



Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Monday, August 24, 2020

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020. The meeting began at 6 pm. This was a Zoom Meeting with login information posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Green, Burchard, Olson and Cannon were present. Director Denholm was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard and Assistant Superintendents Jared Hoadley and Heather Havens.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 6, 2020, and Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2020, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Director Green reminded those in attendance that per amended Proclamation 20-05, Governor Inslee has prohibited conducting public meetings in person. If the district were to disregard this state mandate they would be subject to a \$10,000 fine.

Prior to opening the floor for remarks, Director Green asked that those wishing to comment raise their hand so that they could be “unmuted” and that remarks be limited to two minutes.

Martha Nichols – Former Newport School Board Member. Urged the board to open virtually with no in-person option.

Cynthia Villines – Mom of two boys . . . 8th grader and 10th grader. For her high school son band has been very important and has provided a place where he feels he belongs. She advocated for band classes to take place this year even if the learning is delivered different than in prior years.

Randy Mickelsen – Veteran (36 years) Mead High teacher. He expressed his strong support for opening schools for in-person instruction sharing how meaningful his own public school experience was as a teenager growing up in a dysfunctional home.

Toby Doolittle – Mead Education Association President. He represents the 650 certificated staff who are members of the MEA. The association is gravely concerned about the millions of details involved in reopening for in-person instruction and the lack of substantive information around safety protocols, etc. Six out of ten MEA members do not feel safe returning to school for face-to-face instruction.

Millayna Klingback – Mt. Spokane teacher. She shared her personal concern with reopening for in-person instruction. Families do not truly understand the limitations students will encounter each day. She is concerned about building ventilation, the inability to share learning materials and inability to group students.

Lindy Terry – Mead School District school psychologist. She is the daughter of a COVID survivor. Her mother’s experience with the virus was a 9-week ordeal. She expressed concerns about the long periods students will not be able to attend for face-to-face instruction because of the need to quarantine.

Suzy Pratt – Brentwood 1st grade teacher. She was initially excited about the idea that K-2 students would attend in-person. However, she is now very concerned about the ability to appropriately social distance K-5 students who are all attending all day every day. She also expressed her disappointment that the district hired a professional negotiator costing \$10,000.

Morgan Lindquist – Mead High teacher. She is a product of the Mead School District. She is not sending her daughter back to school for face-to-face instruction as she believes the safety protocols in place are woefully lacking. With school only 3 weeks away she wonders why the district is still struggling to share back-to-school details.

Karina Berven – Highland teacher. She expressed concern that the school board provided a choice for Mead families. It is her opinion the current pandemic is not a good time to allow choice. She disagreed with linking the wearing of a mask to the dress code and has concerns about how discipline will be handled when students do not wear masks appropriately. She is personally stressed.

Michael Sterner – Father of two Mead High students. Expressed HVAC concerns and COVID testing concerns.

Joan Brown – Evergreen teacher. She has taught for the Mead School District since 1984. Many of her friends and the families she has taught over the years are shocked the district is disregarding science and opening for face-to-face instruction. She wonders about the message the district is sending to students by ignoring science and she implored the school board to reconsider their decision.

Kelly Craig – Colbert teacher. She expressed her concern about opening for in-person instruction sharing that young children can get sick and die from COVID 19.

Tamara Kennedy-Gibbons – Mead High teacher and mother of three Mead School District students. She acknowledged the complexity of the current situation/issue and thanked the board for delaying the start of the year until September 14. She also expressed appreciation that families were provided with the option to access instruction remotely. She personally does not support in-person instruction and shared that Spokane ICU beds are full. She also expressed her support of band being offered in some form as it is an excellent way to keep kids connected.

Cindy Gaither – Mead School District Library Information Technology Specialist. Echoed the concerns expressed by others and additionally addressed the money being spent on PPE (\$200,000) that she considers a short-term need at the expense of long-term needs such as STEM labs at elementary schools (\$150,000 each).

Ryan Sain – Parent. He is deeply disappointed in the board’s decision to offer an in-person option for families. He considers this a lack of regard for the science community.

