



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, March 11, 2019**

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The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019. The meeting began at 6 pm and was held at Mt. Spokane High School. Directors Green, Burchard, Denholm, and Olson were present. Director Wylder was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller and Assistant Superintendents Ralph Thayer, Wayne Leonard, Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley. Assistant Superintendent Kevin Peterson was excused.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Director Denholm 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 February 25, 2019, and Special Board Meeting of February 28, 2019, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ASB President Topher Wright presented a brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mt. Spokane High School. Ali McKernan, next year's ASB President, was also in attendance. Both basketball teams (boys & girls) made finals at the State 3A Basketball Tournament, several DECA students have qualified for Nationals and, of the 13 possible 1<sup>st</sup> place awards at the regional ESD101 Art Competition, Mt. Spokane students were selected for seven top honors. The Science Bowl team placed 10<sup>th</sup> at a recent competition and the girls basketball team was the 3A State Academic Champion. With so much snow still on the ground it has been an atypical start to the Spring Sports season.

Leslie Lindeman addressed the board regarding House Bill 1407/Senate Bill 5395. The Senate has passed the bill and the House version is pending. Both bills address mandatory, comprehensive sexual education in Washington public schools. Joining Mrs. Lindeman in expressing concern over the mandatory nature of the presented legislation, and the resulting loss of local control, were other individuals including Aaron Lindeman and Deanna Able. Parents asked the school district to lobby the legislature and request local school districts retain their autonomy when it comes to selecting sexual education curriculum. They additionally requested the district be transparent regarding the adoption of any future sexual education teaching materials. Concern was expressed that even if a parent opts their child out of sexual education the culture of schools will change and free speech will be infringed upon. Because the Senate has already passed the legislation the parents in attendance stressed the urgency of contacting House members about the mandates in the legislation that infringe on local control.

Cynthia Valines expressed concern about the high teen pregnancy rate in Spokane County and the need for a change in how sexual education is taught. She believes the proposed House & Senate bills will provide the opportunity for good, respectful dialogue about the subject of sexual education.

March 11-15 is "Education Support Professionals Week" in Washington state. Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer, on behalf of the district, thanked Mead classified staff (cooks, bus drivers, para-educators, custodians, maintenance workers, admin assistants, technicians, etc.) for their hard work and dedication to Mead students.

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

Principal Darren Nelson welcomed the board and thanked them for the opportunity to present the Mt. Spokane High School Learning Improvement Plan. Also in attendance were the other members of the Mt. Spokane Admin Team – Jim Preston, Brett Hale, Juli Kistler and Anya Gumke. Mr. Nelson specifically acknowledged and thanked Assistant Principal Jim Preston who is retiring at the end of this school year following 40 years as an educator.

Before beginning the official Learning Improvement Plan presentation, Mr. Nelson proudly shared the many historical academic and athletic accomplishments Mt. Spokane students have earned so far this year.

The Mt. Spokane staff is committed to “Empowering People, Abolishing Apathy & Creating What’s Next.” As they work together to improve student learning Mt. Spokane is focused on answering the following Professional Learning Community questions:

- What do we expect students to learn?
- How will we know they are learning?
- How will we respond when they don’t learn?
- How will we respond if they already know it?

54% of Mt. Spokane teachers have attended PLC training and they understand professional growth takes place 1 by 1 and team by team. As a learning community they are open to trying new things like “Wildcat Time” that happens every other Wednesday. During this 42-minute window students are able to access academic help during the school day. This is especially helpful for students who ride the bus and are therefore unable to see teachers before or after school.

Areas of focus at Mt. Spokane to improve student learning include academic enrichment opportunities, on-line credit retrieval for students who fail a class or classes and creative strategies to enhance learning for ELL students. At Mt. Spokane 23 different languages are spoken by students.

The board thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation commenting on how he consistently deflects credit for Mt. Spokane successes to others and his strong leadership style that inspires staff to try new things with the goal of improving student learning.

#### **V. Continuing Business - none**

#### **VI. New Business**

##### **A. Consent Agenda**

Director Burchard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

##### **B. Contract/Bargaining Agreement Public School Employees of Mead Para Educators & Education Support Specialists**

Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer reported Public School Employees of Mead Para Educators & Education Support Specialists and the Mead School District have reached a tentative wage opener agreement. The association has ratified the tentative agreement. Prior to recommending the board approve the tentative agreement, Mr. Thayer provided a brief overview of the agreed upon changes and thanked both bargaining teams for their work.

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the tentative wage opener agreement between Public School Employees of Mead Para Educators & Education Support Specialists and the Mead

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

**C. Contract/Bargaining Agreement  
DO Office Employees**

Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer reported DO Office Employees and the Mead School District have reached a tentative wage opener agreement. The association has ratified the tentative agreement. Prior to recommending the board approve the tentative agreement, Mr. Thayer provided a brief overview of the agreed upon changes and thanked both bargaining teams for their work.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the tentative wage opener agreement between DO Office Employees and the Mead School District, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Reports**

**A. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items**

Superintendent Rockefeller had nothing to report.

**VIII. Closed Session  
Student Discipline Appeal**

At 6:50 pm Director Green called for a Closed Session for the purpose of hearing a Student Discipline Appeal.

At 7:30 pm Director Green returned the meeting to Open Session.

**IX. Executive Session**

At 7:30 pm Director Green called for an Executive Session of approximately 45 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 8:15 pm Director Green returned the meeting to Open Session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting was immediately adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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President

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Secretary