



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, January 10, 2022**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022. The meeting began at 6 pm and was held at District Office. After asking those in attendance to wear a mask per state regulations, and noting several attendees refusing to comply, President Burchard suspended the in-person meeting and announced the meeting would resume via Zoom at 7 pm. The Zoom webinar link with login information was posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Burchard, Denholm, Olson, Cannon and Gray were present. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as amended (item "B", a non-action item under *New Business* - 1st Reading Policy 6220 Revision & Procedure 6220 Adoption, Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements - was removed, and Resolution 22-01, COVID 19 Vaccine Requirement, was added as a *New Business* action item). Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting, as amended (remarks attributed to Jenny Schneider were made by Kasey Lupton). Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

President Burchard opened the floor for public comment on non-agenda items and reminded those wishing to speak that comments should be limited to three minutes in length. Board members were first invited to share remarks followed by the public. All were asked to please be respectful when making comments.

Director Denholm commented on a recent Facebook post made by Mead School District bus driver Scott Griffith where he shared inspiring stories of positive/impactful interactions he has had with students as he transports them to and from school each day. This type of post will hopefully help recruit new bus drivers.

Director Gray commended the Mead School District community for their involvement noting in particular the number of individuals who responded to the recent COVID vaccine survey. She appreciates the engagement from those on both sides of the issue. Survey results and the opinions shared have been forwarded to the Washington State Board of Health. President Burchard noted the board will engage in a discussion of the survey results and consider adopting a resolution regarding the COVID vaccine later in the meeting.

Director Olson complimented Mead School District teachers, administrators, support staff and students on a successful start following Winter Break. He appreciates the hard work it takes to keep schools open. Staff are doing a fantastic job.

Director Cannon positively commented on the Mt. Spokane Holiday Concert he attended prior to Winter Break at Gonzaga University. It was an excellent production that featured all Mt. Spokane performing groups (band, choir, orchestra). Kudos to all who took part.

Echoing comments shared by Director Gray regarding the community engagement in the recent COVID vaccine survey, Director Cannon expressed appreciation for the efforts to collect data from patrons regarding the vaccine and the importance of having the potential vaccine mandate be a major topic at the board meeting.

Jennifer Killman, mother of three boys, two at Evergreen and one at Highland, has been a member of the Mead School District community for the past 6-7 years. Regarding the wearing of masks, the long tenure of the mandate is depressing and overreaching. She advocated for limiting the Governor's emergency powers. Prior to sharing COVID case counts from similar-sized school districts in Idaho, where physical distancing and mask requirements are much less restrictive than in Washington, and comparing them to Mead, she thanked the board for doing their part to reach out to the state about current and potential COVID mandates. The comparisons shared showed that Mead COVID case counts are very similar to like-sized school districts in Idaho. President Burchard asked Ms. Killman to email board members the COVID case count comparison data she put together (time did not allow her to share all of this information). He additionally encouraged her to consider forwarding the data to the Washington State Board of Health and Spokane Regional Health District.

Katrina Mason addressed the board about the extremely negative impact on students due to the forced wearing of masks and forced quarantines sharing that "kids are suffering." Regarding quarantining, it is insane to treat healthy kids as if they are sick. The mask mandate has created lots of mental/emotional issues for kids and actual physical harm. Making kids wear masks is a form of bullying and is completely dehumanizing. She shared a number of issues associated with making kids wear masks, asked that kids be unmasked immediately and questioned the frequent testing of healthy athletes. President Burchard asked Ms. Mason to email board members any additional information as time did not allow her to share all of her concerns.

Suzanna Patterson has lived in the Mead School District for 13 years. She has three children with one currently a student in the district. She expressed frustration with inconsistencies between this year and last year noting in particular the inability this year for students who are quarantined to Zoom into classes. Because there is no Zoom option this year her child will miss 10 days of instruction while quarantined. President Burchard asked that Ms. Patterson email him her specific concerns/questions and he will follow-up as the *Remarks for the Good of the Schools* portion of the board meeting is a time for public comment on non-agenda items, not a time intended for questions and answers.

