

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
February 9, 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): Endeavor High School Principal Paul Osborne
Attorney Bronson Brown
Tri-Tech Skills Center Director Paul Randall
Special Services Director Lexie Buschbach

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 405 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Superintendent Dr. Pierce read a proclamation from the American School Counselor Association recognizing February 7-11 as National School Counseling Week. Dr. Pierce thanked the Kennewick School District school counselors for their hard work.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Dustin Petersen, 2003 S. Neel St., commented on why he voted the way he did on the school levies and encouraged the Board to pass a resolution stating where they stand on the vaccine mandate.

Marissa Haverluk, 8 W. 48th Ave., commented on masks and how they have not negatively impacted her.

Olivia Chambers, 1519 W. 39th Ave, commented that she is thankful to be attending school in person and thanked the Board for keeping her safe.

Janet Chavez, 4111 W. Metaline Ave., thanked the Board for keeping everyone safe by

keeping the mask mandate in place.

Jackson Clary, 12802 Cottonwood Creek Blvd, commented on keeping schools open, even with a mask mandate.

Simran Matharu, 3215 W. 42nd Pl, commented that she wants schools open even if students have to wear masks.

Aurora Solis, 4503 S. Underwood Pl, commented that she favors wearing masks inside our schools.

Lindsey Linnoff, 14201 S. Haney Rd., shared why she wants the mask mandate removed immediately. Ms. Linnoff added that it has come to her attention that boys are being allowed to use the girl's restrooms at Southridge High School.

David Hall, 639 Cullum Ave. #135, Richland commented on opposition to mask mandate.

Jerad Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave., Kennewick, commented on the mask mandate; he believes it is time to abandon the mask mandate and let it be an individual choice.

MaryAnn Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave., Kennewick, commented on student mental health and how enforcing masks were never a part of her job description as a school employee.

Bailey Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave., Kennewick, commented on bullying and harassment from students and staff of those not wearing a mask or not pulling the mask up.

Kasen Spinney, 8608 W. Imnaha Ave., Kennewick, commented that his message is simple: he stated that wearing a mask does not hinder his ability to learn, nor is he being oppressed for having to wear one for long periods.

McKinnon Bloxham, 3906 W. 46th Ave., Kennewick, commented that she refuses to be a bystander to the bullying that so many students face today and feels there needs to be accountability.

Annette Rose, 633 S. Young Street, commented that none of the vaccines are FDA approved. She stated that there is no safety data, and vaccines have not stopped transmission or infection of COVID-19.

Jennifer Holdman commented that she is a KSD teacher and feels the District priorities have gone away from the District's mission and what is best for students. Ms. Holdman shared that currently, KSD is sticking to the grade-level curriculum, yet so much has been missed in the last two years. She stated that the priority should be to get students up to grade level in reading, writing, and math.

Jo Jo Davis, 4300 W. 15th Ave., asked the Board members to look at what they can do economically for students at Highlands Middle School. She asked the Board to stop

making school boundaries based on neighborhoods because it takes money from our schools every time beautiful new schools are built. She stated that she wants to give every school an economic chance.

Amanda Brown, 4503 Cactus Ct., Pasco, commented on the teacher substitute shortage. She advocated for higher teacher substitute pay.

Jolene Szendre, 8902 W. 10th, asked the District not to mandate the vaccine but let parents choose what is best for their children. Ms. Szendre shared that she would pull her children from the KSD if the vaccine were mandated.

Deb Puku, 708 St. Nelson Street, commented on students being enveloped in fear over the past two years because authority figures echo the same lines about masks. Ms. Puku stated that science teachers need to teach students real science, germ theory, or immune systems.

Kadie Anderson, 1867 S. Honeysuckle St., commented on protesting the mask mandate and freedom of choice for all students. Ms. Anderson shared that teachers have begun selective enforcement and have become mask police. She stated that the mandate that says masks are required in the school buildings is not a law. She stated that she attended a varsity basketball game last Friday; about 75% of the people watching the game weren't wearing masks or were wearing them incorrectly, including teachers. She feels that the school prioritizes sports attendance over being in class for an education.

Tina Gregory commented that she is here to talk about the unlawful mask mandate and how masks are dangerous to our health.

Rachel Sambano demonstrated with an air monitor that she believes we breathe bad air by wearing masks.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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| 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 School Board Meeting January 26, 2022
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular

- Superintendent Contract 2022 – 2025
- Resolution No. 7, 2021-2022: Authorize Sale of Surplus Property

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Pierce commented that she would be presenting later tonight on COVID-19 and sharing some encouraging announcements from the state regarding the mask mandate. Dr. Pierce then updated everyone on the two levies, sharing that the Replacement Technology Levy was passing, but the Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy was currently not passing. She reported that election validation would be February 18, and once the outcome of the election was final, she would work with staff and the Board to determine the next steps. Dr. Pierce explained how the District remains committed to providing for the academic well-being of students. The District has contracted with Comprehensive Health for Mental Health Therapists, offers free tutoring with Varsity Tutors for students grades 4-12, has expanded summer school, and offers transitional kindergarten at Washington and Amistad Elementary Schools.

Student Representative to the Board, Zachary Glenn, reported on three meetings with WSSDA that he was able to be a part of and shared what he heard from students who attended the Superintendent Student Advisory Council.

