



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, February 28, 2022**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022. This was a Zoom Meeting with login information posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Burchard, Olson, Cannon and Gray were present. Director Denholm was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

Prior to calling for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes a discussion took place clarifying the cost of the SYSA after school elementary sports program that was a part of Superintendent Woodward's report on February 14, 2022. Each four-week program offering, that meets 1-2 times each week, will cost \$10 per session. If an offering meets once each week the cost for the four weeks is \$40. If the offering meets twice each week the cost for the four weeks is \$80.

Director Gray made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools - Public Comment

President Burchard opened the floor for public comment and reminded those wishing to speak that comments should be limited to three minutes in length. On the topic of public comment, he referenced current board policy that states comments should relate to agenda items. He shared the board in the recent past has not, and at this meeting will not, limit comments to agenda items. However, this is something that may be implemented in the future. Board members were first invited to share remarks followed by the public.

Board Comments

Regarding winter sports, Director Olson extended congratulations to the Mead High School (girls) and Mt. Spokane High School (boys) basketball teams. Both won their round one games and will continue competing for state titles on Thursday (March 3) at the State 3A Tournament. Mead High plays at 5:30 pm. Mt. Spokane plays at 2 pm. Director Burchard acknowledged the 4th place state finish by the Mead High School gymnastics team. Doug Edmonson, who oversees Mead School District athletics, reported Mead High School is the 3A State Wrestling Champion, followed closely by Mt. Spokane who placed 4th. At the state gymnastics meet, in addition to the excellent showing by Mead High, there were six Mt. Spokane gymnasts who qualified to compete.

Public Comments

Barry Roth referenced the Public Disclosure Requests that were recently delivered, or soon will be delivered, to school board directors at their homes. He shared these requests would have been presented at this meeting but that was not possible because the meeting was held via Zoom with no in-person option. In order to allow Mr. Roth the time needed to read the letter that

accompanied the Public Disclosure Requests the following individuals ceded their Public Comment time to Mr. Roth: Debbie Roth and Debbie Fletcher.

The letter included:

- Recognition/thanks to the district for surveying the community regarding the COVID vaccine followed by the adoption of Resolution 22-01 where the board took the official position that they are opposed to making the vaccine required under WAC 246-105-030.
- Statement that the letter and Public Disclosure Requests are not meant to make the board and/or superintendent feel threatened or opposed, but rather should be seen as an opportunity to receive Mr. Roth's support.
- Notice that the same Public Disclosure Requests have also been served on many districts across the state including Spokane Public Schools and the Seattle School District signifying this is a statewide action involving thousands of concerned citizens coming together as a unified voice.
- Assertion there is a fundamental conflict of interest between school government and parents with school government having a vested interest in the system while parents have a vested interest in children.
- Reference to school boards being forced to give away increasingly more decision-making authority to Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) and other state agencies.
- Notation there is no RCW granting Chris Reykdal (Superintendent of Public Instruction) the power to withhold funds that rightfully belong to the school district based on compliance with health policies.
- Reminder the country was founded on a structure designed to keep the greatest authority at the local level of government. Despite this the governor and state agencies have made unilateral decisions that ignore the voices of local school boards and parents. Acknowledgement that all share responsibility for allowing this to happen while asserting all also share responsibility to rectify the situation.
- Encouragement to consider the Public Disclosure Requests as the community's first act of helping the Mead School Board take back its rightful authority to determine how best to represent parents. The Public Disclosure Requests should be seen as an opportunity to educate all and better understand the current entanglement with OSPI, WSSDA and other state agencies who are overstepping lawful boundaries.
- Reference to RCW 28A.345.020 requiring all school boards to be members of WSSDA.
- Reference to RCW 28A.343.100 requiring school boards, starting in 2022, to take governance training in cultural competency, diversity, equity and inclusion standards, and the assertion these topics refer to Critical Race Theory, sexual education for children as young as five years of age, and curriculums that promote transgenderism.
- Reference to the attempt by Representative Joel McEntire to introduce a bill that proposes local school board membership in WSSDA be optional, rather than mandatory, and a statement that WSSDA has been treating Washington students and parents as if they belong to one large district rather than respecting the authority of the 295 elected school boards in the state.
- Request that the Mead School Board do the following:
 - Reach out to Representative Joel McEntire and support making WSSDA membership optional.
 - Strongly urge WSSDA to withdraw membership from NSBA. Twenty other states have already done this.
 - Pass a resolution acknowledging/affirming that parents are the primary stakeholders in their children's future. Tonasket SD has already done this with neighboring districts currently considering doing the same.
- Expressed desire, as the 2021/22 school year concludes, to work toward a more harmonious partnership between parents, school district leadership and legislators with the goal of restoring the freedom of personal choice over masks and vaccines, as well as restoring authority to the level of local government.

