



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Mead School District Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 24, 2019

The Board of Directors held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The meeting began at 6 pm and was held at Northwood Middle School. Directors Green, Burchard, Olson, Denholm and Wylder were present. Also attending were Superintendent Tom Rockefeller and Assistant Superintendents Wayne Leonard, Ralph Thayer, Jared Hoadley, Heather Havens and Kevin Peterson.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

II. Public Comment
Modified Education Program

Before opening the floor for public comment on the proposed Modified Education Program to address an anticipated \$12 million budget short fall for the 2019-20 school year, Director Green read a prepared statement that included the following:

- Public Comment protocol.
- Shared responsibility between the board, union groups and the state legislature for the current budget situation.
- A summary of growth in number of students, number of teachers and number of building administrators in the past five years.
- A pledge to follow all state and federal regulations as the district continues to care for its most vulnerable students,
- Encouragement to remain united as a community and committed to working together on solutions to the budget problem.

Public Comment on the proposed Modified Education Program began at 6:05 pm. Fifty-three individuals spoke. A list of speakers and a brief summary of their remarks is attached.

III. Executive Session

At 9 pm Director Green called for an Executive Session of approximately 30 minutes to review the performance of a public employee.

At 9:30 pm Director Green returned the meeting to Open Session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was immediately adjourned at 9:30 pm.

President

Secretary

#1 – Kim Perdue – ELL Teacher Mountainside . . . representing ELL community. Advocates for ELL students . . . provides a picture of the life of our ELL students. She is not sure how her students will survive with these cuts. She gave statistics of the program.

#2 – Austin Pagnotta – parents her nephew who was accepted to MEAD next fall. They turned to MEAD for help. At Mead High they struggled to reach his already overworked counselor. Proposes extra-curricular cuts instead of MEAD.

#3 – Kara Elston – parent of four children. RA parent as well as Farwell & Mead High. She references the number of administrators in middle schools and high schools . . . district office . . . eliminating admin positions would save money. She voted yes for the bond . . . sports complex. Selling lands owned by the district. Also provided comments online.

#4 – Gina McGlocklin (teacher) – sad about the situation. Speaks as a special education teacher. Special ed para educator hours . . . single role is to work with students. Her students feel failure every day. Cutting para ed hours will take away from students in a variety of ways. Paras are advocates for her students. She listed the number of ways her paras help her students. Adverse impact on graduation rates. Also addressed ed specs and how their role helps her teach

#5 – Steve Wilcox – Advisory board member of RA . . . father of three Mead SD graduates. Career wealth manager and banker. He volunteers in activities around Spokane where he can help. RA is very worthwhile and impacts a large number of Mead SD students. Crown jewel of the Mead SD . . . why stop and then restart. Impossible to recreate what has already been created. Asks the board to reconsider the notion of recreating RA.

#6 – Leasa Pfarr . . . mom of the young man who spoke on April 22 (autism). No one is talking about why . . . 20% of students are the target of the cuts. Feels like discrimination . . . advocate for RA. Encourages contacting legislators.

#7 – Teresa Valstrom – mom of a speaker from Monday. Advocate for ELL program. Her son is graduating from Whitworth . . . MIT at Whitworth and published author. She thanks Mead SD for achievements and investing in ELL learners. She started volunteer in 2011 . . . concerned about serving all needs . . . she is now part of the ELD team. Please reconsider the ELL cuts.

#8 — Lila Pippin primary DLC teacher at PV. Advocate of paras. Lists the many things they do to help students. Mead the best because of support of special needs students. Data will reflect the loss of para educators. Para educators are the lowest paid. Please don't look at para educators.

#9 – Cheyenna Standish – para educator. She and other paras love their students. Budget cuts will significantly impact special needs students. She advocates for what para eds do. They could

be asked to do the work of three individuals. Without para ed support teachers will have an overwhelming job.

#10 – Sama Khalid – Jr. at Mt. Spokane HS. Lived in the United States for 7 years. She always knew she had her ELL teachers. Evergreen elementary . . . then Mountainside. Advocates for the ELL program. Now at Mt. Spokane – Running Start . . . ELL classes at Mt. Spokane is like a second home.

#11 – Carrie Webbenhurst – paraeducator for 18 years. Never surprised that the lowest paid and hardest working are the first to be cut. Equity. Representing all classified employees . . . Explains what a para educator does. Provides a long list of what they do . . . Advocates for para educators.

#12 – Ted Ketcham – Taught for many years in the Mead SD. M.E.A.D. the last 8 years.

#13 – Kim Krieger – Speech Pathologist. Talks for kids who can't for themselves. Pre-School advocate . . . 2 full day from 5 half-day . . . prep time issues. Savings in busing . . . how will prep be covered. Kitchen . . . specialized diet. Makes a strong case for half-day versus full-day preschool. Daily attendance for daycare.

#14 – Jamie Bowman special ed teachers at Mountainside. She knows the board does not want to be in this situation. Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. Disproportionate cuts will impact the most vulnerable. She will not be able to do as good of a job teaching without ed specialists and para educators. Also references work based learning program cuts . . . helps make these kids be employable. Shares about her nephew who works at Yokes. Program helps society in general.

