



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, May 11, 2020**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 11, 2020. The meeting began at 4 pm. This was a Zoom Call-In Meeting with the Call-In Phone Number, Meeting ID and Password posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Green, Burchard, Olson, Denholm and Cannon were present. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens and Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard. Assistant Superintendents Ralph Thayer, Jared Hoadley and Kevin Peterson were excused.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended (Elementary Music & Athletics added as a discussion item under New Business). Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 13, 2020, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Director Denholm expressed his personal thanks for the special senior recognition on display at Northwood Middle School. To celebrate Mead High & Mt. Spokane graduates, a local artist painted the name of each senior on the field and Northwood leadership students designed and constructed a congratulatory sign on the softball backstop adjacent to the display.

Director Green positively commented on the “graduate” yard signs recently delivered to the home of each Mead High & Mt. Spokane senior.

IV. Continuing Business

**A. Second Reading Policy & Procedure 4200 Adoption
Safe & Orderly Learning Environment**

Learning Services Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens presented the adoption of Policy & Procedure 4200, Safe & Orderly Learning Environment, for second reading consideration. If adopted this would be a new policy/procedure for the Mead School District.

WSSDA Sample Policy & Procedure 4200 were consulted in the writing of the presented draft. However, the primary resource was the current Bellevue School District Safe & Orderly Learning Environment policy and procedure.

In summary, the presented policy and procedure addresses classroom interruptions. While it encourages visits by parents, other adult residents of the community and interested educators, it also sets forth conditions under which visitations are allowed and the procedure to be followed by visitors. If a disagreement arises regarding visit limitations the procedure includes a systematic process to resolve the dispute.

Revisions suggested at the March 9, 2020, first reading were incorporated into the presented second reading draft.

No second reading revisions were recommended.

Director Cannon, for the record, stated that the pending adoption of this policy/procedure is not meant to keep parents and community members out of the classroom - visitors are welcome. The primary intent is to have safe guidelines in place so that classroom visitation expectations are clearly set forth.

The adoption of Policy/Procedure 4200 will be brought forward as an action item at the next board meeting.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard answered specific questions on a number of line item expenditures.

Additionally, there was discussion regarding the payment of spring sport extra-curricular contracts given the fact that the spring sport season, for the most part, has been cancelled. Mr. Leonard and Superintendent Woodward shared details of the agreement between the district and MECA as it relates to the meaningful work that has been and will be done by spring sport coaches. This includes the submission of a plan by each coach explaining how they will engage athletes during the current shutdown, as well as plans for summer activities if/when the *Stay at Home* order is lifted. Plan review/compliance will be done by Mr. Leonard and Student Services Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley.

Director Green noted the retirement at the end of the current school year of several veteran teachers and expressed her sincere thanks for their years of service to the Mead School District.

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

Each board member expressed a level of discomfort around paying spring sport coaches considering the season for high school sports, middle school sports and elementary sports was abbreviated and/or cancelled. Superintendent Woodward assured the board that, should the district be in a similar situation in the fall, the stance on how coaching stipends are paid will be different.

B. Amendment to Resolution 20-2 Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price for 10th Elementary School Project

Facilities & Planning Executive Director Ned Wendle presented for board consideration an amendment to Resolution 20-2, Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price for 10th Elementary School Project.

On April 13, 2020, the board adopted Resolution 20-2 approving a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$18,925,069 for a new 10th elementary school located on Five Mile Prairie. Subsequent to the April 13 adoption of Resolution 20-2, the district received bids for the 10th elementary school project that were substantially lower than anticipated. The savings realized from these lower bids makes it financially possible for the district to increase the size of the school from 22 to 29 classrooms. The cost for increasing the size of the school is \$1,159,908. This increases the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the school from \$18,925,069 to \$20,084,977. A copy of the new GMP breakdown was provided to the board.

Following discussion, that included assurance that the state, because of the anticipated loss of revenue due to COVID 19, could not take away the state match money that is paying for this elementary school, Director Cannon made a motion to adopt Amended Resolution 20-2,

Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the 10th Elementary School Project, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Superintendent Contract Extension

Following comments publicly affirming the outstanding job Superintendent Shawn Woodward has done leading the Mead School District this past year, and noting in particular the level of detail/supporting data Superintendent Woodward included in his 86-page self-evaluation, Director Burchard made a motion to extend Superintendent Woodward's contract to June 30, 2023. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Cannon highlighted the following strong performance areas that provide concrete rationale for extending Superintendent Woodward's contract:

- **Strategic Plan** - A primary focus for Superintendent Woodward this past year has been the development of a Strategic Plan. It has been many years since the district engaged in a strategic planning process.
- **Budget Analysis** - Superintendent Woodward has carefully examined district spending and identified areas where reductions and/or reallocation of resources can be made.
- **Community Feedback** - Superintendent Woodward welcomes and incorporates community feedback.
- **Responsive** - Superintendent Woodward is very responsive to all stakeholders.
- **Innovation** - Superintendent Woodward's collaborative management style fosters innovation.
- **Strong Management** - Superintendent Woodward has done a very good job of "managing the weeds."

Director Green specifically acknowledged Superintendent Woodward's strong, steady leadership in what has been a very challenging year.

Superintendent Woodward thanked the board for their support and stated he "is not bored!"

D. Stadium Name Discussion

Superintendent Woodward provided a brief review of the stadium naming process to date including results from the most recent community survey that solicited feedback on six proposed names. Based on that survey Superintendent Woodward recommended the district solicit feedback from the community one last time asking them to consider the following three names:

Market Street Stadium - Describes the location of the new venue.