Chasity Clark shared that many parents are fearful of speaking up as they don't think it will matter. She is the mom of a kindergarten student and expressed concern regarding socialization in the event a vaccine mandate is instituted. She noted that even if she were to pay for her child to attend a private school, they also must follow state mandates. She encouraged folks to read a pamphlet (*Common Sense*) published in 1776 by Thomas Paine. She noted the frustration associated with paying taxes should her child not be able to attend school and shared it is "very hard to be a parent right now."

Benjamin Kadletz, parent of two Mead School District students, is a part of the silent majority. He doesn't get involved politically and believes there are lots of misunderstandings because of how issues are politicized. Regarding the vaccine he shared that the death rate, according to the CDC, in children is .1%. Noting the vaccine is available to anyone who wants to get it, he sees no need for a mandated vaccination for children. People incorrectly believe if they are vaccinated, they won't get COVID. He is vaccinated and got COVID. He does not feel his children need to be vaccinated as the Omicron variant of COVID is similar to the common cold. Referencing masks and quarantine he noted the number of school-aged suicides has skyrocketed. He shared suicide data with Superintendent Woodward at the conclusion of a board meeting earlier in the year and was shocked when visiting with the Farwell principal that this information had not been shared with this principal.

Tanner Rowe (Midway parent) thanked Director Gray and Director Cannon noting they both told him the board meeting should have continued in-person. He reported his child will not get vaccinated and will still attend school He doesn't care what the state says. If enrollment drops the district can use the COVID dollars it received to offset any lost revenue. He implored fathers to "step-up" noting they have let mothers take the lead for too long.

Jay Pounder, agreeing 100% with the last speaker (Tanner Rowe), noted Mead has always produced leaders and critical thinkers. The district has the opportunity to be a leader and has the ability to impact the rest of the state and even the nation. He comes from a long line of Panthers as his family has lived in the community for a number of years. During that time, he has seen the district do many positive things but lately there have been more negatives. Families new to the district and families who have lived in the district for generations are looking at the decisions being made.

Paige Flett, mother of two Skyline students and a physician, referenced the small vaccine trial size for children (Pfizer) and noted the trial only lasted two months. The risk of death in children because of COVID is essentially 0% - only immunocompromised children are in jeopardy. She sees little to no benefit to being vaccinated for most children and noted parents already have the choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate their children.

Emilee Combs stated it is absurd to mandate the vaccine. She admonished the board to not fold on this issue like they did earlier in the evening when the in-person meeting was cancelled because a few mothers would not wear a mask.

IV. Continuing Business

A. 2nd Reading Policy & Procedure 3122 Revision Excused and Unexcused Absences

Student & Family Services Director Josh Westermann presented a revision to Policy/Procedure 3122, Excused and Unexcused Absences, for second reading consideration. This policy/procedure was adopted on November 26, 1985, revised on December 12, 1995, and revised/renumbered on June 27, 2011, prior to its latest revision on February 13, 2012, nearly ten years ago.

The presented revisions align both the policy and procedure to current state law and current district practices. In addition to expanding definitions and examples of excused and unexcused absences, the presented drafts set forth revised intervention timelines. To a large degree changes reflect a more preventative and less punitive process for dealing with, in particular, unexcused absences that emphasizes a tiered approach to helping a student reengage in school. Before the district files a petition with the courts it must outline the steps it has taken to reengage the student which includes, but is not limited to, administering the WARNS assessment and referral to the district's Community Engagement Board.

WSSDA Sample Policy 3122 and Sample Procedure 3122 were used as templates for the presented revisions. There is no financial impact associated with the policy/procedure revision.

Regarding an observation brought forward by Director Gray at the December 13, 2021, first reading, around the specific reference to COVID-19 in a number of the listed valid absence excuses set forth in the policy, Mr. Westermann shared all of those reasons are a part of WAC Chapter 392-401A.

Following discussion, all board members indicated they are in favor of deleting the four specific references to COVID-19 in the policy, noting no other illnesses are listed by name. Mr. Westermann will work with those staff members who oversee attendance to assure COVID-19 is treated just like any other illness.

President Burchard asked that the policy/procedure revision be brought back for 3rd reading at the next board meeting as an action item.

