



**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, March 10, 2014**

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The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2014. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and was held at Prairie View Elementary School. Directors Farley, O'Connor, Hunt and Olson were present. Director Denholm was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller and Assistant Superintendents Ralph Thayer and Wayne Leonard. Executive Director Jared Hoadley and Assistant Superintendents Dorcas Wylder, Susana Reyes and Ken Russell were excused.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Director O'Connor made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 24, 2014, and Board Retreat of February 28, 2014, as presented. Director Hunt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Proclamation**

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller read the *Classified Employee Appreciation Week Proclamation*, signed by Governor Jay Inslee, declaring March 10-14, 2014, **Classified School Employee Week**. School board members expressed their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Mead's classified employees. The purpose of this weeklong celebration is to recognize the efforts of the nearly 50,000 classified school employees, statewide, who are involved in nearly every aspect of public education.

**IV. Remarks for the Good of the Schools**

Superintendent Rockefeller shared the following:

- Mead High School science teacher Greg Conley is the March 2014 EWU/KHQ "Teacher of the Month." KHQ's Stephanie Vigil, at the Mead High School Winter Recognition Assembly, presented this award to Mr. Conley.
- Mead School District art teachers have joined together and will be continuing the *Eye4Art* tradition started by the Mead Education Foundation. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2014, at Mead High School.
- Shiloh Hills just concluded their annual "Care and Share" month. This year the "Magic Penny Drive" raised \$1,814.38 and students and staff collected 889 lbs. of canned food.
- The Mt. Spokane Dance Team, under the direction of Nancy Butz, has qualified two routines for the WIAA State Dance/Drill Competition taking place in Yakima March 28 and March 29.
- On Saturday, March 8, 215 Mead School District and Mead community volunteers gathered at Second Harvest Food Bank and built 7,500 *Bite-2-Go* weekend meals for hungry kids who depend on free breakfast and lunch at school during the week. Several Mead School District principals, employees and students volunteered their time including Superintendent Rockefeller and his wife Pera. The *Bite-2-Go* program is the brainchild of Chris and Brenna Sloan and is part of the non-profit "At the Core." This program currently provides weekend meals for 300 Mead School District students. Mead School District Student Team Leaders for the event were Gillian Hallock (Mead HS), Camryn Breneman (Mt. Spokane HS) and Rylee Goff (Mt. Spokane HS).

Director Olson positively commented on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade “Math is Cool” competition he attended at Mt. Spokane High School on Saturday, March 8. The Mt. Spokane gym was packed for the awards ceremony that included three Mead School District students who placed in the top ten. First place went to Colbert’s Derek Borst, third place to Tyson Degenart (Midway) and fourth place to Alex Cong (Midway).

**V. Council for Learning Improvement Report – Prairie View Elementary**

On behalf of the Prairie View Elementary School community principal Eric Hoglund welcomed all in attendance and introduced Prairie View principal assistant Justin Valentine.

This spring Prairie View 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders at all Mead School District elementary schools, will be involved in piloting the new Smarter Balanced Assessments in English/Language Arts and math. These online assessments will be administered over a five-week period with each grade level testing for five days. District elementary schools have enough laptops to test one grade level at a time. Mr. Hoglund explained that even if more laptops were available there is concern that the district’s current internet bandwidth, and the number of wireless access points at elementary schools, would not have the capacity to handle an increase in wireless internet use.

Each board member was given a laptop and invited to visit the Smarter Balanced website as Mr. Hoglund explained various aspects of the new assessments. One challenge with an online assessment is that students need to know how to use a computer, have keyboarding skills and the ability to navigate the testing website. This year at Prairie View students have been practicing reading a fairly large piece of literature online and then answering questions that involve working with a split screen and scrolling up and down the page. Mr. Hoglund also distributed a sample 6<sup>th</sup> grade Smarter Balanced math problem that involved planning a field trip including the determination of cost per student using three potential destinations.

In conclusion, Mr. Hoglund gave examples of the practicing and planning the Prairie View staff has participated in this year to assure their students will be well prepared for the new Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Following Mr. Hoglund’s informative presentation comments included the need to upgrade the district’s technology infrastructure and the balance between teaching test taking skills and providing traditional instruction.

**VI. Continuing Business - none**

**VII. New Business**

**A. Consent Agenda**

Director Hunt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director O’Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. 2014-2015 Calendar Amendment**

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer presented an amendment to the 2014-2015 school year calendar for board consideration. This calendar received board approval last spring. Subsequent to that approval the district and Mead Education Association (MEA) ratified a new collective bargaining agreement that includes one Learning Improvement Day (LID) annually. The previous contract did not have a LID provision.

To incorporate a LID for the 2014-2015 school year it is the joint recommendation of the district and MEA that Friday, October 10, 2014, be designated as a LID. This would be a non-school day for students. To make up for the lost student day it is recommended the last day of school be moved from Thursday, June 11, 2014, to Friday, June 12, 2014.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the recommended amendment to the Mead School District 2014-2015 School Year Calendar, as presented. Director Hunt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. 2015-2016 Calendar Discussion**

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer, as a discussion item, presented two calendar options for the 2015-2016 school year for board consideration. The Mead School District has a tradition of inviting a representative from each of the district’s employee bargaining groups to a calendar meeting where two calendar options are drafted. All Mead School District employees then vote on the two options with the winning selection recommended to the board for approval.

The 2015-2016 Calendar Committee met in early March and came up with two options for 2015-2016. Mr. Thayer explained the two options are being presented to the board for their input prior to a staff vote. Option A has the first day of school prior to Labor Day and in Option B the first day of school is the day after Labor Day. Labor Day in 2015 is September 7<sup>th</sup>. Option A has three non-school days incorporated during the school year that are not holidays or “snow makeup” days.

Following discussion, that included concerns with Option A because of how many weeks during the school year include a non-school day, the board recommended Mr. Thayer reconvene the Calendar Committee to come up with a different Option A. It was also suggested that, before meeting again, the Calendar Committee wait until other area districts have established their 2015-2016 calendar so those calendars can be used as references.

This was a discussion item only.

**D. Mt. Spokane Travel Proposal – National History Bowl Championships**

On behalf of Jared Hoadley (Student Services Executive Director), Assistant Superintendent Wayne Leonard presented a student travel proposal from the Mt. Spokane History Bowl Team (seven male qualifying members and their coach Luke Thomas) to travel to Washington D.C. for History Bowl Nationals April 24-27, 2014.

Director O’Connor made a motion to approve the travel request for qualifying members of the Mt. Spokane History Bowl Team, and their coach Luke Thomas, to travel to Washington D.C., April 24-27, 2014, for History Bowl Nationals, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Reports**

**A. Superintendent’s Report and Discussion Items**

Regarding work on revising harassment, intimidation and bullying protocols and procedures, Superintendent Rockefeller reported that Executive Director of Student Services Jared Hoadley is leading this effort. One specific area of concern is the increased use of the HIB Incident Form for situations that do not fit HIB criteria but are used by stakeholders because they cannot find an appropriate vehicle to bring those concerns to light. Superintendent Rockefeller reported other districts around the state are also experiencing this phenomenon.

**IX. Executive Session**

At 7 p.m. Director Farley called for an Executive Session of approximately 30 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 7:30 p.m. Director Farley returned the meeting to open session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting was immediately adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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**President**

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**Secretary**