



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, May 7, 2018**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 7, 2018. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and was held at the Mead School District Administration Office. Directors Denholm, Green, Burchard and Farley were present. Director Olson was excused. Also attending were Assistant Superintendents Ralph Thayer, Wayne Leonard, Jared Hoadley and Kevin Peterson. Superintendent Tom Rockefeller and Assistant Superintendents Pam Veltri and Heather Havens were excused.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Burchard made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 23, 2018, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Special Services Assistant Superintendent Kevin Peterson introduced Andrea Staton who will be joining the Special Services Admin Team as a Director on July 1, 2018. For the past two years Ms. Staton has served as Assistant Director of Student Support Services in the Cheney School District. Prior to that she was an Education Specialist and Special Education teacher for the Mead School District.

Director Green positively commented on the May 2nd Mt. Spokane *Block Party*, which included the preparation of 1,600 tarts that were served by ProStart students and pony cart rides provided by the Mt. Spokane Equestrian Team.

Director Denholm, who admitted he might be prejudice, positively commented on the phenomenal performance by the Mead High Jazz Choir, under the direction of Mike Saccomanno, at the May 2nd Region 9 WSSDA meeting hosted at Northwood in their new library.

Special Services Assistant Superintendent Kevin Peterson recognized the excellent showing by both Mt. Spokane and Mead High students at DECA Nationals. Out of 200 store entries, the Mt. Spokane Student Store Team placed 2nd (best finish in school history) and the Mead High Student Store Team placed in the top 10. Director Farley asked that Mt. Spokane DECA advisor Dave Whitehead and a few of his students be invited to an upcoming board meeting to share their experiences at the competition.

IV. Continuing Business

A. Fifth 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 fifth 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. Recommended changes from the first four readings of this policy revision have been incorporated into the presented fifth reading draft.

Mr. Leonard briefly reported on a meeting he had with elementary school representatives (principals and teachers) regarding classroom furniture and how best to balance air quality concerns with the desire for warm and inviting classrooms. Julie Aubrey from the Spokane County Health Department was also at this meeting and shared information with the group regarding the hidden hazards in air fresheners and deodorizers (the board was given a copy of this information). This advisory group will meet again once school is out for the year.

Regarding animals in the classroom, Mr. Leonard reported only three elementary schools have animals in their buildings. Mr. Leonard referenced a 2000 series policy/procedure, Animals in the Classroom, that MEA President Toby Doolittle emailed board members. He suggested the possibility of removing the paragraph regarding animals from the proposed revision to Policy 6800 and instead bring forward a stand-alone policy and procedure regarding animals in the classroom. The board agreed with this recommendation and requested the animals in the classroom procedure include comprehensive animal care guidelines for any animals that are approved to be in Mead School District classrooms.

Mr. Leonard shared a second handout from Julie Aubrey regarding essential oils. Because of the increase in the use of essential oils this has become a hot topic statewide. Ms. Aubrey additionally, responding to a question from Mr. Leonard, reported she is unaware of any fragrance free odor neutralizers.

Discussion included upholstery-cleaning protocols, consistent implementation of cleaning requirements at all schools and the inherent problems associated with furniture that is shared by multiple students in a classroom.

This was a non-action item.

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

Student Services Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley presented the adoption of Policy and Procedure 2030, Service Animals in Schools, for fourth reading consideration. Changes recommended at the March 12, 2018, first reading and April 23, 2018, third reading have been incorporated.

After checking with legal counsel, Dr. Hoadley reported there are only two questions that may be asked regarding service animals; (1) is the service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the animal been trained to perform. The school district cannot ask for "proof of insurance."

Director Green made a motion to adopt Policy & Procedure 2030, Service Animals in Schools, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Following an explanation by Human Services Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer regarding the presented *Partial Resignation*, Director Farley made a motion to approve the Consent

Agenda, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Student Travel Proposal
Mead High Debate**

Student Services Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley presented for board consideration a travel request for five Mead High National Debate Tournament qualifiers and their advisor Michael Stovern to travel to Washington, D.C., May 24-28, 2018. The Mead High team will be traveling with teams from Coeur d' Alene Charter and Gonzaga Prep, which will provide both male and female chaperones.

Students will miss one day of school and the estimated parent/student cost of the trip is \$1,330. Fundraising opportunities are provided.

Following a discussion regarding the need for a Standard Student Behavior Contract, Director Green made a motion to approve the presented Mead High Debate trip to Washington, D.C., May 24-28, 2018, to compete at the National Debate Tournament. Director Farley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Learning Services Report

Learning Services Assistant Superintendent Kevin Peterson provided an update on the following two areas:

Behavior Intervention Program: The official name of this program will be the *Compass Program*. At this time the district is determining the number of students who will initially be a part of the program and, based on student need, will begin hiring teachers, social workers and support staff for the program.

Core 24 and Graduation Requirements Waiver: In January 2015 the board adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of a temporary waiver request to the State Board of Education delaying implementation of the 24-credit graduation requirement to the class of 2020. At that time it was anticipated the district would have the necessary programs and safeguards in place for the class of 2020 to reach this new graduation credit threshold. The State Board of Education approved the waiver.

Dr. Peterson reported current projections indicate there are 75-80 class of 2020 students who are credit deficient. The district has some programs in place to help with credit retrieval (on-line classes and free Summer School) but there is still additional work that needs to be done. Therefore, Dr. Peterson proposed bringing forward another resolution that would authorize the submission of a second temporary waiver request to the State Board of Education. This second temporary waiver, if approved, would delay implementation of the 24-credit graduation requirement to the class of 2021. This would allow the district additional time to implement programs to assist credit deficient students.

Discussion included concern about what the district's parent community will say about another delay and a question regarding why the district is in this situation when we knew this change in the number of credits needed to graduate was coming. Dr. Peterson explained many ideas to help students earn credits require changes in board policies and changes in the MEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. Regarding Summer School, the board inquired about transportation especially with the program taking place at Mountainside Middle School. Concern regarding classroom attendance policies was also brought forward.

Dr. Peterson will bring a resolution to the May 21, 2018, board meeting that, if adopted, will authorize the submission of a second one-year waiver request to the State Board of Education.

If approved the waiver will delay implementation of the 24-credit graduation requirement to the class of 2021.

B. Superintendent's Report

Human Services Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer reported it will be a very busy summer season of bargaining. Four bargaining groups have contracts that are expiring and there will most likely be wage openers for the other groups. The DLC Olympics are May 18 at Mead High, the Mead School District is home to four GSL Champions (Mt. Spokane Baseball and Mead High Boys Track, Boys Tennis and Girls Tennis), Mountainside's Incoming 7th Grade Parent Night is May 10 and Northwood recently hosted their Junior National Honor Society Induction Ceremony where over 200 8th graders, with a 3.6 GPA or higher for three semesters, were honored.

Business Services Assistant Superintendent Wayne Leonard shared information on the recent bond sale. There were orders for over \$600 million in bonds, which resulted in the ability to negotiate a lower interest rate for the \$114.5 million available for purchase. This lower interest equates to \$56,000 in annual interest savings for Mead patrons.

Mr. Leonard also shared information on charter transportation services. The district requested bid proposals to provide charter transportation services but the contract will not be presented to the board because the three companies who submitted bids cannot guarantee bus availability. Costs were similar for all three companies and the district will, from time to time, call all three to meet district charter bus needs. Discussion included criteria for taking a charter bus as opposed to a school district bus, the current driver shortage that sometimes means we must charter a bus even when school buses are available and the equipment storage needs of some groups like band.

VII. 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.

VIII. Adjourn

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

President

Secretary