#15 – Bob Ganahl . . . Board in a tough situation. Board and teachers did not have all of the information. Scope has taken us all by surprise. Lack of transparency in Olympia. Lots of frustration . . . lesson. Prays they reflect on the lesson . . . alternative programs M.E.A.D., RA, ELL . . . please don't make the same mistakes as Olympia. Transparent . . . work together not be managed by the district. Pages of specific info about M.E.A.D. Would love to share what they have learned. Asking to meet with someone outside of their building.

#16 – Tia Rupe (staff member & parent) Social worker in her building. She sees the impact of the social worker has on the kids in her building. Gives specifics about how the social worker impacts students in her building. Scares her if a social worker is not there to collaborate with. Parent hat – oldest son in Special Ed since he was 3. She needs the ed specialist to help her navigate the needs of her son.

#17 – Helen Black (seven children graduating from Mead) . . .two currently in Mead. Shares the many vocations of her children. She is sad today . . . for a variety of reasons. Few cuts to admin . . . athletics, arts, etc. Can't help but notice . . . why so many hits to students with diverse needs. She thinks cuts should be more broadly spread out. Parent of Down Syndrome student. She

advocates for her son and others. Please go back to the table . . . look at where we can cut at the top.

#18 – Charmaine O’Donnal (parent) two 17 year boys who attend M.E.A.D. Changes her son’s trajectory. 1.9 GPA to 3.6 GPA. Both of her sons seriously considered dropping out. Consider reducing other programs and/or hours

#18 – Kelly Krels (guardian of a Jr. at M.E.A.D.) asking the board to reconsider. She will have to home school if M.E.A.D. closes. She cannot excel at one of the high schools. Anxiety disorders . . . substance abuse accountable at M.E.A.D. Teachers do not have time or resources at our traditional high schools to help kids. Taking away support systems . . . she has her teachers support 24 hours a day (personal phone number of teacher). M.E.A.D. is a 24 hour a day school.

#19 – Carla Moyer (parent of two students . . . one Mead High graduate and one at Mead High) she is a para educator at Evergreen. Relationships para educators build with students. She does not know how they will make the cuts. Is there any other way to raise money . . . She would be willing to help.

#20 – Ben Fennoit (RA advocate) business owner in Spokane . . . projects at north pole, south pole, etc. Spokane has allowed his business to grow. He is an RA parent. Mead SD is really good at what it does . . . one of the things that makes it good is the community and the programs. Shocked at 30 years for M.E.A.D. Struggles finding people who can contribute to his business. Shares models of real projects that are fabricated in Spokane. RA matches what his company does. This is what he does for a living. Kids will be so much further ahead than he was. RA is the future of Mead and our country. Getting rid of RA is going backwards. Burn this budget down and start over.

#21 – Kirsten Black (daughter of Helen Black) . . . Proposal shows that “you don’t belong” She is advocating for all groups on the cut list. Main point . . . Mead Schools need to remain accessible for all. Teachers in crisis mode rather than teaching . . .

#22 – Amirah Dour graduated in 2018 from M.E.A.D. – came to M.E.A.D. when she was 15. M.E.A.D. was her home. It gave her hope. M.E.A.D. saved her life . . . no amount of money can save a life.

#23 – Teri Inman . . . teaches at M.E.A.D. She agrees with everything that has been said before. Frightening for all stakeholder. She has known all of the board members . . . they are extremely fine people. No one will be happy with the end results. Board members care about kids and the community. Talks about Wayne and his tough job. Stand together with dignity.

#24 – Casey Timmons . . . Student (RA) in and out of a lot of schools. Moved from Las Vegas. 6th shuttle bus kid at Midway. RA biggest opportunity of his life . . . RA empowered him. RA is strong for students who struggle

#25 – Teri Wells PSE representative of MAEOP and Food Services. Echoes all that has been said. People she represents are hard workers with a heart for kids. She is also a member of the community. She has a grandson at Mead and a son who did not fit in. Hopes board will consider all of the options . . . Ask their people what they would suggest.

#26 – Ginger Lyons parent (2nd grade 504 plan) 3rd grade . . . her son doesn't fit in the box for education. STEM was the hope for her child . . . Vice President of Mead parents for STEM. 8 years ago. Went to GSI meetings . . . came to school board . . . they have a dream of a STEM high school. Her son got to see if you have a dream it can come true. 100% graduation. Kids are grateful and know they have it good. Asks that they keep the stream alive.

#27 – Vernon Andrews (parent . . .) student at Mountainside . . . spouse of employee. Proposes furlough day (4 days a week).

#28 – Tanya Holmes (parent PV) . . . 3rd grader has autism. Did research to see where to move and have their student attend school. Son struggled – he did not have para educator support. Provides the story of their son. Advocates for para educator . . . special education is underfunded. Please consider not making cuts in the area of para educators.