- Warning if freedoms are ignored by the Mead School Board Mr. Roth and others will withdraw their children from the public school system by the Fall of 2022.
- Reminder that over 55,000 children have withdrawn from the state's public school system in 2021/22 and that this number has the potential to triple if mask mandates are upheld and/or a COVID vaccine is an attendance requirement.
- Offer to partner with the district to restore local authority and represent the parents of the Mead School District.

Katrina Mason, a local mental health counselor and mother of three Mead School District students, who at recent board meetings addressed the mask mandate, COVID testing and the COVID vaccine, shared her primary public comment topic for the evening would be sex ed curriculum. Her initial comments were about the state's Critical Race Theory (CRT) training that violates both state and federal civil rights laws. CRT promotes feelings of fear. There are new state sex ed curriculum requirements set for implementation in the 2022/23 school year. She is opposed to these new curriculum requirements. She commended the board for the letter they sent to Governor Inslee (March 2020) expressing concerns with the legislation.

Sydney Charlton, mother of a 5th grader, while complimentary of the investigation work Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley did looking into several of her concerns, shared her continuing frustration with a school nurse and inconsistencies in quarantine dates. She also remains concerned regarding a situation where two test swabs were placed in one testing vial and a post made on an employee's personal Facebook page that she believes is slanderous to parents. She feels she is not heard or listened to by the school principal.

IV. Continuing Business **2nd Reading Policy 6220 Revision & Procedure 6220 Adoption** **Bid or Request For Proposal Requirements**

Lead Accountant Dylan Hance presented a revision to Policy 6220, and the adoption of Procedure 6220, Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements, for second reading consideration. The policy was adopted on August 16, 1978, and amended/revised as follows: 5/28/80, 9/11/85, 2/14/95, 11/14/95 & 8/19/13. The district does not currently have a procedure to accompany Policy 6220 and, therefore, the presented draft procedure would be new for the district.

WSSDA Sample Policy 6220 is the template for the presented revision to Policy 6220. Due to the extensive nature of the revisions, they were presented as a standalone document with current Policy 6220 provided for reference. WSSDA Sample Procedure 6220 is the template for the presented procedure adoption.

The presented policy revision aligns the policy to current state/federal laws and current district practices. The policy revision divides procurement into two major categories: (1) Procurement and Public Works Using Non-Federal Funds and (2) Procurement Using Federal Funds. In both categories purchase threshold amounts requiring bids/quotes have been adjusted to reflect current state and/or federal law.

As required in the policy, the presented procedure establishes bidding and contract awarding procedures consistent with state and federal law. The presented procedure aligns with current district practices.

In response to a first reading question from Director Gray, Mr. Hance referenced RCW 39.19.010 and RCW 39.19.060 (a copy of each RCW was provided to board members) that relate to the policy provision that states, for non-federal funds, when the estimated cost of furniture, supplies or equipment (except books) will cost over \$75,000 the board will follow the formal bidding process by . . . *ensuring the district takes steps to assure that, when possible, the district will use small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises and labor surplus firms.* Director Gray thanked Mr. Hance for the RCWs stating the information provided answered her question

regarding the need to include the reference to small and minority businesses, women’s business enterprises and labor surplus firms in the policy.

In response to a first reading question from Director Cannon, Mr. Hance referenced RCW 28A.335.190 (a copy of the RCW was provided to board members) that relates to the specific bidding threshold amounts included in the presented policy and procedure.

In checking the bidding policies and procedures for neighboring school districts, Mr. Hance reported all include the reference to small and minority businesses, women’s business enterprises and labor surplus firms, and also include identical bidding thresholds as are included in the presented second reading draft policy and draft procedure.

