Truancy Board – Alec’s Story

Finding Solutions
Helping Students

Remember the story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table? In this legend we learned King Arthur was not a top-down manager. He believed in a shared power approach to solving problems. That’s how the Mead School District Truancy Board works. Our own King Arthur – aka Dr. Jared Hoadley, Student Services Asst. Superintendent – along with other administrators and community volunteers representing local organizations like the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club, gather twice each month to problem solve with students who, for a variety of reasons, are chronically absent from school.

At Truancy Board no one “raises their voice or gets mad because that doesn’t work,” says Dr. Hoadley. The goal is to come up with a plan for each student that will help him or her be successful and attend school every day.

Last year Alec Woodard, a current sophomore at Mead High School, was absent for nearly 60 days. That’s one-third of the school year! These excessive absences triggered a referral to Truancy Board by Assistant Principal Coretta Hoffman. Ms. Hoffman, who has served on Truancy Board for the past three years says, “Having kids know there are people who care enough about them attending school that they are going to help them out is life changing. Many of the kids we see think they don’t matter.” Alec, who came to the Mead School District from Georgia when he was in 6th grade, was a kid who didn’t think he mattered.

At Truancy Board Dr. Hoadley and community members listened to Alec talk about his world and the “things” getting in the way of him being at school every day. They learned Alec likes his weights class and that he often stays up late watching TV or playing video games. They discovered Alec had a bike he often rode to school but it was stolen.

Alec left Truancy Board with a plan he helped create. He pledged to be at school every day, turn in missed assignments and adhere to a nightly screen time curfew and bedtime. As an incentive the YMCA provided him with a free membership, good for as long as he follows the plan, and Truancy Board members pledged to work on obtaining a replacement bike, with a lock, so Alec can ride to school and get to the Y.

The Mead SD Truancy Board has been serving students since 2011 and helps approximately 40 students each year. Truancy Board – Alec’s Story is the most recent addition to our Who We Are video series and is posted on the district’s homepage (mead354.org).

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Equipping Students – Inspiring Problem Solvers – Creating Leaders
2018 WASA Community Service Award

To honor, acknowledge and celebrate more than 70 years of combined service to the Mead School District, board members Bob Olson (32 years), Ron Farley (19 years) and Denny Denholm (19.5 years) were recently honored and thanked by WASA (Washington Association of School Administrators) with a richly deserved Community Service Award.

DECA Nationals Highest Finish in School History

At the 2018 DECA International Conference, held in Atlanta, the Mt. Spokane student store SER Food Team – Sydney Campbell, Blake Peterson & Adam Sonneland – competed against 200 other teams and earned 2nd place... the highest finish in school history! At this same conference the Mead High student store team (Madeline Gendreau, Alyson Wood & Trevor Dorman) finished in the top 10.

Celebrating the Class of 2018

Congratulations and best wishes to the Mead School District Class of 2018! Starting June 7th with the Five Mile Prairie and M.E.A.D. commencement exercises and ending on June 9th with the Riverpoint Academy graduation, nearly 900 Mead School District seniors will graduate from one of our six secondary learning programs. The public is invited to join us for one or all of the following celebrations:

- June 7 – Five Mile Prairie - 5:30 pm (Mead High Theatre)
- June 7 – M.E.A.D. - 7 pm (Mead High Theatre)
- June 8 – Mt. Spokane - 5 pm (GU – McCarthy Athletic Center)
- June 8 – Mead High - 8 pm (GU – McCarthy Athletic Center)
- June 9 – Riverpoint Academy - 11 am (GU, Cataldo Hall, Globe Room)

Class of 2018 Valedictorians (4.0 GPA)

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<th>Mead High School</th>
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32-Year Old Track Record Broken

In 1986 Mountainside teacher and track coach Yukon Degenhert, as an aspiring 7th grade athlete at Mead Middle School, ran an impressive record setting 4.34.3 mile – a time that was just broken by current 7th grader Ben Sonneland (4.34.2). Ben breaking this 32-year old record is an amazing achievement. Having the former record holder as his coach makes the accomplishment even more meaningful for both Ben and Yukon. Ben’s ultimate goal is to break Yukon’s 8th grade City record of 4.34 in the mile. “Ben is the best and I am glad I have the chance to coach him,” says Yukon. “I am so happy for him right now.”
Shiloh Hills Elementary Ground Breaking Ceremony

