



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, May 9, 2016**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and was held at Evergreen Elementary School. Directors Denholm, Olson and Green were present. Director Farley was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, Assistant Superintendents Wayne Leonard, Ralph Thayer, Pam Veltri and Ken Russell and Executive Director Jared Hoadley. Assistant Superintendent Susana Reyes and Executive Director Heather Havens were excused.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Green made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Director Olson 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 25, 2016, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

ASB President Belle Miller presented a brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mead High School. Recent, well-attended and fun activities included the *Mother Daughter Tea*, the *Mother/Son-Father/Daughter Dance* and *Senior Prom* that took place at the Spokane Convention Center with an attendance of 360 students. Upcoming activities include the *Dance Team Spring Show*, *Father-Son Casino Night*, *Senior Recognition Night* and the *Senior Awards Assembly*. The boys' track team is the GSL Champion and the recent Blood Drive resulted in the collection of 180 units of blood.

Principal Darren Nelson positively reported on the *Community Block Party* hosted by Mt. Spokane on May 4. The primary purpose of the evening was to celebrate and bring together the entire Mt. Spokane community (Colbert, Meadow Ridge, Midway, Shiloh Hills and Mountainside). Attendance was estimated to be nearly 2,000 with 1,500 of those individuals enjoying a free meal organized by Kim Elkins, Director of Nutrition Services, and served by principals from Mt. Spokane's feeder schools. Mr. Nelson thanked Superintendent Rockefeller and board members for their attendance. He additionally expressed pride and gratitude to the many members of his staff who volunteered their time to help create a great evening for the Mt. Spokane community. Plans are already underway to host this same event again next year.

Superintendent Rockefeller reported he received many complimentary emails about the *Community Block Party* and each board member expressed appreciation to Mr. Nelson and the many individuals - staff and students - who helped make the evening special.

Regarding the potential housing of Prairie View 6th graders at the Northwood Middle School campus next year, Jeff Valley, parent of a current Prairie View 5th grader, announcing he was speaking on behalf of many other Prairie View 5th grade families, read a prepared statement that included:

- Acknowledged Dr. Kevin Peterson, and the Prairie View teachers who have volunteered to teach 6th grade at Northwood next year, have done a nice job addressing many of the issues and concerns shared by parents, but contended there are still ongoing concerns and issues that remain unresolved.

- Continued concern with “Why?” Why is the district looking to make this move next year?
- Acknowledgement that it is “unfortunate” 88+ Prairie View students are currently shuttled to other elementary schools because of space limitations.
- Request that someone be “bold enough to be honest and tell the truth” about why this move should take place next year rather than waiting until the new Northwood is built.
- Assertion that waiting would “only be fair to our 100+ 5th grade kids whose families have lived on the Prairie for 15+ years - a lot longer than those that recently moved into an already overcrowded school neighborhood. They moved into a neighborhood with a full school and now we are being kicked out to make room for them.”
- Assertion that the move is “nothing more than a convenient way for the district to try and address an overcrowding problem that has existed at Prairie View for years . . . and it has nothing to do with the best interests of our children.”
- Assertion that previous district responses such as “we could not have anticipated the growth” and “this is a great chance to pilot the new 6-8 model the district is going to” are extremely transparent answers and are not honest and truthful.”
- Expressed concern that the decision was made some time ago, behind closed doors, devoid of any 5th grade parent discussion.
- Assertion the decision to make the move “was an extremely hasty decision at best.” Parents will now be left “shouldering the burden of a lack of district planning by having to prepare our kids for middle school while they have one month left at Prairie View.”
- Assertion the “lone bright shining star at this point” is the teachers. If the move happens next year “they will make it a great program for the kids. Those teachers . . . along with Dave Stenersen’s experience are saving the day.”
- Pledge that if the move happens he, and parents he speaks for, “will be fully behind the teachers and will contribute in every positive way possible . . . all the while keeping a much closer and watchful eye on how the district proceeds in this and other matters.”

Director Denholm thanked Mr. Valley for his comments and referenced the parent meeting that took place at Northwood on May 3rd where answers were provided to many questions and concerns. Director Denholm also stated that Dr. Kevin Peterson would be presenting a report on the housing of Prairie View 6th graders on the Northwood campus later in the evening.

IV. Council for Learning Improvement Report – Evergreen Elementary

Evergreen Assistant Principal Michael Danford welcomed the board and audience to Evergreen Elementary School. He additionally acknowledged the many Evergreen staff members who were in attendance and, after introducing Evergreen Principal Dr. Kevin Peterson, thanked him for his leadership. Next year Dr. Peterson is transitioning to a position at district office and Mr. Danford will be the new principal at Evergreen.