President Burchard asked that the policy revision and procedure adoption be brought forward for 3rd reading consideration as an action item at the next board meeting.

V. New Business
A. Consent Agenda

Responding to a question from Director Cannon about the Supplemental Contracts with *overload* listed as the activity associated with the payment, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens explained the \$800 payments represent the extra IEP work done first semester by special education classroom teachers. In prior years this work was done by Education Specialists but, as with other special education positions, the district is currently short staffed resulting in the need to have special education classroom teachers assume additional duties. The nearly \$7,000 overload payment to one individual (SLP) represents several months of additional work performed, once again, because of the inability to fill a position. Thankfully, the district was recently able to hire an SLP to fill this open position.

Director Cannon thanked Ms. Havens for this information noting he appreciates the extra efforts by all of these employees. His inquiry was not intended to question the value of the work he simply needed more information. Director Burchard asked about caseload limits. Ms. Havens explained that while the contract does include caseload limits, it does not address special education overload. The presented overload compensation was negotiated on a case-by-case basis through the Labor Management process. Director Burchard also extended his thanks and appreciate to employees for their extra efforts.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Hired Classified Personnel:

Michael May	Mead High	Class	6 hrs/day Para Ed effective 2/11/22
Sierra Hoseid	Midway	Class	4 hrs/day Para Ed Effective 2/28/22

2. Hired Certificated Substitutes:

Rebecca Gilmore	Denise Gaal	Elizabeth Williamson	Marta Schulte
Kamiah Cyr	Alexis Caniglia		

3. Hired Classified Substitutes:

Mary Driskel	Shelly Miller	Elijah Bade	Sierra Poquette
--------------	---------------	-------------	-----------------

4. Approved AP Vouchers for General Fund, Capitol Projects, Private Purpose Trust & ASB.

Vouchers audited and certified by auditing officers as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board. As of this day, **February 28, 2022**, the Board, by a unanimous vote does approve for payment the vouchers included in the above referenced list and further described as **Warrant Numbers 104744 to 104948** in the following amounts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund - AP	\$ 821,408.28
General Fund - PR	134,988.30
ASB Fund	115,997.19
Capital Projects Fund	132,194.41

5. **Approved Extra-Curricular, Supplemental & Co-Curricular Contracts.**

6. **Approved Requests for Unpaid Leave (i.e., parenting, medical Good of the District, etc.):**

Laura Knutson	Creekside	Class	2/14/22 - 4/15/22
Jennifer Schwab	Evergreen	Class	3/28/22 - 4/1/22 and 4/11/22 - 4/12/22
Jenny Hawkins	Shiloh Hills	Class	6/20/22
Greg Conley	Mt. Spokane	Cert	.4 FTE 22/23 School Year

7. **Declared the Following Items as Surplus:**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Everett Piano	1
Small Plastic Chairs (orange & blue)	8
Small Plastic Chairs (black)	10
Black Plastic Chairs misc. sizes	200
Cart/Table - white	1
Nurse Beds	2
Locking Cabinet	1
Rolling Office Chairs - cloth	3
Book Shelf w/o Shelves	1
Blue Cloth Chairs on Wheels	2
Octagon Table	1
Privacy Desks	4
Portable Welder-Miller Roughneck	1
Black Desk w/ Keyboard Tray	1
Black Wood Tables - large	2
Black Printer	1
Wood Magazine/Book Rack	1
Cupboard on Wheels - white	1
Wood Book Case - 1 shelf	1
Wood 4-Drawer Filing Cabinet	1
Blue Cupboard w/ Storage Cubbies	1
Misc. Music	
Locker Units - blue	40

8. **Approved Requests for Retirement/Resignation:**

Amelia Byrd	Evergreen	Class	Resignation effective 3/4/22 (Para Ed)
Christopher Boutain	Mt. Spokane	Class	Resignation effective 2/28/22 (Custodian)
Harold Mestyaneck	Prairie View	Class	Resignation effective 2/28/22 (Para Ed)
Debra Tabeck	Creekside	Cert	Retirement effective 8/31/22 (teacher)

B. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Sharing that the Mead School District has a long-standing practice of presenting two calendar options to staff for their consideration for each school year, Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley presented for board consideration the calendar (Option A) for the 2022-2023 school year that received the most staff votes (67.9%). Dates of note in the presented calendar include the following:

- Tuesday, August 30 - 1st Day of School
- Friday, September 2 - No School
- Friday, October 7 - Learning Improvement Day
- Wednesday, November 23 - No School
- Monday, December 19 - Start of Winter Break
- Tuesday, January 3 - School Resumes After Winter Break
- Monday, January 30 - No School/Snow Make-Up Day
- Friday, March 17 - Learning Improvement Day
- April 3-7 - Spring Break
- Friday, May 26 - No School/Snow Make-Up Day
- Friday, June 16 - Last Day of School

Following discussion, that included Director Cannon sharing he has anecdotally heard from parents who are in favor of a before Labor Day start , Director Olson made a motion to adopt the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar, as presented (Option A). Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. A link to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar is available on the Mead School District website.

**C. Student Travel Proposal
Mead High School Volleyball**

Darren Nelson, Director of Secondary Education, presented a request from the Mead High School Varsity Volleyball Team (12 members), plus two coaches/chaperones, to travel to Phoenix, Arizona, September 29 - October 2, 2022, to participate in the Nike Tournament of Champions. In addition to playing in the tournament, the team plans to visit two universities located in Phoenix (Grand Canyon and ASU) so athletes can check out both a large and small college campus.

The estimated per student cost is \$120 for food with fundraisers available. The team's ASB account, which already has sufficient funds, will be used to cover the remaining trip expenses. Students will miss one day of school and Mr. Wilson, head coach, will need a substitute teacher for one day.

Director Olson expressed his support for this trip noting it is a great opportunity for students.

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the presented trip from the Mead High School Varsity Volleyball Team to travel to Phoenix, Arizona, September 29 - October 2, 2022, to play in the Nike Tournament of Champions. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Layer 3 Switching Equipment Contract

Technology Director Doug Edmonson presented a contract with Compunet to provide layer 3 switching equipment for Colbert Elementary, Meadow Ridge Elementary, Midway Elementary, District Office, Mt. Spokane High School and Five Mile Prairie for board consideration.

Two firms (NetDiverse and Compunet) submitted proposals. Compunet was the selected vendor, scoring 100 out of 100 on the seven bid factors. A recap of the bid scoring was provided to board members.

The cost for the layer 3 switching equipment, including tax, totals \$136,588.30. This equipment is eligible for Federal E-Rate funding that will pay 50% resulting in a total cost to the district of \$68,294.15. Noting the recent loss of the district employee who handled E-Rate funding, Mr. Edmonson complimented both Dave Willyard and Emily Magney for stepping in to help in this area.

Mr. Edmonson shared the replacement cycle for switching equipment is four years and that E-Rate is a state program designed to help defray technology costs for schools and other non-profits.

Director Cannon made a motion to award the layer 3 switching equipment contract for Colbert Elementary, Meadow Ridge Elementary, Midway Elementary, District Office, Mt. Spokane High School and Five Mile Prairie to Compunet, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Uninterruptable Power Supply Equipment Contract

Technology Director Doug Edmonson presented a contract with Compunet to provide uninterruptable power supply (UPS) equipment for eight elementary schools (Skyline & Shiloh

Hills not included), Five Mile Prairie, all three middle schools plus Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School for board consideration. In the event of a power outage this equipment provides critical backup power to keep technology functioning.

Five firms submitted proposals. Although CDW-G was the lowest bidder, they did not bid the specified equipment. The district, based on prior experience, prefers the brand specified in the RFP and, therefore, Compunet, with a score of 99 out of 100 on the seven bid factors, is the recommended provider. A recap of the bid scoring was provided to board members.

The cost for the uninterruptable power supply equipment, including tax, totals \$34,532.13. This equipment is eligible for Federal E-Rate funding that will pay 50% resulting in a total cost to the district of \$17,266.06.

In response to a question from Director Gray, Mr. Edmonson shared this equipment was installed at Skyline during construction and was installed at Shiloh Hills during their recent renovation.