**B. 2nd Reading Policy/Procedure 4040 & Resolution 21-15 Adoption
Public Access to District Records
(Replaces Old Policy/Procedure 9680)**

Background – Several years ago WSSDA implemented a new numbering system for school board policies. Since that time the Mead School District has been systematically updating its policies and procedures to align with this new numbering system.

Human Resources Director Keri Hutchins presented the adoption of Policy/Procedure 4040 and Resolution 21-15, Public Access to District Records, for second reading consideration. This policy/procedure would replace old Policy/Procedure 9680 that was adopted on May 22, 1991, with no revisions approved since that date. WSSDA Sample Policy/Procedure 4040 and WSSDA Sample Resolution 4040 are the templates for the presented policy/procedure and resolution adoption. The presented policy/procedure complies with state/federal statutes and sets forth the public records process currently in practice in the Mead School District.

The presented policy sets forth the board's commitment to providing the public full access to records concerning the administration and operations of the district, while also preserving the efficient administration of government and protecting the privacy rights of individuals whose records may be maintained by the district.

The policy also references the adoption of a formal resolution that addresses how maintaining a current index of all district records, an obligation in the current RCW, would be impractical, unduly burdensome and would ultimately interfere with the operational work of the district. Understanding this, the statute allows a school district to formally adopt a resolution authoring the district to not maintain a current index of all of its records. Ms. Hutchins explained that the Mead School District creates a tremendous amount of information each school year and, therefore, it would be impossible for the district to “index” all of this information. Draft Resolution 21-15 would authorize the district to not maintain this index.

The presented procedure includes the name of the district's Public Records Officer and the training that will be provided for this individual. It additionally addresses availability of public records, how to make a request, response deadlines and costs associated with providing records.

No first reading (December 13, 2021) or second reading changes were recommended.

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

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Responding to a question from Director Olson, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson shared the \$31,200 payment to Excelsior was for services provided to six special education students for two months and responding to a question from Director Cannon Ms. Ellingson shared the \$4,000 payment from the ASB Fund to Lewis Norflett was for services provided in connection with Marching Band. Director Olson also noted the resignation of long-time Mt. Spokane High School teacher Patrick Kostecka.

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

Consent Agenda

1. Hired Certificated Personnel:

Brett Balough	Highland	Cert	1.0 FTE Leave Replacement teacher 2 nd semester 21/22 school year
Joni Kent	Skyline	Cert	1.0 FTE Leave Replacement Resource Room Teacher 11/30/21 6/17/22 (no longer at Shiloh Hills)
Jennifer Springstead	Five Mile Prairie	Cert	.1 FTE Leave Replacement Secondary Teacher in addition to .5 FTE Continuing effective 1/4/22 - 6/17/22
Jaclyn Jordan	Highland	Cert	.4 FTE Continuing Spanish Teacher effective 12/1/21
Jaclyn Jordan	Mead High	Cert	.4 FTE Leave Replacement Spanish Teacher effective 12/1/21 6/17/22 (in addition to time at Highland)
Christine Robles	Five Mile Prairie	Cert	.3 FTE Leave Replacement Secondary Teacher 1 st semester effective 1/4/22 plus .7 FTE Leave Replacement 2 nd semester (in addition to .7 LR 1 st semester and .3 LR 2 nd semester)
Kevin Connelly	Mt. Spokane	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing Math Teacher effective 1/31/22 (this replaces a Leave Replacement position for 2 nd semester)
Lanfen Kaplan	Brentwood	Cert	.75 FTE Leave Replacement Special Ed/Gen Ed Teacher effective 1/3/22 - 6/17/22

2. Hired Classified Personnel:

Katherine Libutti	Mead High	Class	8 hrs/day Admin Assistant effective 12/14/21
Loree Swegle	District Office	Class	8 hrs/day HR Specialist effective 1/3/22
Emily Webb	Farwell	Class	6 hrs/day Para Ed effective 1/3/22
Sydney Smith	District Office	Class	8 hrs/day Accounting Specialist effective 1/10/22
Marty Melson	Warehouse	Class	8 hrs/day Seasonal Custodian effective 12/27/21
Sonny Ha	Warehouse	Class	8 hrs/day Seasonal Custodian effective 1/3/22

