



Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Monday, September 22, 2014

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, September 22, 2014. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and was held at the Mead School District Administration Office. Directors Farley, Denholm, O'Connor and Green were present. Director Olson was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, Assistant Superintendents Ralph Thayer, Wayne Leonard and Ken Russell and Executive Director Heather Havens. Assistant Superintendents Susana Reyes and Pam Veltri and Executive Director Jared Hoadley were excused.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Green made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Director Denholm 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 September 8, 2014, as presented. Director Green 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. This year the senior class started a new tradition. On the first Friday of school they met on the soccer field at 6 a.m. for "Senior Sunrise." Near the end of the school year they plan to meet again, only this time in the evening, for "Senior Sunset." Mt. Spokane just completed their Homecoming Week, which culminated in the crowning of Lucas Morgan, a senior born with Down syndrome and diagnosed with leukemia in 2012, as Homecoming King. The coronation was the subject of both a KHQ and Spokesman Review news story. Another highlight of Homecoming Week was the money collected by staff and students for the Spokane Guilds' School. Mt. Spokane will host a Blood Drive on October 28 and the "Battle of the Bell" football game will take place October 10.

Director Denholm commented on the Emerald City Football Classic that Mt. Spokane took part in the first weekend of September. The team won the game and Superintendent Rockefeller reported that many in attendance were very complimentary of the sportsmanship and character of the Mt. Spokane students and athletes. Director Denholm also positively commented on the Cat Scramble golf tournament put on by the Mt. Spokane and Mead Athletic Booster Clubs. Early indications are that the event raised nearly the same amount of money as last year.

IV. Continuing Business

A. Second Reading Policy & Procedure 2110 Revision Transitional Bilingual Education

Learning Services Executive Director Heather Havens presented a revision to Policy and Procedure 2110 - Transitional Bilingual Education - for second reading consideration. The last time this policy/procedure was updated was February 22, 2010.

The proposed revision to this policy and procedure involves changing the name of the program to "Transitional Bilingual/Alternative Instructional Program." By adding "alternative" to the program title and description the district's current ELD (English Language Development) program/practices will be in compliance with the transitional bilingual WAC.

There were no changes to the proposed revisions recommended at the first reading.

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the revisions to Policy & Procedure 2110 - Transitional Bilingual Education - as presented. Director O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agendas A & B

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

Director O'Connor made a motion to approve Consent Agenda B, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried. Director Green abstained from the vote.

VI. Reports

A. ELD (English Language Development) Report

Learning Services Executive Director Heather Havens, after introducing ELD teacher Maud Jackson, presented a program overview of the Mead School District Transitional Bilingual/Alternative Instructional Program. The motto of the program is "Every Child, Every Day" which succinctly captures the ELD staff goal of someone from the department seeing every English Language Learner every day. The current number of ELL students being served is 284 - an increase of 75 students over projections with the majority of students attending Shiloh Hills Elementary and Mt. Spokane High School. These 284 students speak 24 different languages.

The district increased the ELD staff for the 2014-2015 school year adding 2.5 teachers and 3 full-time para-educators. For the current school year there will be six certificated staff and five para-educators working with ELL students. Of the six certificated staff, five have an ELD endorsement and the sixth is working on the certification through Whitworth University.

Looking forward, Ms. Havens explained the need to provide professional development for all teachers that focuses on effective instructional strategies. Given the growing number of ELL students in the near future every Mead School District teacher will be providing instruction for ELL students.

Discussion following this report included how social cues differ from culture to culture, home visits and the expense associated with technologies that provide translation from a student's home language to English and vice versa.

B. Charter School Conference Report

Learning Services Assistant Superintendent Ken Russell and Midway Principal Kevin Peterson presented a brief overview of the information presented at a charter school conference they attended, along with Director Denholm, in early September in Seattle. They went to the conference to learn more about charter schools in preparation for starting the Riverpoint Academy Study Plan authorized by the Mead School District Board of Directors in Resolution 14-5, dated August 18, 2014. The conference covered the differences between a "local school district" authorizing a charter school and the "state" acting as the authorizer.

Discussion following this report included the administrative time involved when a local school district is an authorizer, who has the fiduciary responsibility for a district authorized charter school, and if the district does not grant a charter school request is the state able to override that decision. There was also discussion around "converting" an existing school versus "authorizing" a new school. The board inquired as to the number of Mead School District voters who voted "yes" on the proposition to have charter schools in Washington. Mr. Russell and Mr. Peterson said they did not have that statistic but would obtain the information and report back to the board.

C. Financial Report for the month of August 2014

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Wayne Leonard presented a brief financial report for the month of August 2014. At the conclusion of this report Mr. Leonard spoke briefly about the NEWESD 101 Compensated Absences Liability Pool the district entered into five years ago and the uncertainty of audit expectations around such pools. Because the board, by resolution, approved joining the pool Mr. Leonard wanted to inform them of the inconsistent auditor interpretations and ask for their input before making a determination on whether to withdraw from the pool. Mr. Leonard stated that if the district withdraws from the pool it would, in his opinion, be prudent for the board to revisit the Fund Balance policy to assure the district has the financial resources on hand to cover the liability currently covered by the Compensated Absences Liability Pool.

D. Learning Services – State Scores

Learning Services Assistant Director Danette Driscoll reported on state scores from testing that took place in the spring of 2014. As compared to previous years the number of scores to share is reduced because the Mead School District was a pilot school district for the Smarter Balanced Assessments last year and scores from pilot tests are not released.

The Mead School District continues to exceed the state average in all reported areas. A highlight for the 5th grade MSP Science Test was the significant increase in students meeting standard at Brentwood Elementary – 81% to 93.3%. This spring students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 will take part in Smarter Balanced Assessments.

For middle schools, Ms. Driscoll shared information that not only compared grade level scores from last year to this year but also compared scores for the cohort back to 4th grade for writing and 6th grade for math. The same was done for 10th graders looking back to their 8th grade scores.

Discussion included the frustration of not receiving test results more quickly from the state and the need for interim assessments so that instruction can be modified in a timely manner to meet student learning needs.

E. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller reminded board members about the upcoming Board Retreat scheduled for October 1, 2014.

VII. Executive Session

At 7:40 p.m. Director Farley called for an Executive Session of approximately 50 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 8:30 p.m. Director Farley returned the meeting to open session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was immediately adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

President

Secretary