



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, April 11, 2018**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, April 11, 2018. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and was held at Riverpoint Academy. Directors Denholm, Green, Burchard and Farley were present. Director Olson was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller and Assistant Superintendents Wayne Leonard and Ralph Thayer. Assistant Superintendents Pam Veltri, Jared Hoadley, Kevin Peterson and Heather Havens were excused.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Farley made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 26, 2018, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Director Green spoke positively about the National School Board Conference she attended with Superintendent Rockefeller and Directors Denholm, Olson and Farley in San Antonio, Texas, the first week of April. Of particular note was the wealth of information presented regarding school safety and security and a presentation she attended regarding how to incorporate student voice on the school board. This is something she would like Mead to consider.

Director Denholm, also commenting on the National School Board Conference, remarked on the changing emphasis from year to year at this event. This year the emphasis was school safety and security while in recent years the focus has been STEM education.

Director Farley recounted a conversation he had with an individual at the conference who had recently visited Riverpoint Academy and was extremely complimentary of the program offered there.

IV. Council for Learning Improvement Report – Riverpoint Academy

Principal Moleena Harris welcomed the board and thanked them for the opportunity to present the Riverpoint Academy 2017-2018 Learning Improvement Plan. Assisting with the presentation were Macey Paradiso (11th grade RA student) and Heather Conklin (RA parent). Riverpoint Academy teachers Jennifer Boyd, Jennifer Romo, John Marshall and Elizabeth Pipkin were also in attendance.

To begin the presentation a video, produced in conjunction with Ryan Ferguson of Ferguson Films, showcasing the learning program offered at Riverpoint, was shown.

Macey Paradiso, who wants to be an ultrasound technician, shared her personal learning experiences at Riverpoint Academy. Her presentation included information on the eight level grading rubric used at Riverpoint Academy and the school goal that each student grow one level in English Language Arts and math each year. Riverpoint Academy met this goal last year and is on track to meet the goal again this year. Ms. Paradiso recapped highlights for RA students last year including strong showings at local entrepreneur competitions along with participation in the Team America Rocket Challenge Nationals Fly-Off and the U.S. Navy

SeaPerch Competition. To conclude her portion of the presentation, Macey explained how Riverpoint Academy is preparing her well, both academically and from a time management standpoint, for the future. She thanked the board for supporting the learning opportunities available at Riverpoint Academy.

Heather Conklin, the mother of Charlie Conklin a junior, shared her family's experience at Riverpoint Academy. Charlie started talking about attending RA as a sophomore and was fortunate to be one of 60 new students (out of 100) accepted for the current school year. The style of teaching and learning offered at RA has made a dramatic, positive impact on her son. His passion for learning has been reignited and he is thriving on the freedom within the school day to pursue subjects of interest to him. Every parent wants their child to be his or her best self and that is happening for Charlie at RA. Charlie is acquiring tools for life including the ability to collaborate, learn through trial and error and receive constructive criticism. In conclusion, Mrs. Conklin shared that she loves Riverpoint Academy and feels it is truly a magical place.

The board thanked Ms. Paradiso, Mrs. Conklin and Principal Harris for their presentation and positively commented on the evolutionary journey Riverpoint Academy has embraced since its inception.

V. Continuing Business

A. Third Reading Policy 6800 Revision Safety, Operations and Maintenance of School Property

Business Services Assistant Superintendent Wayne Leonard presented a revision to Policy 6800, Safety, Operations and Maintenance of School Property, for third reading consideration. This policy was adopted on November 13, 2007.

WSSDA Sample Policy 6800 was used as a template for the presented revision. Sections A-E are identical to the WSSDA sample policy. Section F, Indoor Air Quality, is an addition. Section F recognizes the impact of indoor air quality on a safe and healthy learning environment. It addresses (1) the use of fragrance, scented or essential oils, potpourri, candles or wax warming devices inside Mead School District buildings, (2) requires upholstered furniture, cushions, pillows, area rugs, etc., not supplied by the school district, be evaluated and approved for use, (3) requests open food be properly stored in sealable containers and (4) permits only approved service animals inside Mead School District buildings. At the February 26, 2018, first reading and March 12, 2018, second reading additions to the fragrance, furniture and animals sections were recommended and have been incorporated into the third reading draft.

The MEA president solicited feedback from his membership about the proposed policy revisions and those comments were provided to board members and reviewed by Mr. Leonard.

Discussion topics included:

- Fish tanks.
- Education of teachers and staff about the health concerns associated with strong fragrances, upholstered furniture/carpets and animals. The most recent Spokane County Health Department audit of Mead School District buildings includes several violations that the proposed policy would address.
- The balance between a "warm/inviting" environment and a "safe/healthy" environment.

The board asked that Mr. Leonard provide them with a copy of the most recent Spokane County Health Department audit of Mead School District buildings. Director Green shared her desire that the district take a more active role in communicating with teachers and staff the "why" behind proposed policy changes.

It was recommended, in the fragrance section, that wording be added that indicates a final determination on the appropriateness of a particular air freshening product be made not only by the district's Facilities Department but also in conjunction with building administration.

This was a non-action item.

**B. Second Reading Policy & Procedure 2030 Adoption
Service Animals in Schools**

Business Services Assistant Superintendent Wayne Leonard presented the adoption of Policy and Procedure 2030, Service Animals in Schools, for second reading consideration. At the March 12, 2018, first reading it was pointed out, since the district must legally permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a service animal, the use of the word "request", in relation to having a service animal at school, appears contradictory. Therefore, the presented second reading draft policy and procedure replaced the word "request" with "notification" and the word "allowed" with "facilitated."

No changes were recommended at the second reading. Director Farley indicated the changes referenced above addressed his first reading concerns. The adoption of the policy and procedure will be brought forward as an action item at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

This was a non-action item.

**VI. New Business
A. Consent Agendas A & B**

The board made specific mention of the retirement of Northwood veteran teacher Merri Layton. Director Burchard made a motion to approve Consent Agenda A, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried. Director Farley abstained from the vote.

Director Farley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda B, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried. Director Green abstained from the vote.

**VII. Reports
A. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Rockefeller reported Shiloh Hills students and staff are settled and doing well at Camp Shiloh (old Northwood building). There were some transportation challenges the first few days but those problems are getting better each day. This evening the two finalists for the Northwood principal position are taking part in a Community Forum and all is proceeding according to plan regarding the upcoming sale of bonds approved by voters in February. The district has taken delivery of the South Wing at Midway and work in beginning on the final phase of the project. It is anticipated the Midway Modernization Project will be completed in mid August.

VIII. Executive Session

At 7:10 p.m. Director Denholm called for an Executive Session of approximately 45 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