3. Hired Certificated Substitutes:

Tristandoss Davis | Ashi Baker | Allison Moyer | Mallory Wardian

4. Hired Classified Substitutes:

Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens | Susie Seher | Kayla Staples | Courtney Countryman
 Ena O'Connor | Janet Stump

5. 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, **January 10, 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 103922 to 104199** in the following amounts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund - AP	\$ 928,592.14
General Fund - PR	10,514,560.77
ASB Fund	82,885.61
Capital Projects Fund	321,946.71

6. Approved the following Donations:

- MSD General Fund \$500.00 from CoBank

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

Meghan Bradley	Brentwood	Class	2/14/22 - 2/18/22 (20 hours)
Kaprina Reed	Mt. Spokane	Cert	.2 FTE 2 nd semester
Angela Rendall	Evergreen	Class	2/2/22 - 2/10/22 (28.28 hours)
Kim Rollins	Northwood	Class	2/2/22 & 2/3/22

8. Approved Requests for Retirement/Resignation:

Margaret Goudreau	Creekside	Class	Resignation effective 12/17/21 (cook)
Malcom Huffman	Transportation	Class	Resignation effective 12/31/21 (bus driver)
Paula Fletcher	Creekside	Class	Resignation effective 1/10/22 (para ed)
Krystal Janssen-Fleck	Transportation	Class	Resignation effective 1/21/22 (bus driver)
Ronald Karstens	Warehouse	Class	Resignation effective 12/16/21 (custodian)
Patrick KostECKA	Mt. Spokane	Cert	Resignation effective 1/28/22 (teacher)
Lisa LaBenne	Mt. Spokane	Class	Retirement effective 1/5/22 (para ed)
David Millican	Mt. Spokane	Class	Resignation effective 1/31/22 (custodian)

9. **Approved Submission of Special Education Conditional Certification Request to OSPI for Kendra Plyer.**

**B. Student Travel Proposal
Mt. Spokane High School Sports Medicine**

Darren Nelson, Director of Secondary Education, presented a request from Mt. Spokane High School Sports Medicine to travel to Pasadena, California, March 17-20, 2022, to participate in the California Regional Sports Medicine Competition. It is estimated 12 students will participate plus Mt. Spokane Sports Medicine teacher Breann Booher and one additional adult chaperone. This Sports Medicine event is one of the most competitive in the nation. Students, in addition to competing in a variety of skill categories, will have the opportunity to network with healthcare professionals and other high school students.

Students will miss one day of school (Thursday, March 17th . . . Friday, March 18th is a non-student, Learning Improvement day) and Ms. Booher will need a sub for March 17th.

The estimated per student cost of the trip is \$700 with fundraising opportunities available.

Director Denholm requested that, following the trip, students come to a board meeting and talk about the experience.

Director Cannon, noting the group will be utilizing rental vehicles while in California, asked about using UBER or arranging for a charter bus. Mr. Nelson surmised this group has used rental vehicles in the past, which has worked well for them, so they most likely did not consider another option.

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the request from Mt. Spokane High School Sports Medicine to travel to Pasadena, California, to participate in the California Regional Sports Medicine Competition, March 17-20, 2022, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. 1st Reading Policy 3411 Adoption
Accommodating Students with Seizure Disorders or Epilepsy**

Student & Family Services Director Josh Westermann presented the adoption of Policy 3411, Accommodating Students with Seizure Disorders or Epilepsy, for first reading consideration. WSSDA Sample Policy 3411 is the template for the presented draft. The policy complies with state/federal statutes and sets forth the process currently in practice in the district regarding students with seizure disorders or epilepsy. During a routine audit the district discovered this policy was not in place. The policy is similar to other district policies that address serious health issues (diabetes – Policy 3415 & asthma – Policy 3419).

The presented policy references the individual health care plan that must be on file for each student with seizure disorder or epilepsy and the requirement that this plan be updated at least annually. The policy additionally addresses the ability of parents of students with seizure disorders or epilepsy to designate an adult to provide care for their child consistent with the student's individual health care plan. The "parent-designated adult" may be a district employee or a non-school employee with the policy addressing each of these situations.

Responding to a question from Director Gray, Mr. Westermann explained that the policy works in conjunction with a student's 504 Plan.

No first reading changes were recommended.

