on the Kennewick High School food drive and the Superintendent Student Advisory Council meeting held on December 1. Zachary shared that he was able to attend the WSSDA Annual Conference and has been able to network with students across the state.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported that he attended the WSSDA Annual Conference.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported that he attended the WSSDA Annual Conference.

Board Member Diane Sundvik reported that she attended the following meetings: Professional Educators Standards Board meeting; WSSDA Annual Conference 11/19-20 (Zoom); KEY Connections Youth monthly meeting (Zoom); Ben Franklin Transit Mobility Access Taskforce Dial-A-Ride subgroup meeting (Zoom); Education Week Webinar-Helping English-Learners Through Improved Parent Outreach & Strategies That Work (Zoom); Washington State Joint Legislature Audit & Review Committee; School Employees Benefits Board meeting (TVW); WA DOH COVID19 briefing (TVW); Gov. Inslee press conference-Budget/COVID19/Long-Term Care Tax update (TVW); Ben Franklin Transit Mobility Access Taskforce committee meeting (Zoom); Richland School District Board workshop (partial) (Zoom); WSSDA Legislative Representatives Learn-Funding/Allocations with TJ Kelly (OSPI Chief Financial Officer), Dan Steele (WASA Assistant Executive Director), Daniel Lunghofer (WSSDA Accountant), and J. Lee Schultz (State Board of Education).

Dr. Pierce asked if it would be possible to have Principal Mike Johnson and Skills Center Director Paul Randall give their presentations next, before Mr. Roberts's presentation. President Connors agreed.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Delta High School

Dr. Pierce introduced Delta High School Principal Mike Johnson, who presented the annual update on the school, which is a partnership among the Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco school districts. Delta is a small public high school that draws students from all three districts and incorporates science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) into all subjects. Mr. Johnson reported that the school has an enrollment of 417 students, including 153 students from Kennewick.

Tri-Tech Skills Center

Superintendent Pierce introduced Tri-Tech Skills Center Paul Randall, who presented the annual report on the cooperative skills center that the Kennewick School District hosts. Mr. Randall reported that the school has an enrollment of 814 students, including 294 students from Kennewick. Tri-Tech has about 20 preparatory Career & Technical Education programs, ranging from autobody technology and construction trades to cosmetology, culinary arts, game design, and pre-nursing.

2020 – 2021 Financial Close-out

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts presented an overview of the district's finances as of the end of 2020-21. Approximately \$12.6 million in federal ESSER funding (meant to offset pandemic losses and expenses) helped with an enrollment dip and with expenses, such as the district's new online learning options. In 2021-22, the district used ESSER funding to add online/Endeavor High School staff, nurse/health room support, student mental health support, and maintain staffing in elementary and middle schools during the pandemic-related enrollment decline. The district ended the year with a fund balance of \$44,194,774.

Board discussion followed with Dr. Pierce stating that she would follow up with more information for the Board on tutoring services.

KSD Learner Profile

Superintendent Pierce noted that a draft of the KSD Learner Profile would be shared during the board retreat. Dr. Pierce then shared the purpose of a Learner Profile and reviewed the phases of development.

Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development, then shared an update on the district's progress toward completing a KSD Learner Profile that defines key digital citizenship, social, life, and employment skills necessary for students to learn. A design team was assembled in early 2021 and worked to research, create and revise the profile. Mr. Scott shared that a draft is expected to be shared with the Board on January 12.

Thunderbird Mascot Renaming

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Jack Anderson presented the background leading up to the renaming of the mascot at Legacy High School and the district policy for naming school district facilities and school mascots. Legacy Principal Paul Osborne reported on the process of renaming the mascot. A committee comprised of staff and students were chosen, along with a community input survey. After careful consideration and thoughtful deliberation, the naming committee recommended that the mascot of Legacy High School be changed to the Ravens.

Motion by Ron Mabry to approve the mascot of Legacy High School be changed to the Ravens.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: January 26, 2022