#29 – Kerri Johnson – most of her list has been covered. She comes as a parent of a M.E.A.D. student who is chronically ill. They have tried everything. Shares her story and the story of her son. They (MEAD) see her son as a smart individual . . . Where is Cooper and how can we help? Is the attitude they see from M.E.A.D. – They drive their son 2-3 hours a day to attend M.E.A.D.

#30 – Kaelin Smith (advocating retaining Compass Social Worker) Parents of compass students . . . Compass students have severe childhood trauma. Social Worker is the first person they meet. Supports 16 elementary students and 7 NW students . . . provided a list of the many things the SW provides.

#31 – Mandi Waite (M.E.A.D. graduate) . . . two students in DLC program at Colbert. Texas to Washington. Moving here has changed their family. Sustain families through this. Hard on the whole family dynamic. 14 paras between two classrooms. Worries about how the cuts will impact students at school and at home.

#32 – Elijah Wright (former RA student) . . . shares his experiences at RA 9th grade year and first semester 10th grade year. Like a Think Tank. Develop deep critical thinking skills. Transferred to a traditional high school . . . for AP classes. Not bored.

#33 – Jeff Lochhead (M.E.A.D. staff) . . . wasn't looking to leave his job but saw an opening at M.E.A.D. Has worked at Rogers HS in a program within the HS. In the last week they have others come to M.E.A.D. to see what they are doing to retain students. They have standards . . . students drug free . . . clear mind . . . Other school districts are increasing opportunity for students . . . he read the entire district budget . . . extra \$1 million homeschool students.

Program has existed for 30 years . . . had they known having 20 more students would have made a difference they could have done something about it.

#34 – Regina Rinehart (proud and thankful para at Colbert) . . . four day school week.

#35 – Suzanne Pratt (1st grade teacher at Brentwood) – plea for all of the staff at Brentwood. Biggest thing is social worker . . . students come from trauma now. If we can't meet their social emotional needs she can't teach. She is also a parent of two children at Mead High School. She has an autistic daughter at Mead High School. In her IEP she has work based learning which is listed as a proposed cut.

#36 – Jordan Kuhnkey (10th at RA) . . . first year at RA. Advocates for the RA program. At RA she can trust all of the staff.

#37- Brenda Schafer (son in the Compass program) All stories are important. Son 9 . . . 13 foster homes before them. Social worker and paras in the program have been critical for them. School supplies (proposes cutting school supplies) . . . how much money can that save.

#38 – Andy White student. Advocates for M.E.A.D. Was at the point of killing himself. Needs the programs. How about cutting sports or AP classes? Advocates for both M.E.A.D. & RA.

#39 – Jen Romo (RA teacher) . . . Started at Shiloh, NW & Mead High School. Student taught at Mead High & Mt. S. Has been at RA for 3 years. She shared her story.

#40 – Deb Kennedy (Para Educator of Mead High School) – support of Work Based Learning.

#41- Jacob Bennett (son of the mom who spoke yesterday) he has diabetes . . . 2nd grade at PV. Advocating for his classified nurse.

#42 – Michelle Kelly (parent who attended RA in 14-15) . . . was attending a private school. Advocates for RA. She shares their story of RA.

#43 – Kayla Ugolirli (M.E.A.D. student) shares her story and advocates for the school and the program.

#44 – Isaac Giddings (10th at RA and does sports at Mt. Spokane) . . . advocates for RA as compared to Mt. Spokane. Sports & academics at the same time. RA gives students a huge opportunity.

#45 – Mariah McKay (former M.E.A.D.) – Not a typical student at either Mead High or M.E.A.D. One foot in two worlds . . . cannot squeeze M.E.A.D. into a traditional high school. She explains she is highly successful. Until we all get our act together to advocate for change we will remain where we are. Advocates for change in Washington State tax structure.

#46 – Erica Salkin . . . folks want to work with the community. Empower the community with the tools to work with them. She is an RA parent. What would the kids bring as ideas to solve a real world problem? She is a professor at Whitworth. Civic engagement . . . she is excited about this. There is something going right at RA and M.E.A.D. that is getting kids involved.

#47 – Lea Holder (student at RA) . . . home schooled until 9th grade and then went to a private school. Shares her own story. She wants others to experience what she has experienced.

#48 – Cloey Avery . . . She has a very sad story and she writes about how RA has helped. Freedom from demons.

#49 – Marisha Backman (Compass Social Worker) – not just defending her position. She is also advocating for the Compass program. Both at the elementary level and middle school level. Unique program . . . teaches the joy of learning. Students go home and say that the teachers like them there.

#50 – Cynthia Long (10th @ RA) Considered a star student . . . getting good grades her entire life. Shares her story. Felt at home . . . this is the place for her. The experience has been exceptional for her. Consider the impact RA & M.E.A.D. have on students.

#51 – Noah Guertin (RA Parent) Former small business owner . . . downturn . . . almost the largest economic expansion right now. Tells story of grass . . . RA advocate . . . RA pays big dividends.

#52 – Andrew Logan (RA student) Jr. at RA first 9th grade class . . . he tells his story of how RA has helped him.

#53 – Kendall Gaura 7th grader at NW . . . She wants to help save RA. Has a sister at RA . . . she wants to follow in her sister's footsteps.