President Burchard asked that the policy adoption be brought back for 2nd reading at the next board meeting as an action item.

**D. Resolution 22-01
COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement**

Note: Action on Resolution 22-01, COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement, was considered following Superintendent Woodward's report on the COVID Vaccination Survey.

At the request of President Burchard, Director Cannon read aloud Resolution 22-01. Listed below is a representative sample of the resolution's *WHEREAS* statements:

- It is the right of the individual to make health decisions related to one's own body and one's family.
- The COVID-19 vaccine mandate does not pass the nine criteria required in WAC 246-105-030.
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is an acceptable and encouraged choice for any student, parent or staff member who so desires.
- A COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students would create an unreasonable administrative burden.
- A COVID-19 vaccine mandate would result in irreparably broken trust with the community.
- The Mead School District provides multiple learning options for families based on their ability to decide what is right for them relative to managing their own health risk.

The resolution concludes with the Mead School District Board of Directors taking the official position that they are opposed to making the COVID-19 vaccine required under WAC 246-105-030.

Director Olson asked if other districts are taking similar action to which both Superintendent Woodward and Director Cannon answered they do not know of any at this time.

Director Cannon, in addition to the resolution, referenced a letter he drafted to Governor Inslee and the Washington State Board of Health, on behalf of the board, that shares survey data and sets forth a case against making the COVID-19 vaccine required under WAC 246-105-030.

Director Gray commended the district/board for reaching out to the community for their input and then sharing the survey findings with the Washington State Board of Health. She appreciates both sides of the issue. Even though she is the parent of a medically fragile student (diabetes) she believes parents should have a choice when it comes to the vaccine.

Director Olson encouraged the district to share the resolution with other school districts so they can consider taking similar action. Director Denholm concurred.

President Burchard thanked the 3,000+ community members who responded to the survey.

Director Denholm made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-01, COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement, as presented. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The board additionally, by unanimous consensus, agreed to send the letter drafted by Director Cannon on behalf of the board to Governor Inslee and the Washington State Board of Health with copies also being sent to local state legislators. (A copy of the resolution and letter are attached.)

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for the Month of November 2021

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson presented a brief financial report for the month of November 2021. Enrollment, on average, continues to be approximately 100 over budget. In January the district will start to see an increase in apportionment based on this higher

enrollment. It is still too early in the year to accurately project expenditures for the year although current expenditures are consistent with what was budgeted. The district continues to monitor COVID expenditures. As shared when the budget was adopted in August, the district continues to anticipate it will need to take \$7 million from its cash balance to cover expenditures for the year. For the upcoming year the district will look to bring expenditures in line with revenue.

B. Transitional Kindergarten Report

Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens provided an update on Transitional Kindergarten, a program the district will implement in the fall of 2022 at Shiloh Hills Elementary School. Report highlights included:

- **Why Transitional Kindergarten?** Research shows children who attend a Pre-K program continue to outperform students who do not attend and have long-term academic achievement. Additionally, students in the program will work toward becoming well-rounded students better prepared for school.
- **Alignment to Strategic Plan** - Transitional Kindergarten aligns with Priority Area 1 (Ensure academic success and high levels of learning for ALL students), Priority Area 4 (Connecting School, Family & Community) and Priority Area 5 (Whole Child: Safe, Challenged & Supported).
- **Difference between Transitional Kindergarten & Regular Kindergarten** - In Transitional Kindergarten students are *exposed* to Common Core and Content Standards. In regular Kindergarten the emphasis is on *mastery* of Common Core and Content Standards.
- **Required Elements** -
 - **Pillar I** - Transitional Kindergarten programs must meet the requirements of full-day kindergarten including administration of the WaKIDS whole-child assessment within the first ten weeks of school.
 - **Pillar II** - Classrooms are staffed by certificated teachers and para-educators.
 - **Pillar III** - Programs must be inclusive, socioeconomically diverse and responsive to the needs of children who qualify for participation.
 - **Pillar IV** - Programs must be fully integrated into school buildings with access to transportation, specialists, recess and lunch in the school cafeteria just like regular Kindergarten students.
 - **Pillar V** - Transitional Kindergarten programs work in collaboration with and do not adversely impact enrollment in community-based preschool programs, including Head Start, ECEAP, tribally-led early learning programs and those operating in licensed child care centers and licensed family homes. The district must participate in coordinated outreach, referral and appropriate placement to assure best fit for each child.
- **Program Eligibility** -
 - Pre-Requisite Requirements for Transitional Kindergarten (must meet all):
 - Turn 4 years-old by August 31 (cannot be 5 years old on August 31)
 - Reside within the Mead School District boundary (out-of-district students may be able to enroll on a space-available basis)
 - Not otherwise identified for participation in Head Start and/or ECEAP preschool programs
 - Qualifying Criteria for Transitional Kindergarten (must meet at least one):
 - Lack access (financial, availability or other significant factor) to a licensed preschool opportunity (opportunity gap)
 - Qualify for free/reduced meals (income gap)
 - Qualify for bilingual education (English language gap)
 - Exhibit lagging social and/or academic skills based on an administered screening (performance gap)

