



Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Monday, May 12, 2014

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 12, 2014. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and was held at Meadow Ridge Elementary School. Directors Farley, Denholm, O'Connor and Olson were present. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, Assistant Superintendents Ralph Thayer, Wayne Leonard and Ken Russell, and Executive Director Jared Hoadley. Assistant Superintendents Dorcas Wylder and Susana Reyes were excused.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Director O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 28, 2014, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

ASB President Jacob Lionello presented a brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mt. Spokane High School. Senior Prom was May 10th and for spring sports Mt. Spokane is home to three GSL Champions - Boys Track, Girls Golf and Boys Soccer.

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer introduced Laura Ketcham-Duchow who is the recommended candidate to be the next Shiloh Hills Elementary School principal. Mr. Thayer referenced the strong applicant pool for this position and stated the district is looking forward to working with Ms. Ketcham-Duchow. Directors Denholm and Farley had the opportunity to sit in on the interviews and also affirmed the strong applicant pool. The board welcomed Ms. Ketcham-Duchow to the Mead School District.

Director Olson, reporting on the recent Audit Exit Conference, praised Business Services Assistant Superintendent Wayne Leonard and his entire department for "a job well done." He reported it was the best audit review he can recall. There were no exceptions and no findings. The district is in excellent financial condition. Superintendent Rockefeller also expressed his appreciation. The district, under Mr. Leonard's leadership, has had no audit findings for the past nine years. Director Denholm explained that not only does the annual state audit last 4-6 weeks but the cost (approximately \$35,000) must be paid by the district.

Director O'Connor had the opportunity to attend a kindergarten presentation and reported it was "a pure delight" - fun to watch, very worthwhile and a good reminder to her of how much our teachers do for students.

IV. Council for Learning Improvement Report - Meadow Ridge Elementary

On behalf of the Meadow Ridge Elementary School community principal Shawn Worstell welcomed all in attendance and introduced members of the Meadow Ridge CLI team - Amy Gracyalny (kindergarten), Steve Rogers (6th grade), Deanna Prichard (3rd grade), Jane Deitz (1st grade), Sonja Svennungsen (Resource Room), Mike Daniels (parent) and Liz Fish (administrative assistant).

Ms. Worstell distributed a copy of the 2013-2014 Meadow Ridge CLI report and highlighted, with assistance from CLI team members, several learning improvement emphasis areas including:

- **Science:** Meadow Ridge has started a daily science program designed to expose students to scientific language at all grade levels.

- **English/Language Arts:** Understanding that fluent readers typically have better comprehension than those who struggle, a primary ELA goal for Meadow Ridge is to build fluency at all grade levels.
- **Math:** Meadow Ridge, working with the District Math Committee, is supplementing the district math curriculum with *Engage New York* materials to help students meet the rigor of the new Common Core math standards.
- **Achievement Gap:** The achievement gap primarily involves students who qualify for special education services. To help those students Meadow Ridge is focusing on improving communication between special education and general education teachers and working with students on subject specific vocabulary.
- **Safety:** Last year several safety upgrades were installed at Meadow Ridge including mirrored windows along the front of the school and locking hallway access doors. Parent feedback regarding these improvements has been very positive.
- **Technology:** The school is very thankful for the new computer carts they received this year. The carts are used “all the time.”
- **School Climate:** Parent survey results (130 responses) were shared and show that more than 90% of the community “strongly agrees” or “agrees” that Meadow Ridge provides a strong, safe, and welcoming learning experience for students.

Director Olson asked how parents are responding to all of the testing? In response, Ms. Worstell reported she is surprised she has not received more parent questions/concerns.

V. Continuing Business - none

VI. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer asked if there were any questions regarding the Consent Agenda. Questions/concerns were expressed regarding the Leave without Pay request to take time away from work to volunteer at the Spokane Kennel Club. While the board expressed their support of employees volunteering their time to help various causes, the consensus was that volunteering is optional, should be done on one’s own time and that the school district should not fund an employee’s volunteer activities. Director Farley, addressing those who might think taking Leave without Pay does not cost the district, reminded that when a permanent employee is absent there is a cost to student learning.

Director O’Connor made a motion to pull the Leave without Pay request from the consent agenda that involved the employee requesting time off to volunteer. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Farley commented on the retirement of Brentwood principal Roger Pike and Mead High School teacher Mark Bowman noting that both individuals have had a positive impact on many, many students during their tenure with the Mead School District. Director O’Connor added that each of her four children had the privilege of having Mr. Bowman as their teacher for Junior Humanities.