Bell Stadium - The new stadium will be the permanent home for the Victory Bell that has traditionally been awarded to the winner of the annual Mead High vs Mt. Spokane "Battle of the Bell" football game.

Union Stadium - This name encompasses the site's past as well as its future. The stadium is being built on the Mead Consolidated Union High School site that opened in 1911. Union High School eventually became Mead High School, then Mead Junior High School and eventually Mead Middle School. Regarding the future, this new venue will be a community gathering place that will unify the Mead School District community for generations to come.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board that, as recommended by Superintendent Woodward, the district solicit feedback from the community on the three names set forth above. Survey results will be presented at the next board meeting.

E. Elementary Music & Athletics Discussion

Superintendent Woodward provided background on the recommendation to eliminate 5th grade band and orchestra, as well as elementary sports next year. Rationale includes:

- Moving 6th graders to middle school next year will result in more robust and more equitable participation opportunities for students than what currently exists in band, orchestra and athletics.
- With the failure of the recent Supplemental Levy the district must make adjustments in programs like elementary music and athletics that are dependent on levy dollars. The elimination of elementary music and athletics will result in a savings of approximately \$350,000.

Director Denholm stated he is “having a hard time” with eliminating these opportunities for elementary students and expressed his desire to figure out a way to retain them. Director Green, while sympathetic, reminded that with the recent levy failure adjustments must be made. The district is not in a position to conduct business as usual.

Learning Services Director Mark St.Clair, who was a member of the 6-8 grade transition music and athletics cadres, talked about the enhanced music opportunities that, starting next year, will be available, not only to 6th grade students, but also 7th and 8th graders who, for the first time, will be able to sign up for Beginning Band. That opportunity is not available in the district’s current model. He also reiterated that starting band in 6th grade is more equitable as students whose parents were unable to drive them to before school band can now be a part of the program. Middle school 6th graders will also have expanded afterschool athletic opportunities.

Director Cannon, speaking as a music dad (his son, a current Mead High senior, has been a part of the Mead School District band/music program for a number of years), shared the following:

- Mead is the only local school district to offer band starting in 5th grade. All others start in 6th grade. This includes Central Valley, Cheney and Spokane who, like Mead, have highly regarded music programs.
- The current 5th grade “before school” model does not allow equitable participation for all students.
- Having Beginning Band as a class during the regular school day, open to all 6th, 7th & 8th graders, has the potential to increase the number students who stay engage in band/music as high schoolers.
- Elementary students will still have music as part of their weekly in school curriculum.

In conclusion, Director Cannon shared he is supportive of the recommendation to start beginning band and orchestra in middle school as an offering available to all students during the regular school day.

Director Olson stated “all should get to participate” and Director Burchard agreed with the things shared by Director Cannon adding, “The district doesn’t have enough money to do it all.”

Regarding the recommendation to transition beginning band/orchestra from elementary school to middle school all board members indicated they are supportive of that proposal.

VI. Reports

A. Learning Services Report

Learning Services Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens shared a middle school transition update. The music and athletics portions of the report were covered by Mark St.Clair earlier in the meeting as part of the Elementary Music & Athletics Discussion. Ms. Havens shared the following regarding the middle school schedule and staffing:

Schedule

- Same schedule at all three middle schools.
- Starting time at 8:05 am each day (10 minutes earlier) to meet instructional hours requirement. This will allow for once a month teacher collaboration time. On that day students in grades 6-12 will have a late start (2 hours - 10 minutes).
- Social emotional learning will be taught on Tuesdays during Homeroom using Character Strong curriculum.
- Intervention will take place on Thursdays during Access time.

Staffing

- Transitioning/reassigning teaching staff in the move from a 7-8 model to a 6-8 model, coupled with the opening of Highland Middle School and Creekside Elementary School, has been complex.
- The district has been working with the MEA on the reassignment of staff for two years.
- Middle school teaching staff should be finalized soon. The voluntary and involuntary transfer process is estimated to be completed on or about May 22.

Responding to a question from Director Burchard, Ms. Havens shared that the once a month late start next year will only apply to middle school and high school students. Based on earlier board feedback, it was concluded that adding an elementary late start next year was “too much too soon.” Director Cannon shared that he “likes this proposal” as it is less impactful than the original idea. Regarding the popular high school block schedule used several years ago, Ms. Havens reported that schedule did not meet required instructional hours.

B. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Woodward shared the following:

Remote Learning Survey - Approximately 900 families responded to the district’s recent Remote Learning Survey. Results have been shared with building principals who are working with their staff to make adjustments where necessary. For the most part, parents expressed they are pleased with the remote instruction being provided.

State Task Force - OSPI has put together a Task Force of superintendents from around the state to develop a plan/guidance for September taking into account a variety of scenarios. That guidance is expected to be shared in June. Superintendent Woodward shared that, while he hopes for 100% in-person instruction in September, the district is forming elementary and secondary committees to draft plans in the event that is not possible.

Graduation - Regarding graduation senior families were surveyed and asked if they prefer a virtual ceremony, an in-person ceremony at a later date or a combination of the two (virtual in June followed by a commencement-like ceremony at a later date). The district is leaning toward the hybrid model. Superintendent Woodward shared a firm decision on graduation will be made (hopefully) by May 15.

VII. Executive Session

At 5:20 pm Director Green called for an Executive Session of approximately 10 minutes for the purpose of discussing real estate.

At 5:30 pm Director Green returned the meeting to Open Session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

President

Secretary