The district, in the next 30 days, will begin reaching out to community partners with program enrollment opening on March 1st.

In response to a question from Director Olson, Ms. Havens shared that Transitional Kindergarten students, based on enrollment criteria, enter with at least one gap (opportunity, income, English language or performance) and, therefore, upon completion of Transitional Kindergarten would not skip regular Kindergarten. She additionally noted all Kindergarten teachers do a very good job differentiating instruction for students.

In response to a question from Director Cannon, Ms. Havens explained students who qualify for an ECEAP program have a disability and, therefore, would not be eligible for enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten.

In conclusion, Ms. Havens shared that later this spring she will provide an update to the board on program progress.

C. COVID Vaccination Survey Discussion

The first week of January the Mead School District sent a survey to families seeking their input on the COVID vaccine. Superintendent Woodward shared survey results to the following four questions:

- *Are you in favor of a COVID Vaccine requirement for children ages 5 and up to attend school?*
 - 24.39% Yes
 - 71.04% No
 - 4.57% Unsure at this time
- *If the Governor mandates that children 5 and up must be vaccinated to attend school, will you vaccinate your children?*
 - 30.56% Yes
 - 62.04% No
 - 7.41% Unsure at this time
- *If the mandate includes an exemption process, will you seek to obtain an exemption for your child?*
 - 49.84% Yes
 - 36.94% No
 - 13.22% Unsure at this time
- *If there is a vaccine mandate for students, what will be your course of action?*
 - 30.60% I will vaccinate my student(s) in accordance with the mandate.
 - 11.82% I will seek an exemption from the vaccine mandate in order to keep my student(s) in the Mead School District.
 - 51.52% If there is no exemption process from the vaccine mandate, I will still not vaccinate my student(s) even if this means withdrawing from Mead Schools.
 - 6.07% Unsure at this time.

Superintendent Woodward explained the primary purpose of the survey, including comments, was to share results with the Washington State Board of Health. An impressive 3,000+ individuals responded to the survey. (Superintendent Woodward noted, because news outlets shared the survey link, some individuals, not a part of the Mead School District, most likely responded. However, following sharing of the link by local media, survey response percentages remained essentially unchanged.) Public Information Officer Todd Zeidler forwarded survey results, including comments, to the Washington State Board of Health prior to their January 12, 2022, meeting.

In conclusion, Superintendent Woodward shared superintendents throughout the area are concerned about a mass exodus from public education if a vaccine mandate for students is approved.

D. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items

Superintendent Woodward had nothing further to report.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

President

Secretary



**RESOLUTION 22-01
COVID 19 VACCINE REQUIREMENT**

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.320 RCW authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting, revising and suspending local board policies; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a *State of Emergency* in all counties of the state under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW and directed implementation of the plans and procedures of the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, only 16 states have mask mandates and only 9 states are reportedly considering requiring the COVID-19 vaccine as a requirement in K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, it is the right of the individual to make health decisions related to one's own body and one's family; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 vaccine mandate does not pass the nine criteria required when Reviewing Antigens for Potential Inclusion in WAC 246-105-030; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccine has been directly available to any vulnerable subset of the population for some time; and

WHEREAS, getting the COVID-19 vaccine is an acceptable and encouraged choice for any student, parent or staff member who so desires; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students would create an unreasonable administrative burden; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for Mead School District students would result in irreparably broken trust with the community; and

WHEREAS, the Mead School District is providing multiple learning options for families based on their ability to decide what is right for them relative to managing their own health risk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mead School District Board of Directors is opposed to making the COVID-19 vaccine required under WAC 246-105-030.

