



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, March 13, 2017**

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The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and was held at Mt. Spokane High School. Directors Farley, Green, Denholm, Olson and Burchard were present. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, Assistant Superintendents Wayne Leonard, Ralph Thayer and Pam Veltri and Executive Directors Jared Hoadley and Heather Havens. Assistant Superintendent Susana Reyes and Executive Director Kevin Peterson 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 Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 27, 2017, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Proclamation**

March 13-17, 2017, is *Classified School Employee Week*. To acknowledge and thank Mead School District classified employees for their dedication and commitment to district students, staff and the community, Human Services Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer read a *Proclamation* from Governor Jay Inslee honoring the 60,000 classified school employees working with students in Washington's universities and public schools.

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

Joanne Bell, a Mt. Spokane parent, addressed the board expressing frustration regarding sports fields and her perception the district did not plan appropriately for the start of spring sports. She asked why there was no snow removal from playing fields so they were ready for the start of the season and requested a plan be developed for the future. Ms. Bell also expressed concern that the lack of access to fields could result in missed competition opportunities. Several other Mt. Spokane parents were also in attendance with similar questions and concerns. Another area of frustration was the fact that other GSL schools were able to remove snow and Mead High and Mt. Spokane were not.

Nathan Stephens asked why the district was out of money for snow removal. His son pays for a parking space and he feels the student parking lot was inadequately maintained this past winter.

Information shared by the board and Superintendent Rockefeller included the special equipment required to safely remove snow from the track and fields. In most years such equipment is not needed and, for the few years when it is needed, the district/board cannot justify the cost associated with owning such specialized equipment. In 2015 voters approved money to replace both the Mead High and Mt. Spokane tracks (approximately \$500,000 for each track). The district wants to be a good steward of these new facilities and is therefore very careful when it comes to snow/ice removal. The district talked with neighboring school districts and learned they also directed that fields and tracks not be plowed. Director Denholm referenced injury and liability concerns.

Business Services Assistant Superintendent Wayne Leonard explained that the parking fee paid by students goes into the school's ASB account to help fund student athletics and activities. The district covers the cost of parking lot snow removal.

Director Farley assured parents the district does care about field readiness and is committed to working with the community on a track/field use plan going forward. Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley will lead this effort. The board asked parents to provide more specifics regarding where they obtained their information regarding no money for snow removal and the directive to abstain from removing snow with shovels and/or machinery. Director Olson thanked parents for taking time out of their busy schedules to bring these concerns to the board.

ASB President Elizabeth Redmond presented a brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mt. Spokane High School. Winter sports recently concluded. Both the girls and boys basketball teams qualified for the post season, the entire gymnastics team qualified for state and wrestler Jake Howerton took first place in his weight class at the state wrestling tournament. DECA took 70 students to state where 14 qualified for Nationals and, at the recent HOSA state competition, 10 students qualified for nationals. Senior Michelle McDonald received the Chase Youth Judge's Choice Award. Spring sports are underway and the school's Diaper Drive resulted in the donation of 8,000 diapers.

Director Farley read an email from Mike and Cheryl McDonald complementing Mt. Spokane Principal Darren Nelson on being an inspiration to their children Josh and Michelle. The email concluded by thanking Mr. Nelson for "giving our kids time, value, support and confidence as they grow into young adults."

#### **V. Council for Learning Improvement Report – Mt. Spokane High School**

Darren Nelson, in his 5<sup>th</sup> year as principal, welcomed the board and thanked them for the opportunity to present the Mt. Spokane High School 2016-2017 Learning Improvement Plan. Before beginning the report Mr. Nelson recognized and introduced assistant principals Brenda Goehring and Jim Preston. The Mt. Spokane staff is committed to "Empowering People, Abolishing Apathy & Creating What's Next."

The following goal areas were shared:

- **English Language Arts** – 90% Smarter Balanced Assessment pass rate. The school is well on their way to meeting this goal.
- **Math** – Using CORE 24 funding, all Algebra sections are team taught with the goal of all students earning an Algebra math credit.
- **College & Career Readiness** – 75% of students have completed the FAFSA with the ultimate goal of 100%, which they believe is attainable if this becomes a required component of each student's High School & Beyond Plan. At Mt. Spokane they are committed to knowing where each senior is headed after graduation and assuring each graduate is prepared to "launch" into life beyond high school.

Using information gleaned from the most recent ThoughtExchange community engagement, Mt. Spokane has identified the need for better classroom to home communication and academic interventions/supports.

At Mt. Spokane there are areas/pockets that are very effective and others that need work. An area of intentional focus in the coming year is preparing students for the real world by encouraging as many as possible to take the school's financial literacy course.

In conclusion, Mr. Nelson invited the board to attend the upcoming May 3<sup>rd</sup> Block Party and the April 12<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame Assembly. (Mackenzie Funk, a senior at Mt. Spokane, is one of the 25

national finalists for the US Army Pro Football Award of Excellence. Being a finalist means a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame will come to Mt. Spokane on April 12<sup>th</sup> to present Mackenzie with a Finalists Plaque of Excellence and speak to the student body.)

Answering a question about the school's biggest challenge, Mr. Nelson talked about serving those students who need the most help (ELL and Special Education). The staff has embraced these students and understands they "cannot help them if they do not know them."

The board thanked Mr. Nelson for the great work taking place at Mt. Spokane High School.

## **VI. Continuing Business - none**

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

Prior to making a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, Director Olson acknowledged the many contributions made by the following retirees: Beth Gruenke (Mead High teacher), Rob Loft (Mountainside teacher), Katherine Keener (Northwood teacher), Leslie Horlacher (Mead High teacher) and Janice Loft (Mountainside admin assistant). They have a combined 171 years of service to the Mead School District. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **VIII. Reports**

### **A. Facilities Update**

Facilities and Planning Director Ned Wendle presented a brief update on the Northwood, Midway and Shiloh Hills projects. He also reported on single point of entry projects planned for the upcoming summer. Report highlights included:

- A recent drone video of the Northwood project, which continues to be on budget and on schedule.
- The Midway project is awaiting permits and negotiation on the final contract with Bouten Construction is nearing completion. It is anticipated work on the renovation project will start near the end of March or first part of April.
- The district recently met with the Shiloh Hills PTO to talk about their renovation project. Shiloh Hills is able to take advantage of some of the design work done at Midway but the community will have input on colors and other elements specific to that building. Work on Shiloh Hills will start in the spring of 2018.
- Based on the number of interested construction companies, it is anticipated the single point of entry work at Colbert, Meadow Ridge, Mead High, Mt. Spokane, Farwell and Mountainside will be spread out among a number of smaller local firms. The Colbert and Meadow Ridge projects have been awarded and bids on the other four projects will be awarded in the next few weeks.

### **B. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Rockefeller had nothing to report.

## **IX. Executive Session**

At 7 p.m. Director Farley called for an Executive Session of approximately 45 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 8 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 8 p.m.

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**President**

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**Secretary**