

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
January 26, 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; 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): Attorney Bronson Brown
Molly Lutz, Safety and Loss Prevention

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 671 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce read Governor Inslee's proclamation naming January School Board Recognition Month. Dr. Pierce shared that each Board member received a certificate from the Washington State School Directors' Association and thank you cookies from the Kennewick School District. Appreciation posters from different schools were displayed during the School Board meeting for the Board members.

Fall Sports

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Jack Anderson introduced the athletic directors from Southridge, Kennewick, and Kamiakin high schools, who recognized some of their outstanding coaches and fall sports athletes. Those identified included cross country and football athletes from both Kennewick and Kamiakin high schools and e-sports athletes from Southridge high school.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

David Hall, 639 Cullum Ave. #135, Richland stated that he opposes vaccine and mask mandates and overreach by the government. He stated he believes in individual choice.

Kennedy Rose, 633 S. Young Street, stated that she opposes mask mandate and that it should be a choice to wear a mask.

Annette Rose, 633 S. Young Street, shared a handout with board members; she stated she opposes mask mandates.

Jared Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave, commented on how students are intimidated into wearing masks. Mr. Bloxham noted that no one asked students why they were not wearing a mask during the protest at Southridge High School.

Marianne Bloxham, 390 W. 46th Ave, shared a handout regarding a study on mask side effects; she stated she opposes mask mandate.

Karma, 3301 S. Lincoln Street, shared that she attends Southridge High School. She commented on school issues and shared that she opposes the mask mandate.

Makenna Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave, stated that she opposes the forced mask mandate. She encouraged board members to use their voices to advocate for students.

Tina Gregory, 5208 West 10th Ave, stated that she opposes mask mandates and believes the risks outweigh the benefits.

Rachel Sambrano demonstrated a machine that monitors air quality. Ms. Sambrano turned on a device that showed clean air quality. She then placed a tube from the device under her mask and stated that the machine showed the air quality was no longer clean.

Brock Harris, 3505 S. Johnson Street, attends Southridge High School. He stated that he opposes mask mandates and believes people should have a choice.

Danika Galbraith, 5742 West 41st Ave., Kennewick, stated that she opposes mask mandates.

Asha Vaughn, 5502 West 41st Ave., stated opposition to mask mandate and that she believes students should be given a choice.

Benancio Garcia, P.O. Box 714, Sunnyside, shared that he is running for Congress because he feels freedoms are being taken away. Mr. Garcia added that the district should stop choosing money over families.

Lynda Trumpour, 144 Bear Drive, stated that she opposes mask mandates.

JoJo Davis, 4300 W. 15th Ave., Kennewick, commented on the need for mental health

therapists in our middle schools. Ms. Davis shared that Kennewick School District only has Mental Health therapists in the high schools and elementary schools. Ms. Davis added a thank you to Gabe Galbraith for reaching out to the Principal at Highlands Middle School.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

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 December 8, 2021
- Minutes of School Board Retreat January 12, 2022
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Budget Status Report Ending October 31, 2021
- Budget Status Report Ending November 30, 2021
- Budget Status Report Ending December 31, 2021
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending December 31, 2021
- Foreign Exchange Agencies and Coordinators for 2022 - 2023

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Representative to the Board, Zachary Glenn, reported that he participated in three Student Representative Network WSSDA meetings from across the state; spoke at the WSSDA Legislative Committee; was part of two of the four students to record videos during the WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference, and was asked to speak on the importance of additional staffing allocations, social-emotional supports and the importance of student's voice. Zachary shared that he was asked to testify on behalf of WSSDA on Senate Bill 5798, which expands the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), and he was able to meet with local legislators.

Gabe Galbraith shared that he visited six schools and was impressed by what he saw in the schools, noting that teachers are doing a great job, but he missed seeing students' smiles. Mr. Galbraith added that in partnership with Richland School Board member Audra Byrd, he authored a letter individually with 150 School Board Directors across the state who have signed on to that letter to make masks optional. He stated that he would be sending the letter to the governor and Superintendent Reykdal.