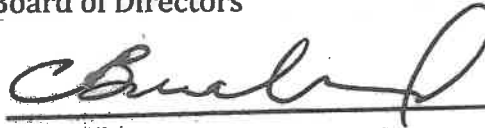
ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Mead School District No. 354, Spokane County, Washington, and authenticated by the signatures affixed below.

Dated this 10th day of January 2022.

Attest:

Mead School District No. 354
Board of Directors


Secretary to the Board


Chad Burchard, President

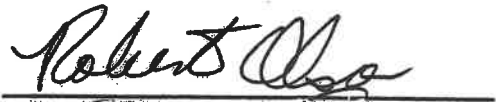

Denny Denholm, Vice-President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Cannon', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Cannon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BrieAnne Gray', written over a horizontal line.

BrieAnne Gray

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bob Olson', written over a horizontal line.

Bob Olson



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January 11, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Washington State Board of Health
PO Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98504-7990

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate
K-12 Public School Students

Dear Governor Inslee and Washington State Board of Health,

The Mead School District Board of Directors wrote to you on August 19, 2021, and requested transparency and metrics for local decision making around COVID related to mask mandates. Under threat of losing state funding, we indicated we would comply with the mask mandate even though a large majority of our community disagreed with the mandate.

To date, our request for metrics has received no response. It remains unclear whether such metrics simply do not exist, or the State has elected to not share them with its citizens. Either case is problematic and prompts great concern now that even more impactful decisions are being made/considered regarding vaccination requirements for K-12 public school students.

This brings us to the current discussion regarding the possibility of a vaccine requirement for school children ages 5 and up. To be clear, a vaccination requirement for K-12 public school students would be devastating for the Mead School District.

First, the COVID-19 vaccine mandate clearly does not pass the State Board of Health's nine criteria required when Reviewing Antigens for Potential Inclusion in WAC 246-105-030. We do not take issue with the vaccine itself, and in fact continue to support vaccination in our community. Our lack of support for the mandate stems from the following not being met under Section II and Section III on the list of required criteria:

II. Disease Burden Criteria

5. The vaccine containing this antigen prevents disease(s) that has significant morbidity and/or mortality in at least some subset of the population.

The vaccine has been directly available to every vulnerable subset of the population for some time.

6. Vaccinating against this disease reduces the risk of person-to-person transmission, with transmission in a school or childcare setting or activity being given the highest priority.

It is widely proven that vaccinated individuals can and do continue to transmit the virus. We know this because this was the science used to justify mask mandates. Masks are mandated in schools already, regardless of vaccination status, to prevent the vaccinated from transmitting the virus.

III. Implementation of the Criteria

7. The vaccine containing this antigen is acceptable to the medical community and the public.

While the vaccine may be acceptable to the medical community (although we will note that even within the medical community the vaccine adoption rate was not acceptable enough to preclude a forced mandate), we cannot gloss over the fact that public acceptance does not even represent a strong majority.

- ***Under 51% of Spokane County residents are vaccinated. (srdc.org)***
- ***Less than 40% of children ages 12-17 are vaccinated. (srdc.org)***
- ***Only 36% of the entire black community in Spokane County is vaccinated and it is reasonable to assume this number is far lower among children ages 12-17. A vaccine mandate in schools would disproportionately affect students of color in our community. (srdc.org)***

8. The administrative burdens of delivery and tracking of vaccine containing this antigen are reasonable.

Our administrators and nurses have already provided feedback that a vaccine mandate for K-12 public school students would create an unreasonable and insurmountable administrative burden.