Jodie Ash – Mead School District Educational Specialist. Ms. Ash asked about Spokane Regional Health District and Dr. Bob Lutz in particular and their response to the district’s reopening plan. Director Green shared that she attempted, on numerous occasions, to talk with Dr. Lutz before the board approved reopening plans (August 6). He refused to take her call. She did finally talk with Dr. Lutz the week of August 17. Dr. Lutz wants the

district to reopen successfully and is willing to work with the district to that end. Neither Spokane Regional Health District or Dr. Lutz have, in writing, approved the district's reopening plan. To be clear, Director Green shared that Dr. Lutz is not pleased with the board decision to offer parents the option for in-person instruction. It was his recommendation - not a mandate - that schools open with remote instruction only. With that recommendation, coupled with a host of other considerations, the board made the decision to offer families an in-person option.

Ashley Byrne - Mt. Spokane teacher. Ms. Byrne acknowledged the fact that administrators are "burning the midnight oil" to be ready for the first day of school. She personally has numerous questions and concerns about the district's Safety Plan. She also acknowledged remote learning in the spring was very frustrating. It would be her desire that the district start 100% remote.

Emily McKinney - Mead High choir teacher. Shared that employees at District Office are not wearing masks as required. If District Office staff cannot comply how can anyone expect school employees and students to comply.

Sheri Hartwig - Farwell 5th grade teacher. Very concerned about the learning environment for students. Because the class size at 5th grade is 30 students the plan is to move those classes to the gym to allow for appropriate social distancing. She does not feel this is appropriate.

Kerrie Rowland - Five Mile Prairie teacher. Expressed concern that at a recent board meeting there were district level staff in the same room not wearing masks appropriately. She lives with a medically vulnerable family. Solicited the board to reconsider their reopening plan.

Sarah Moreaux - Mt. Spokane ELD teacher. Speaking on behalf of ELD teachers she expressed her frustration that reopening materials and learning options have not been translated/posted by the district. She asked that the board consider these marginalized families and provide timely information that they can read and comprehend.

Celeste Simone - Prairie View teacher. Expressed her concern about how social distancing 22-23 students will impact learning and teaching and even recess. The decision to have school in person goes against all she knows. She asked the board to think outside the box and come up with a better solution.

David Riggs - Northwood teacher. He acknowledged COVID has not been easy. It feels like a roller coaster ride he did not want to get on. He is fearful and concerned that because of the need for social distancing he will not be able to build meaningful relationships with his students. He asked that the board reconsider their decision.

Heidi Kieper - Evergreen Resource Room teacher. While she prefers face-to-face teaching, under the circumstances, with lives potentially at stake, she believes the board should reconsider and start the school year 100% virtual.

Laura Bennett - Elementary Music Specialist. Concerned that if she loses her classroom/teaching space to house a 5th grade class, for example, and therefore must travel from room to room to deliver instruction, she could become a carrier of COVID throughout the building. She also expressed concern that her two high school age children would be home alone two days each week while she must work the full week.

Rick Biggerstaff - Mead High teacher. He appreciates teachers want to be teaching in person. However, with the many data points brought to the board, and the unanswered

risk factors in the district's Safety Plan, he fears opening for face-to-face instruction could lead to death.

Curtis Barville – Northwood teacher. Agrees with concerns expressed by others. Does not understand why the board is not following science and wonders about contact tracing. He urged the board to start school remotely.

Bryce Borland – Highland teacher. Expressed his appreciation for the video messages Superintendent Woodward has shared with staff. He wondered if a professional health consultant has been hired and if not, why that has not been done.

Jamie Bowman – Highland Special Education teacher. She acknowledged teaching in-person is in many ways easier than remote. However, she is shocked the Mead School District made the decision to provide in-person options for families. She is concerned Spokane Regional Health District has not approved the district's Safety Plan and is also worried about contact tracing. She is worried about students.