Director Cannon made a motion to award the uninterruptable power supply equipment contract for Brentwood Elementary, Colbert Elementary, Creekside Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, Farwell Elementary, Meadow Ridge Elementary, Midway Elementary, Prairie View Elementary, Five Mile Prairie, Highland Middle School, Northwood Middle School, Mountainside Middle School, Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School to Compunet, as presented. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for the Month of January 2022

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson presented a brief financial report for the month of January 2022. Enrollment has stabilized at approximately 10,200 FTE, which is higher than budgeted by just under 200 FTE. In January the district's state apportionment is based on actual rather than budgeted FTE. The district continues to closely monitor funding changes currently being considered by state legislators. In response to a question from President Burchard, Ms. Ellingson shared she is hopeful the ending fund balance will be higher than expected. In the summer a determination will be made on whether or not a budget extension is needed.

B. Classified Staff Recruitment

Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley reported on classified staff recruitment efforts noting Mead, like many school districts, is looking to hire bus drivers, para-educators, custodians and cooks. Dr. Hoadley shared a video produced by the district featuring four staff members (Dennis Faison, Mt. Spokane Custodian, Michele Carstensen, Farwell Kitchen Manager, Lehsley Whitman, Shiloh Hills Para Educator & Scott Griffith, Bus Driver) who talk about their jobs and invite others to consider joining the Mead School District team. This was followed by Dr. Hoadley welcoming Michele Carstensen who shared her experiences at a recent district sponsored job fair where potential employees were able, on site, to easily apply for open positions. The report concluded with Human Resources Director Keri Hutchins sharing other recruiting efforts that have taken place and are planned for the future.

President Burchard, noting the current staffing challenges, expressed his appreciation for the work so many are doing to recruit new employees. Director Cannon, echoing the sentiments shared by President Burchard, applauded the creativity shown in addressing current staffing issues. Watching the video and hearing the passion of those featured make him want to work for the district.

C. Update - Department of Health Requirements

Superintendent Woodward referenced the revised mask timeline shared by Governor Inslee earlier in the day that makes the wearing of masks optional on March 11 rather than March 18. While new Department of Health guidance has not yet been released, Superintendent Woodward

shared his understanding that, for the most part, the guidance will be in the form of recommendations not requirements, thereby allowing for more local control. Most likely “test to play” for spring sports will be eliminated with testing only taking place if an individual is symptomatic. Regarding “test to play” he thanked district nurses and coaches for their help testing athletes during the fall and winter sport seasons. Having coaches help with testing was unique to the Mead School District. It is anticipated new DOH guidance will be available early in March.

Regarding a COVID vaccine requirement for students, Superintendent Woodward shared the Technical Advisory Group studying this is leaning more “no” than “yes” but also pointed out there is no guarantee this will be the final determination by DOH. A decision on this topic is expected in early April. Even if the vaccine is required for students, it is his understanding religious, personal and medical exemptions will be available.

In response to a question from President Burchard, Superintendent Woodward shared it is his understanding Spokane Regional Health District will follow/adopt DOH guidance unless the local COVID situation warrants a different course of action.

Director Gray thanked Superintendent Woodward for the update. She commended the Kettle Falls, Colville and Richland school boards for their courageous decisions to make the wearing of masks optional. Even with the mask mandate ending soon, Director Gray stated even one more day is too much and that the mandate should end immediately. Continuing the mandate is no longer following science, it is a political power grab.

D. Superintendent’s Report and Discussion Items

Superintendent Woodward, noting the rigorous process involved in earning National Board Certification, congratulated Tracy Taich, who was awarded initial certification, along with Cooper Hatton, Karin Llyr, Daniel Melin, Elizabeth Pipkin, Luke Thomas and Chris Waddell who successfully completed the renewal process. The initial certification process takes 1-5 years and, of those submitting portfolios, only 40% earn the designation. In Mead 6% of teachers have their National Board Certification. The district will continue to explore ways to help more certificated staff obtain this designation.

Superintendent Woodward concluded his report by sharing a video of the Mead High School String Quartet playing *Eleanor Rigby* on Saturday, February 26th as part of the sold-out Beetles Stones Musical Showdown held at the Fox Theatre. This was a tremendous experience for these four musicians. Superintendent Woodward reported, now that COVID restrictions are being relaxed, there will be a return to having students and staff attend board meetings where their accomplishments can be celebrated.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

President

Secretary