1st Shiloh Hills Principal Attends Ground Breaking

The Shiloh Hills modernization project is underway. On March 30, the students’ last day in the old Shiloh Hills building before moving to the previous Northwood site, everyone gathered in the gym for the official Shiloh Hills modernization ground breaking ceremony. The event, hosted by Principal Laura Duchow, included remarks from School Board President Denny Denholm and Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, special music performed by the entire Shiloh Hills student body and a very fun video showcasing a variety of popular items — like Big Hair — from 1980, the year Shiloh Hills first opened its doors.

A special invited guest at the ceremony was Coni Warren who, 38 years ago, served as the very first principal at Shiloh Hills. Ms. Duchow grew up attending Mead Schools and reported that when she was a 3rd grader at Colbert Elementary, the year before Shiloh opened, Mr. Warren was her principal. At that time Colbert students were known as Apples. She and many other students wanted to go to Shiloh Hills with Mr. Warren because the Shiloh mascot was going to be an Eagle, which “everyone knows is way cooler than an Apple.” 34 years later (2014) when she came to Shiloh Hills as principal she finally became an Eagle!

A video of the Shiloh Hills Ground Breaking Ceremony is posted on the Mead School District homepage (mead334.org) and includes footage of the entire student body gathered in front of the school waving yellow construction hats to celebrate the future and remember the past.

2018 Bond Projects Update

Bonds Sold

Voter approved bonds ($114.5 million) were sold on May 2. The district’s very good bond credit rating, coupled with the current continuing low interest rate environment, resulted in an All-In Total Interest Cost, similar to the APR on a home loan, of 3.59%. There was very high demand to purchase these bonds (demand exceeded supply by nearly $500 million), which means the district was able to negotiate a slightly lower interest rate resulting in $56,000 in annual interest savings for Mead patrons.

Architect Selected for Five Flagship Projects

ALSC will design the five 2018 Bond Flagship Projects (middle school, elementary school, transportation co-op, maintenance facility & performing arts/athletic venue).

We project the New Middle School, New Elementary School and New Performing Arts-Athletic Venue/Stadium will open in the Fall of 2020.
CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS
A Message from
Superintendent Tom Rockefeller

As we come to the conclusion of another successful school year, I invite our entire community to join families, students and staff in celebrating the graduation of nearly 900 Mead School District seniors. We consider it an honor to have served these young men and women for the past 13 years and sincerely wish each of them the very best as they move into the next chapter of their lives. The Mead community should be extremely proud of the many academic and extra-curricular successes of the Class of 2018.

As we transition from one school year to the next, I want to thank the teachers, administrators, support staff and school volunteers who make the Mead School District a wonderful place for children to learn. I would also like to extend special thanks to our students, parents and patrons for their continued involvement and support. The Mead School District is a great place for students because of a wonderful community that has high learning standards and considers education a top priority.

Looking toward next year, in addition to working to enhance our learning programs, we will continue work on capital facility projects. This will include completion of the Midway and Shiloh Hills modernization projects, as well as design work on the five major projects approved by voters this past February. 2018/19 is the first year the Mead School District will be funded via the new state school funding formula (increased state funds offset by reduced local levy funds). To answer questions and help folks understand these funding changes we have set up a special School Funding link on our website.

As always, I welcome your questions, comments or concerns. Please feel free to contact me by calling 465-6014 or by email to

Questions or concerns?
509-465-6014
www.mead354.org

The Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained service dog or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Grievances or concerns should be directed to: Tom Rockefeller, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Activities - 509-465-6008 or tom.rockefeller@mead354.org.

SCHOOL FUNDING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

During the Bond & Levy campaign we shared information about the new way Washington State is funding education. We explained how the state, in response to the McCleary lawsuit, passed legislation increasing state funding for schools while decreasing the amount school districts can collect via local levies. Beginning in September 2018 (transition half-year), with full implementation in 2019, the amount provided by the state and our local levy changes. The state percentage will increase from 72% to 81% and the levy will decrease from 22% to 13%. Federal funds provide 6%.

To help explain these changes, answer questions and provide transparency we invite you to visit the School Funding link located on the Mead School District homepage (mead354.org).