Angeliki Hibbard – Highland teacher. She is a product of the Mead School District and has children who attend Mead schools. She expressed her concern about the lack of certificated nursing staff. It is her understanding there are only six certificated nurses. She wonders what the plan is to hire more nurses.

Gina McGlocklin – Colbert Special Ed teacher (and parent of three students). As a DLC teacher she must deescalate situations on a daily basis and therefore is always at risk. However, teaching students during a pandemic raises her risk to a level that surpasses her tolerance. She wants to keep kids safe including her own children.

Brittney Page – Northwood teacher. As the parent of a blind child who reads and writes braille reopening for face-to-face instruction is very concerning to her.

Sonja Svennungsen – Meadow Ridge Special Education teacher. She teaches students social skills which happens best in an in-person environment. However, in her opinion, safety overrides in-person instruction and the board should reconsider and open with remote learning only.

Tracy Taigen – Mom and nurse at Sacred Heart. Thanked the board for approving both remote and in-person learning options for students. From a hospital standpoint very few children are admitted because of COVID. For her, just as big of a problem is the increase in potential teen suicides because of the isolation children are experiencing with school closed. Lack of community for these students is dangerous in its own way. She offered to come in as a sub nurse on her days off and she will recruit others to do the same.

Angela Gill – Evergreen teacher. She expressed her concern with the requirement to wear a mask while at school for students experiencing trauma. She believes the mask could be a trigger for some students.

Director Cannon, in response to the many issues brought forward, stated he respects the concerns raised, although he noted there was a lot of repetition and it almost seemed like individuals were reading from prepared talking points.

For the record, he addressed the comment, "I heard Dr. Lutz is not approving our plan" made by one of the speakers. Wondering where he had previously heard that comment he recalled seeing it in an email MEA President Toby Doolittle sent to MEA members. Director Cannon shared that Dr. Lutz has provided the district with ways to improve the reopening Safety Plan and those

recommendations will be incorporated. He also remarked on how inappropriate it was that Dr. Lutz would not take Director Green's phone call.

Regarding the board's decision to provide both in-person and remote options for parents he reminded that 70+% of families want an in-person option and that staff did not want that option at all.

Director Cannon reminded everyone that "we are all on the same team" and that providing only a remote learning option for students would place the district at odds with three-quarters of the community. The McCleary decision stated that the paramount duty of the state is to educate children. With that mandate, he expressed his surprise that teachers were not leading the way to get kids back into our schools for face-to-face instruction. Knowing people can get a haircut, a massage or go out to dinner he "cannot figure out why teaching is not essential."

Director Cannon acknowledged providing a menu of learning options for Mead students will be hard but he believes by pulling together we can model problem solving for students.

IV. Public Hearing - 2020-2021 Budget

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard, in accordance with state law, presented the proposed 2020-2021 budget for public comment. A draft of the proposed budget was given to board members at the July 20, 2020, board meeting. Mr. Leonard provided an overview of appropriation levels for the five district funds (General, ASB, Debt Service, Capital Projects and Transportation Vehicle). An item of note was the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming school year because of COVID. This will necessitate carefully monitoring the budget throughout the year. The 2020-2021 budget projects no increase in enrollment. It should be noted a decrease of 250 students equals \$2.5 million. The district's Enrichment Levy expires at the end of the 2021 calendar year. Voters will be asked to approve a replacement levy in February of 2021 for collection in 2022, 2023 & 2024.

There were no public comments on the presented 2020-2021 budget.

V. Continuing Business

A. 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Revision

Superintendent Woodward presented for board consideration two 2020-2021 calendar revision options. On August 6, 2020, the School Board approved a Reopening Plan that includes a 100% in-person option for K-5 grade students, an in-person rotating/split schedule option for grades 6-12, plus a remote only option for all students. On August 10, 2020, the School Board approved delaying the start of the school year to September 14, 2020, in order to allow time to accurately identify students who will attend for face-to-face instruction, those who will access remote only instruction and the staff who will serve students in each of these learning options. At the August 10th meeting the board asked that the district solicit input from staff on a couple of different calendar revisions that add back the seven school days lost because of the delayed start.

