



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, October 12, 2020**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020. This was a Zoom Meeting with login information posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Green, Burchard, Olson, Denholm and Cannon were present. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. 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 September 28, 2020, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Director Denholm shared he was able to visit several schools in the past week. He was very impressed with the social distancing plan and mask compliance by students. He also had the opportunity to observe teaching taking place both in-person and remotely at the same time and, again, was impressed with what he saw.

Director Green added her thanks to all district teachers, administrators and support staff who have been and continue to put forth extraordinary efforts to provide in-person, remote live-streaming and virtual learning to Mead students. She particularly noted and expressed appreciation to those teachers who are teaching in-person and to remote students simultaneously acknowledging the extra effort it takes to do that.

IV. Continuing Business

**A. Second Reading Policy 3212 Adoption
Ensuring Educational Equity**

Superintendent Shawn Woodward presented Policy 3212, Ensuring Educational Equity, for second reading consideration. If adopted this would be a new policy for the Mead School District.

As a system the Mead School District is committed to the success of every student in each of its schools and to achieving the mission of each student being future ready. The concept of educational equity goes beyond formal equality, where all students are treated the same, to fostering a barrier-free environment where all students have the opportunity to benefit equally.

Key elements of the proposed policy include:

- Statement of beliefs regarding educational equity.
- List of commitments to address opportunity and achievement gaps.
- Equity goals, accountability, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

The policy directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a system-wide equity plan within the district's strategic plan with clear accountability and metrics. It additionally requires

the Superintendent to regularly report progress on the plan and outcomes to the school board and community.

There were no changes recommended at the September 28, 2020, first reading of this policy.

Prior to making a motion to adopt Policy 3212, Ensuring Educational Equity, as presented, Director Olson shared he is pleased the district is moving in this direction. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

For those community members listening to the meeting via Zoom Director Green read the following paragraph from the newly adopted policy:

The concept of educational equity goes beyond formal equality where all students are treated the same - to fostering a barrier-free environment where all students, regardless of their race, class or other personal characteristics such as creed, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, pregnancy status, marital status, physical appearance, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a training service animal by a person with a disability, have the opportunity to benefit equally.

She also thanked all who pushed for and worked with Superintendent Woodward on this policy.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

VI. Reports

A. Business Services Report – Enrollment & Budget Impact

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard reviewed September 2020 enrollment numbers, compared them to budgeted enrollment and provided an overview of the budget impact associated with a drop in enrollment of 540 FTE. Items of note included:

- Enrollment is down at nearly all Mead School District schools.
- Decreased enrollment is not unique to the Mead School District. This is a statewide trend with a reported overall decrease of 35,000 K-12 students.
- Parents submitting *Intent to Homeschool* forms is up by 220 students. (Typically 180 students submit this form. This year that number was 400 students.)
- Many students have withdrawn to attend other virtual programs offered throughout the state.
- In addition to Kindergarten there is a substantial decrease in the number of 1st grade and 12th grade students. At 12th grade it is suspected many more students have elected to access Running Start than in prior years. (Official Running Start numbers will not be available until October.)
- The drop in enrollment translates to a loss of revenue in multiple categories.
- For transportation less ridership will result in a loss of approximately \$500,000.
- From a revenue standpoint a loss of 540 FTE translates to an overall decrease in funding of \$6.1 million.

Mr. Leonard reported information on additional expenses associated with opening schools in a COVID environment will be shared at an upcoming board meeting. These include PPE and increased sub costs.

Regarding the district's ending 2019/2020 fund balance, Mr. Leonard shared he projects this being \$4 million more than anticipated. The district will immediately begin looking for and implementing discretionary cost savings measures.

Director Green asked about a hold harmless OSPI proposal for the 2020/2021 school year. Mr. Leonard shared he has not seen anything definite on this idea. He believes there will be a variety of proposals on the table once the legislature goes into session in January.

Director Denholm asked about reaching out to families who have left. Superintendent Woodward shared the district plans to survey those families regarding their decision and extend an invitation for them to return.

Director Olson expressed thanks to Mr. Leonard and his Business Department team for their work on what has recently been a "moving target."

Director Cannon referenced and thanked Spokane County for the approximately \$500,000 grant the district received to help with technology purchases. He additionally asked about capacity for the district to accept additional *Choice* students. Superintendent Woodward and Assistant Superintendent Hoadley shared these requests are handled on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on grade level and space availability. In a typical year the district has 200 students "choice in" and 200 students "choice out."

B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items

Superintendent Woodward, acknowledging there is now less staff at District Office because of cost savings reductions implemented in July, expressed his thanks and acknowledged the outstanding work of Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens and Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley, in addition to all members of the District Leadership Team, in preparing to open schools for in-person instruction. The energy and effort put forth by all district employees to open schools and stay open has been immense.

He additionally acknowledged the courageous decision made by the School Board on August 6th to open for face-to-face instruction. Mead is one of only a handful of districts providing this option for families. 95% of the state is offering only remote instruction. The Mead School District has shown it is possible to successfully open schools and paved the way for other districts to follow suit.

Prior to November 1st the district will survey parents, teachers and students asking them to share what is going well and provide suggestions for improvement. Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens will be the point person on this.

Regarding the upcoming February 2021 Levy Renewal ballot measure, the district has started working in earnest on this and would like to share detailed information at a Work Session designed to help the board make an informed decision on the amount the district should ask voters to consider. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to schedule a Work Session for Wednesday, October 21, 2020, beginning at 6 pm.

Superintendent Woodward covered two additional items:

#1 - Current Elementary In-Person Model: Even with a decrease in enrollment of approximately 4.5% this year, the social distancing requirements and resulting reduction in class size necessary for in-person instruction at the elementary level to take place, resulted in the district needing all of its contracted teachers to make the model work. If social distancing is required next year the district will not be able to staff for 100% daily in-person elementary instruction unless additional financial resources are available. An additional consideration for next year, assuming enrollment

rebounds and social distancing continues, is the space needed when all elementary classrooms would have an enrollment cap of 22 students.

#2 - COVID Dashboard: Public Information Officer Todd Zeidler updates the district's COVID Dashboard on a daily basis. So far no one has contracted COVID at school. All reported cases can be traced back to external exposure. Director Green shared that a parent told her they are being extra careful because they don't want to be "the one to close school down."

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

President

Secretary