With assistance from several teachers, students and Whitworth interns, Mr. Danford shared the following “top 10” things that make Evergreen awesome:

- #10 - **Community Partnerships** including the adoption of the school by a local Rotary chapter and Whitworth work-study interns who help struggling readers.
- #9 - **Title and LAP Programs** that include four teachers and an intentional focus on improving student learning.
- #8 - **Reading Action Team**
- #7 - **Math Team and Writing Team**
- #6 - **Parent Involvement**
- #5 - **Lunch Buddy Program and Morning Reading Program.** In its second year, there are 40 Lunch Buddy volunteers who work primarily with 1st – 4th grade students.
- #4 - **Homework Club**, which is staffed with a teacher and work-study students. 63 students are involved with an average of 19 students attending each day.
- #3 - **DLC** students have returned to Evergreen this year.
- #2 - **PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports) School.**

#1 - **Awesome Kids and Awesome Staff.**

In conclusion, Mr. Danford expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Evergreen community as their principal next year. He then played a video where students, parents and staff explained why they think Evergreen is awesome.

V. Continuing Business - none

VI. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Human Services Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer positively commented on the retirements listed on the Consent Agenda and thanked those individuals for their many years of service. Director Olson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Partial Resignations

Human Services Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer presented two partial resignations for board consideration. Both employees currently have a 1.0 FTE special education position. The SLP would like to resign .4 FTE and the Educational Specialist .2 FTE. After consulting with Special Services Assistant Superintendent Susana Reyes, Mr. Thayer reported that finding qualified candidates to fill part-time SLP and Education Specialist positions is difficult because most individuals with the appropriate credentials are looking for full-time employment. Additionally, scheduling and consistency in services for students is most ideal with full-time positions.

Based on the aforementioned concerns Mr. Thayer recommended the partial resignations not be accepted.

Following discussion that included the balance between family situations and the need to hire the most qualified individuals to serve students, Director Green made a motion to not accept the presented partial resignations. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Student Travel Proposal Mead High School Debate

Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley presented for board consideration a travel request from the Mead High School Debate Team to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah, June 12-18, 2016, to participate in Debate Nationals. Two student qualifiers and the Mead High Debate Coach Mike Stovern plan to travel to this tournament with the Coeur d' Alene and Lake City debate teams. This will increase the number of adult supervisors and provide both male and female chaperones.

Following discussion that included a question regarding how final exams will be handled, Director Olson made a motion to approve the Mead High School Debate Team request to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah, June 12-18, 2016, for Debate Nationals, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 16-7 WIAA Enrollment for 2016-2017

Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley presented Resolution 16-7, WIAA Enrollment for 2016-2017, for board consideration. The Mead School District has been a participating member of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) for many years. Only sanctioned WIAA sports are offered in our secondary schools. This annual resolution confirms our participation and support for the rules and regulations of the WIAA.

Director Olson made a motion to adopt Resolution 16-6, WIAA Enrollment for 2016-2017, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Participation Fees (2016-2017)

Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley presented a draft Participation Fee Plan, for the 2016-2017 school year, for board consideration. For the past six years the school board has approved participation fees for elementary, middle and high school students participating in extra-curricular athletics. The presented plan is identical to the one approved by the board for the 2015-2016 school year and includes no cost increases. Based on previous years, if approved, it is anticipated participation fees will generate \$100,000, which will be used to maintain extra curricular programs at district elementary, middle and high schools.

Director Green made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Participation Fee Plan, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. First Reading Policy & Procedure 6700 Revision Nutrition and Physical Fitness

Learning Services Assistant Director Kim Montecucco, PEP Grant TOSA Mark Phillips and Director of Nutrition Services Kim Elkins presented, for first reading consideration, a revision to Policy and Procedure 6700 - Nutrition and Physical Fitness. This policy/procedure was adopted on July 20, 2005, and neither the policy nor procedure has been revised.

Over the course of the past three years the Mead School District School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) has been working on drafting the presented revisions to Policy and Procedure 6700. The process included a Compliance Policy Review where gaps in the current policy/procedure were identified.

Recommended changes to the policy and procedure include:

- Language that enhances awareness of healthy foods and the benefits of physical activity.
- Language that recommends limits to the number of classroom celebrations and discourages providing foods that do not meet federal Smart Snack guidelines.
- Language that complies with current federal guidelines regarding food and nutrition.

The recommended revisions formally document current district nutrition and physical education practices.

No first reading changes were recommended.

This was a non-action item.