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended (volunteer Leave without Pay request pulled). Director O’Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Leaves for the Good of the District

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer drew attention to the fact that the number of staff requesting a Leave for the Good of the District is much shorter than in previous years. Each of the 2014-15 school year requests was accompanied by a letter/email of support from the employee’s supervisor/principal. Mr. Thayer voiced his support for each of the requested Good of the District leaves. Director Farley expressed his preference that no programs suffer because a Good of the District leave was granted.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the Leaves for the Good of the District as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Student Travel Proposal

Mt. Spokane High School HOSA National Conference

Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley presented for board consideration a travel proposal from Mt. Spokane High School for six qualifying students, plus teacher Raeleen Epperson and a second adult chaperone, to travel to Orlando, Florida, for the 2014 HOSA National Conference, June 24-29, 2014. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the travel proposal from Mt. Spokane High School for six qualifying students, plus teacher Raeleen Epperson and a second adult chaperone, to travel to Orlando, Florida, to attend the 2014 HOSA National Conference, June 24-29, 2014, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Student Travel Proposal

Mead High School FCCLA Nationals

Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley presented for board consideration a travel proposal from Mead High School for seven qualifying students, plus their coach Beth Gruenke, to travel to San Antonio, Texas, for the 2014 FCCLA National Conference, July 5-11, 2014.

Director O'Connor made a motion to approve the travel proposal from Mead High School for seven qualifying students, plus their coach Beth Gruenke, to travel to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the 2014 FCCLA National Conference, July 5-11, 2014, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. First Reading Policy & Procedure 1110 Revision Election

Director O'Connor presented for first reading consideration a revision to Policy & Procedure 1110 - Election. The last time this policy and procedure were updated was January 29, 2007. The primary reason for the proposed policy revision is there have been changes to RCW29A.24.050 and RCW 29A.04.311 moving the candidacy filing date from June to May, and changing the primary election date from the third Tuesday in August to the first Tuesday in August. The only recommended revision to the procedure is the addition of "Open Public Meetings Act and conflict of interest laws" to subset "E".

There were no changes recommended to the presented policy/procedure revision.

This was the first reading of a policy/procedure revision. No action was requested.

F. District 5 School Board Vacancy Discussion

Director Farley reported that six individuals have expressed an interest in filling the District 5 school board vacancy - Leigh Drinkard, Shayne Goff, Carmen Green, Mike Kight, Angela Murua and Steve Webbenhurst. The vacancy was advertised in the Spokesman Review and posted electronically on district and school websites. The deadline to submit a Letter of Interest was May 7, 2014.

Director Farley explained candidate qualifications will be reviewed in Executive Session and, following preliminary screening, one or two Special Board Meetings will be arranged to interview candidates. The board, per Mead School District Policy 1115, has the authority to appoint an individual to fill this vacancy until the next regularly scheduled School Board election in November 2015.

VII. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report and Discussion Items

Superintendent Rockefeller distributed a letter on the recent rescission of Washington State's "No Child Left Behind" AYP waiver and explained that because the Washington State Legislature did not adopt the Department of Education's requirement that statewide student test scores be used in teacher evaluations the federal waiver, allowing for less than 100% proficiency levels on state tests, was rescinded. This means 99% of Washington State schools, including all Mead Schools, will be labeled as "failing" because they will not make "adequate yearly progress" as defined by the "No Child Left Behind" federal legislation. Superintendent Rockefeller emphasized that the law requires

100% accuracy in over three-dozen categories. He went on to explain that the remaining 1% is not impacted because their student population is so small they are exempt from the regulations. Superintendent Rockefeller stated he would be drafting a letter to the Mead community on this topic and would present it to the board for review at an upcoming board meeting.

The Mead School District just learned they have been awarded an Emergency Response Grant from OSPI. Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley, who submitted the grant application, explained the amount of the grant is \$314,447 and the money must be used to purchase/install new emergency response systems that will decrease the time it takes for police and other first responders to arrive and react to incidents at schools.

Other reported items included a handout that shows Mead School District SAT math scores are increasing, a list of spring athletic playoff events for both Mead and Mt. Spokane High Schools and reference to a new TED-Ed video creation by Mountainside science teacher Shannon Stiles. The video, "Cell vs Virus: A Battle for Health", will be shown at the next board meeting with Ms. Stiles in attendance.

VIII. Closed Session

A. MEA Grievance Hearing

At 7:30 p.m. Director Farley called for a Closed Session for the purpose of hearing two Step 3 MEA grievances.

At 8:20 p.m. Director Farley returned the meeting to Open Session.

IX. Executive Session

At 8:20 p.m. Director Farley called for an Executive Session of approximately 40 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee and reviewing the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office.

At 9 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 9 p.m.

President

Secretary