Two options were presented to staff for their input. Option A adds all seven days to the end of the school year. The last day of school moves from June 16 to June 25. 51.4% of the 690 employees who voted selected this option. Option B adds five days to the end of the school year and October 9 and May 28 become regular school days. The last day of school moves from June 16 to June 23. 48.6% of the 690 employees who voted selected this option.

Following discussion, Director Olson made a motion to adopt Calendar Option A. There was no second. Director Burchard then made a motion to adopt Calendar Option B (last day of school June 23). Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

B. Resolution 20-6 2020-2021 Budget Adoption

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented Resolution 20-6, 2020-2021 Budget Adoption, for board consideration. State law requires fiscal year budgets be adopted by August 31st of each year. Adoption of the 2020-2021 budget sets the appropriation level or spending limit for each of the district's five funds (General, ASB, Debt Service, Capital Projects and Transportation Vehicle) consistent with the assumptions and estimates utilized in its preparation.

Director Burchard made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-6, 2020-2021 Budget Adoption, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution 20-8 2020-2021 Fees & Budget Policies

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented Resolution 20-8, 2020-2021 Fees & Budget Policies, for board consideration. In addition to the adoption of the fiscal year budget, state law requires that fees, budget policies and facility use fees be adopted by August 31st.

For Nutrition Services there is no change in meal prices. There is also no proposed change to general facility use fees, although with the opening of Union Stadium a separate fee schedule for that facility was presented. There is no change in ASB membership fees and the mileage rate is adjusted to the IRS standard mileage rate as of January 1st each year.

Facilities & Planning Director Ned Wendle explained how the fees for Union Stadium were determined.

Director Olson made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-8, 2020-2021 Fees & Budget Policies, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Award Insurance Brokerage Insurance Contract

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented a contract for insurance brokerage services with HUB for board consideration.

Six vendors submitted proposals with a due date of July 29, 2020. A six member committee reviewed all proposals and selected four companies to make formal presentations. Following the presentations, the committee evaluated each company based on price, local support, depth of experience/knowledge, professionalism and service/reports. Based on the evaluation criteria, HUB was the preferred vendor.

The base year of the contract is the 2020-2021 school year with four one-year renewal options through 2024-2025. The HUB proposal results in a \$40,000 annual savings from the district's current insurance vendor Alliant.

Following discussion, that explained the duties of the insurance broker, Director Cannon made a motion to approve the contract with HUB for district insurance brokerage services for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Award of Fuel Contract

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented a fuel contract with PetroCard for board consideration.

The Mead School District requested bid proposals with a due date of August 11, 2020, for fuel services which includes unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel. PetroCard was the only vendor to submit a bid. PetroCard has been the vendor of choice for the Mead School District for the past five years.

The base year for this Request for Proposal is the 2020-21 school year with four one-year renewal options through 2024-2025. The district is confident in PetroCard's ability to meet fuel needs for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. Overall pricing is consistent with the prior year. The presented bid is two-cents per gallon higher than last year.

Following discussion, Director Burchard made a motion to approve the contract with PetroCard for fuel services for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Award of Small Wares Contract

Nutrition Services Director Kim Elkins presented RFP 7-1617 Small Wares Contract for the 2020-2021 school year with Bargreen Ellingson Restaurant Supply and Design for board consideration. Renewal of this contract is available through the district's interlocal agreement with Spokane Public Schools. The base year for this RFP was the 2017-2018 school year with one-year renewal options through 2020-2021.

Director Olson made a motion to award RFP7-1617 Small Wares Contract for the 2020-2021 school year to Bargreen Ellingson Restaurant Supply and Design, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Award of Milk and Dairy Contract

Nutrition Services Director Kim Elkins presented Bid 483-20-04-B Milk & Dairy Contract, available through the district's interlocal agreement with Central Valley School District, for the 2020-2021 school year with Terry's Dairy for board consideration. 2020-2021 is the base year for this bid with one year renewal options through 2024-2025.