Micah Valentine shared that he visited schools and that he believes that the boards' job is to protect students. He stated that the true pandemic that harms our kids is isolation, anxiety, depression, self-harm, fear, lack of learning, and lack of intellectual development. Mr. Valentine added that more harm to children should not be accepted in exchange for less harm to adults. He shared that he has visited with the school counselors, and they say the real issue is mental health. Mr. Valentine then shared the following ideas: declaration encouraging masks not to be worn outside; preventable health such as giving vitamin D, C, and zinc; not cutting out PE; having parents in schools every day to present a united front; loosening local restrictions including testing.

Board Member Diane Sundvik reported she participated in meeting with 8th LD Reps. Boehnke and Klippert and Sen. Brown along with Dr. Pierce, Board President Connors and Student Representative Zachary Glenn; JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee); School Employees Benefits Board; COVID19 Remote School; Racial Equity (TVW); WSSDA Legislative Representatives Learn; Ben Franklin Transit Mobility Access Task Force; Racial Equity and Social Justice Monthly Meeting; OSPI Reykdal State of K-12 press conference; League of Education Voters "What to Expect in the 2022 Legislative Session;" WSSDA Monthly Networking Call; WA Dept. of Health COVID19 briefing (TVW) (two briefings); WSSDA District Area 11 Regional Meeting to prepare for the Legislative Conference and Week on the Hill; and KEY Connection Youth monthly meeting.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Staff Safety Report

Mollie Lutz presented an annual safety report on OSHA recordable injuries, OSHA accepted claims, and Safe Schools training. Ms. Lutz reported that OSHA recordable injuries for the calendar year 2021 were 52 claims, and time-loss injuries were six. She noted that accepted claims for 2020-2021 were 32. Ms. Lutz reported that 99.97% of staff completed the Safe Schools online training tailored to the employees' job.

COVID-19 Updates

Dr. Pierce expressed appreciation for all KSD staff members for their continued hard work as the district navigates all things related to COVID-19. Along with Attorney Bronson Brown, she presented a COVID-19 update that touched on shared board priorities; current staff focus aligned with those board priorities; COVID-related state mandates, requirements, and laws for K-12 schools; funding and legal implications; and local board authority and advocacy.

Board discussion followed.

Micah Valentine made a motion for the Board to create a resolution to support Senate Bill 5039, Senate Bill 5909, and House Bill 1772.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Mr. Mabry commented that he would like the motion to include time to study the bills; to hear the pros and cons.

Ms. Sundvik shared that anyone can very quickly go online to read the bills, comment on the bills, and choose to support or oppose the bills. She stated that, should the Board go forward with a resolution, it should be well thought out and planned.

Ron Mabry made a motion to amend the motion made by Micah Valentine to say the Board will study bills SB5039, SB5909, and HB1772 and will decide whether to support these bills or any other bills similar to these.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Get to Know Kennewick Schools

Ms. Robyn Chastain, executive director of communications and public relations, provided an update on the district's Get to Know Kennewick Schools program, which started several years ago as an in-person event and has transitioned to a series of produced recorded videos. The topics are chosen based on the district's Family Engagement Survey results and frequently asked questions from families.

KSD Learner Profile

Mr. Matt Scott, assistant superintendent of curriculum, assessment, and professional development, presented a draft of the district's Learner Profile to define critical digital citizenship, social, life, and employment skills students should have when they graduate. Board members were asked to provide feedback to bring to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Compensation (Policy 1532)

Dr. Pierce explained that Policy 1532, regarding Board Member Compensation, requires the Board annually to vote to accept or waive compensation allowed under state law for attending official School Board meetings.

Board Discussion followed. Executive Director of Business Services, Vic Roberts, answered questions and stated that he would look into whether waived compensation

could be earmarked for other programs.

Diane Sundvik made a motion to waive annual compensation to Board Members as allowed in Policy 1532.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Michael Connors announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 9:00 p.m. and moved the Board into executive session for approximately 30 minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to conduct the Superintendent and Cabinet Performance Review. Mr. Connors noted that no further formal action would be taken.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Connors reconvened the regular session of the Board at 9:23 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: February 9, 2022