Diane Sundvik reported that she attended the following meetings: WSSDA Networking Webinar (Zoom); WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Priorities Conference (4 hours Zoom); WSSDA Virtual Day on the Hill with Representative Klippert with Richland and Ki-Be school board legislative representatives and Ki-Be Superintendent Peterson (Zoom); 8th LD Virtual Town Hall meeting with Representatives Boehnke and Klippert (Zoom); Legacy High School 3rd Annual Family Festival (in person); WSSDA Legislative Representatives Learn Webinar-bill update (Zoom); and Governor Inslee's press conference (TVW.org).

Micah Valentine reported meeting with Superintendent Dr. Pierce, Bronson Brown, Matt Scott, and Vic Roberts and shared that the meetings were very informative. Mr. Valentine thanked those who sent him emails and shared that he appreciates when people attach actual science and data points with their emails. Mr. Valentine shared that he was sad the levy failed. He stated that he believes it is important to remember who the Board represents; students and their families. He stated that he believes the Boards job is to make kids great while working with parents and not against them. Mr. Valentine went on to say he would love to get the next levy passed. He added that Washington State is the only state in the lower 48 without an end to mask mandates. He stated that he feels this is radicalism and does not represent our community. He indicated that it is time to support and listen to the community.

Gabe Galbraith reported that he met with Dr. Pierce and the administrative staff to learn about the district operations. He also attended the Legacy High School Family festival. He thanked the staff and students for an amazing event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Endeavor Mascot Naming

Endeavor High School Principal Paul Osborne shared the process and recommendation of the committee to name the Endeavor High School mascot. Mr. Osborne made the following recommendation, “After careful consideration and thoughtful deliberation, the naming committee recommends that the mascot of Endeavor High School should be the Bobcats.”

Motion by Diane Sundvik to accept naming the mascot of Endeavor High School the Bobcats.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

COVID-19 Related Items/Board Advocacy

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce updated the Board on COVID-19 items along with Board advocacy, state mask mandate, local Board authority and advocacy, Board legislative priorities, and three bills in the state legislature on limiting the governor’s emergency powers; SB 5909, HB 1772, and SB 5039.

Per the Board’s request, Attorney Bronson Brown presented a proclamation draft regarding SB 5909, HB 1772, and SB5039.

Following Board discussion, Micah Valentine made a motion to accept the proclamation as written.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Mr. Mabry indicated he would like the wording to be modified. Ms. Sundvik asked if there is a way in the wording to take Mr. Mabry’s suggestion to say, “support the education of our community.”

Ron Mabry made an amended motion to change Section 1 of the proclamation to say, “Kennewick School Board informs the public on how the passage of HB 1722, SB 5909 and/or SB 5039, which gives the Washington State Legislature authority to end and/or approve a state of emergency and gubernatorial order prohibiting certain activities during an emergency.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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| Roll call vote: | Connors | Yes |
| | Mabry | Yes |
| | Sundvik | Yes |
| | Valentine | No |
| | Galbraith | No |

Motion carried 3-2.

Mr. Galbraith asked if the Board could take a five-minute break. President Connors recessed for a five-minute break at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Connors reconvened the Board's regular session at 7:40 p.m.

Dr. Pierce presented information on the Washington State Board of Health's COVID-19 vaccine consideration.

Board discussion followed.

Micah Valentine made a motion to direct the staff to draw up a draft proclamation regarding the COVID-19 vaccination of students.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Board Feedback: Draft KSD Learner Profile

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development, Matt Scott, followed up on the information presented at the last Board meeting and received feedback from the Board members on the KSD Learner Profile draft.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Capital Budget Update

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts reported on projected capital fund revenues and expenditures for September 2020 – August 2025. He reviewed the projected costs of projects planned to be completed during the school year 2021 - 2022. Mr. Roberts highlighted projected ending fund balances through the school year 2024 - 2025 as related to financing upcoming school construction projects as well as other capital improvements.

Diane Sundvik asked if the new toys on the playgrounds were ADA compliant. Mr. Roberts stated that he believes the playgrounds are ADA compliant, but he would verify that they are.

Director of Tri-Tech Skills Center Paul Randall presented information on a Tri-Tech expansion plan. He explained how the Pre-Vet Tech and Pre-Electrical programs have outgrown their current locations and how the existing space is inadequate for enrollment and instructional purposes. Mr. Randall shared that both programs' enrollment history and projections are strong. Mr. Roberts discussed the estimated project cost and project funding.

Special Education: Program Update and Inclusionary Practices

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development Matt Scott presented an overview of special education programs and services and strategies being used to increase the student inclusion rate. Special Services Director Lexie Buschbach described the strategic efforts to provide behavioral supports for students with special needs in the District.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy No. 5321, PERSONNEL: Family and Medical Leave, First Reading

Doug Christensen presented modifications to Policy 5321 related to family and medical leave in alignment with the law and WSDDA model policy.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to accept Policy No. 5321 PERSONNEL: Family and Medical Leave for first and second reading.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Policy No. 5324, PERSONNEL: Military Leave, First Reading

Doug Christensen presented modifications to Policy 5324 related to military leave in alignment with the law and WSSDA model policy.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to accept Policy No. 5324 PERSONNEL: Military Leave, first and second reading.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The following items will be added to the next School Board Meeting Agenda:

- A. 2021-2022 Budget Update
- B. Capital Projects Update: Ridge View

Dr. Pierce added that the EP&O levy would also be a topic on the next meeting agenda. Mr. Valentine requested that the Board discuss parent involvement in schools at an upcoming meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Michael Connors announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 9:28 p.m. and moved the Board into executive session at 9:33 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue for approximately 15 minutes. 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 9:45 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: February 23, 2022