The district has been satisfied with the performance of Terry's Dairy for the past several years and is confident in their ability to meet milk and dairy needs for 2020-2021. The overall milk pricing is one cent higher than last year and the bid allows for a credit for excess milk.

Director Burchard made a motion to award Bid No. 483-20-04-B Milk & Dairy Contract for the 2020-2021 school year to Terry's Dairy, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Award of Prime Vendor Contract

Nutrition Services Director Kim Elkins presented the annual renewal option on PSJPC Bid #1-2017 Prime Vendor with US Foods (formerly Food Services of America) providing grocery items to the Mead School District for board consideration. This contract is available through the district's membership in the Puget Sound Joint Purchasing Cooperative (PBJPC).

The base year for this RFP was the 2017-2018 school year with one-year renewal options through 2022-2023. US Foods was the district's Prime Vendor in 2019-2020. The district is confident in their ability to meet district grocery needs for the 2020-2021 school year. The overall pricing is consistent with the prior year.

Director Cannon made a motion to award PSJPC Bid #1-2017 Prime Vendor Contract for the 2020-2021 school year for the Mead School District to US Foods, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Interlocal Agreement

Mead School District 354 & NE Washington ESD 101

Nutrition Services Director Kim Elkins presented an interlocal agreement between the Mead School District and ESD 101 for board consideration. This interlocal agreement allows the district to access bids ESD 101 has negotiated for a variety of food items. Access to these bids is particularly important at this time because of supply issues associated with COVID 19.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the presented interlocal agreement between Mead School District 354 and NE Washington ESD 101. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Establish Calendar for 2020-2021 Board Meeting Dates

A draft calendar for 2020-2021 board meetings was provided for board consideration. Two public meetings are planned each month with the exception of December, July and August. Board meetings traditionally take place on the second and last Monday of each month beginning at 6 pm.

Following discussion, including the hope Governor Inslee will lift the ban on holding board meetings in person very soon, Director Cannon made a motion to approve the presented draft 2020-2021 Board Meetings Calendar. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for the month of July 2020

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented a brief financial report for the month of July 2020. The district's General Fund balance is approximately \$4 million more than projected because of savings associated with schools being closed for in-person instruction last spring. These funds will help off-set the additional costs that will be incurred implementing the district's reopening plan.

B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items

Superintendent Woodward shared preliminary results from the survey families completed where they selected their learning option for the 2020-2021 school year. 71% want face-to-face, 19% selected either the elementary remote option or secondary remote A/B option and 6% of secondary students chose self-paced online Edgenuity. Nearly 85% of district families completed the survey. The district is carefully watching the number of students, particularly at the elementary level, who have indicated they are withdrawing to pursue other learning options for 2020/21.

To provide additional clarity, Superintendent Woodward stated that Dr. Lutz of the Spokane Regional Health District does prefer that schools start in a remote only platform. However, that does not mean the SRHD is not working closely with the district on reopening plans. The relationship between the two organizations is very collaborative. Our nurses work closely with SRHD epidemiologist Mark Springer and the district has a partnership with SRHD for contact tracing. SRHD has reviewed the district's Safety Plan to see if it fits with SRHD guidance. While SRHD does not officially "approve" or "disapprove" school Safety Plans they do provide feedback and the district has and will make adjustment based on that feedback.

The district is using the approximately \$1 million it received in CARES money to purchase PPE to keep students and staff safe.

Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley introduced Mead SD nurses Ruth Erb and Carrie Dinwoodie who talked about the district's relationship with Spokane Regional Health District, screening station protocols, school Symptom Rooms, procedures that will be followed for sick staff and students while at school and social distancing protocols. Regarding contact tracing, district schools will partner with SRHD regarding case investigation and notification procedures. In conclusion, Ms. Erb and Ms. Dinwoodie emphasized the need to educate parents and have them partner with the district as we reopen schools.

Superintendent Woodward thanked Ms. Erb and Ms. Dinwoodie stating, "They are absolutely amazing . . . both are very strong leaders. The district has tremendous confidence in the work they are doing."

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

President

Secretary