9. The burden of compliance for the vaccine containing this antigen is reasonable for the parent/caregiver.

As stated above (vaccination statistics), parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children. Forcing them to do so (as with other segments of our society who were forced under the threat of losing their jobs and livelihoods) does not fall within a reasonable burden of compliance. It does not seem logical to vaccinate a group (ages 0-19) with such a low, even insignificant, rate of hospitalization or

death, while claiming that will protect a more vulnerable group (ages 50-90) with a dramatically higher rate of vaccination (62%-82% based on age). It defies logic that our state would propose forcing vaccination on those who do not need it to protect those who are already vaccinated or could easily become vaccinated.

The vaccine is now widely available to any age group. Vaccination rates reflect individual health choices that must be protected. We must recognize that individuals have the right make their own health decisions for themselves and their families. There simply is not a case to be made for forcing someone to get vaccinated to protect someone else who can easily get vaccinated themselves.

Second, a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for school age children, without an exemption for personal reasons, would result in irreparably broken trust - trust that is essential between a community and its public schools. While education can be a great equalizer, a COVID-19 vaccine mandate will further breed distrust and diminish support for our institutions, negating our equalization efforts.

Trust in our public schools is already severely strained. Since the very beginning of the pandemic state regulations have been mandated, placing much of the burden for communication, implementation and enforcement entirely on principals, teachers, staff, administrators and local school boards. Thus, school boards and administrators have been left to manage the very real frustrations of large portions of our public. This has taken time and focus away from our critical mission of serving students and supporting teachers and staff.

Further, a vaccine mandate, in addition to resulting in decreased enrollment, will further erode public trust and undoubtedly lead to the community refusing to support local levies. The resulting lack of trust and loss of support from taxpayers will do far more harm to our ability to educate and meet the needs of students than the threat COVID-19 poses.

We've surveyed our Mead School District community and asked the following four questions. There were 2,978 responses. Here are the results

Are you in favor of a COVID Vaccine requirement for children ages 5 and up to attend school?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	25.35% 755
No	70.01% 2,085
Unsure at this time	4.63% 138
TOTAL	2,978

If the Governor mandates that children 5 and up must be vaccinated to attend school, will you vaccinate your children?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	31.81% 947
No	61.00% 1,816
Unsure at this time	7.19% 214
TOTAL	2,977

If the mandate includes an exemption process, will you seek to obtain an exemption for your child?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	49.11% 1,462
No	37.99% 1,131
Unsure at this time	12.90% 384
TOTAL	2,977

If there is a vaccine mandate for students, what will be your course of action?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I will vaccinate my student(s) in accordance with the mandate.	31.85% 948
I will seek an exemption from the vaccine mandate in order to keep my student(s) in the Mead School District.	11.73% 349
If there is no exemption process from the vaccine mandate, I will still not vaccinate my student(s) even if this means withdrawing from Mead Schools.	50.60% 1,506
Unsure at this time	5.81% 173
TOTAL	2,976

Therefore, as the elected representative voice in our community, we support vaccination but stand firmly against a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for K-12 public school children.

However, should the State Board of Health decide to move forward and create a supportive structure for public schools, we respectfully request the following:

1. Engage the public in a transparent and coherent manner by clearly reinforcing that the authority over these mandates lies with the state. Additionally, clearly inform the public on how they can engage with the correct decision makers in these matters.
2. Maintain the medical, religious and personal exemptions with regard to any COVID-19 vaccination requirement. It is essential that we honor the voices of our parents.
3. Clearly identify what benchmarks must be met to end universal masking in schools/classrooms.

In the Mead School District, we believe it is critically important to provide safe, in-person instruction for our students. We want to return to the business of educating our students in the safest and most effective manner. Our student, our educators and our community need your support to make that happen.

In conclusion, as the representative voice in the Mead School District community, we support vaccination, but stand firmly against a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for K-12 public school children.

Sincerely,

Mead School District Board of Directors



Chad Burchard, President



Denny Denholm, Vice-President



Michael Cannon



BrieAnne Gray



Bob Olson

copy: Spokane Regional Health District
State Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig
3rd District State Representative Marcus Riccelli
3rd District State Representative Timm Ormsby
4th District State Senator Mike Padden
4th District State Representative Rob Chase
4th District State Representative Bob McCaslin
6th District State Senator Jeff Holy
6th District State Representative Mike Volz
6th District State Representative Jenny Graham
7th District State Senator Shelly Short
7th District State Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
7th District State Representative Joel Kretz