G. ELA Curriculum Adoption Grades 5-8

Prior to introducing Learning Services Assistant Director Kim Montecucco and Instructional Curricular Support Teacher Robin Placek, Learning Services Assistant Superintendent Ken Russell, speaking on behalf of the entire Learning Services Department, stated how excited the department is to be presenting the first in a six-year cycle of curriculum adoptions. In addition to thanking Ms. Montecucco and Ms. Placek for their work on the ELA curriculum adoption for grades 5-8, he also thanked Instructional Curricular Support Teacher Lori Inman and Mountainside English teacher Karen May for their contributions.

Ms. Montecucco and Ms. Placek briefly explained the yearlong process (outlined in Policy/Procedure 2020 - Curriculum Development and Adoption of Instructional Materials) that preceded the following adoption recommendation for ELA curriculum for grades 5-8:

- Grade 5 Benchmark Advance core ELA curriculum
- Grades 6-8 Houghton Mifflin Collections core ELA curriculum
- Grades 7-8 Houghton Mifflin Read180 Tier II-III intervention core ELA materials

The board thanked all who were involved for their hard work and expressed appreciation that, following several years of budget cuts, there is now money available to purchase new curriculum.

Director Green made a motion to adopt the presented ELA curriculum for grades 5-8. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Healthy Kids – Healthy Schools Grant (Letter of Support)

Director of Nutrition Services Kim Elkins reported that the Mead School District submitted a proposal to OSPI to receive a Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Grant in the amount of \$35,000 to purchase water bottle filling stations for the majority of district schools and a nutrition-cafeteria service line for Shiloh Hills.

The district received a letter from OSPI, dated April 21, 2016, indicating the Mead School District received a preliminary grant in the requested amount of \$35,000. To receive the final award and have access to the grant funds OSPI must receive a *Letter of Support* from the Mead School District Board of Directors. A draft support letter was presented for board consideration.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the presented letter to OSPI pledging the Mead School District Board of Directors will support/sustain the improvements funded by a Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Grant. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reports

A. Prairie View 6th Grade to Northwood Report

Dr. Kevin Peterson, who is providing administrative leadership/oversight for the move of Prairie View 6th graders to the Northwood campus, presented a brief follow-up report on information presented at a second parent meeting held at Northwood on May 3rd regarding the potential relocation of students starting next year. Items covered included:

- The following rationale for the proposed move: 1) Creates space at Prairie View for approximately 100 students, which will reduce/eliminate the need to shuttle students to other elementary schools. Students who are shuttled lose approximately 90 instructional hours each year. 2) Initiates the transition to a 6th – 8th grade Middle School Model, moving to full integration over the next five years. 3) Keeps the entire grade level together and hopefully delays any boundary change until a 3rd middle school is approved and completed. 4) Provides consistency as new legislation allows the old Northwood facility to be used to house students for up to ten years.
- Draft Daily Schedule – later start time and end time than Northwood 7th & 8th graders.
- Solutions to expressed parent concerns.
- For the 2016-2017 school year 6th graders will operate as a self-contained unit. However, integration opportunities with Northwood will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

While there are still fine-tuning details to work out over the summer, Dr. Peterson asked the board for direction on how to proceed.

Director Green voiced her support for the move next year. When considering the question, *Why now?* she reported the need to also consider the question, *Why not now?* If she thought the move would negatively impact students she would not be supportive. The Mead School District

has a reputation of doing things well and, based on the planning that has already taken place for this move, believes the transition will go well.

Director Olson also expressed support for the move of Prairie View 6th graders to the Northwood campus starting in the 2016-2017 school year. He believes it is the “right move at the right time” and that there is a good process in place going forward.

Director Denholm was also supportive of the relocation next year.

Director Green, responding to Mr. Valley’s earlier comment about the decision having been made “some time ago, behind closed door”, stated, for the record, that the board does not make decisions behind closed doors. The board carefully considers matters and is very forthright.

Kari Layton, current Prairie View 5th grade teacher who will move to 6th grade next year and make the move to Northwood, expressed her thanks to parents for their involvement and to the school board for listening to parent concerns. She voiced her personal appreciation for the open dialogue.

B. Superintendent’s Report and Discussion Items

Superintendent Rockefeller referenced the upcoming Mead School District graduation ceremonies, the on-going state budget challenges including the “levy cliff” that must be addressed this coming year and the number of state legislators who are not seeking re-election. He additionally reported the district is working on staffing for the upcoming school year.

VIII. Executive Session

At 7:30 p.m. Director Denholm called for an Executive Session of approximately 20 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 8:00 p.m. Director Denholm returned the meeting to Open Session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was immediately adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

President

Secretary