



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, October 26, 2020**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, October 26, 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 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 October 12, 2020, and Board Work Session of October 21, 2020, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Mr. Michael McCarty, who resides at 1211 E. Cleveland Bay Lane, addressed the board regarding the topic of financial literacy. He referenced the 2013 TEDx Seattle talk on student loan debt from University of Washington Professor Gregg Gottesman that included the story of a college graduate with student loans totaling \$120,000. Citing a 2015 report from The Massachusetts State Financial Literacy Task Force he shared that only 6.9% of high school students in the United States are considered financially literate. Mr. McCarty encouraged the board to address the issue of financial literacy by having a required high school course on the subject in place by the 2023-2024 academic year. Mr. McCarty concluded his remarks by asking the board to take time to watch the YouTube video titled *The Most Important Class You Never Had*.

Director Green thanked Mr. McCarty for his comments indicating the subject of financial literacy was one raised in a recent survey of district parents. Superintendent Woodward shared that he and Mr. McCarty met during the summer and that Mr. McCarty agreed to be a resource on the subject of financial literacy for the school district.

Director Green, who works for Providence, shared that she has heard from many health care providers that Mead's lead nurses, Ruth Erb & Carrie Dinwoodie, regarding COVID, are doing some of the "finest work" they have ever seen.

IV. Continuing Business - none

V. New Business

A. Consent Agendas A & B

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

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

Regarding the Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular stipends that were a part of Consent Agenda A, Director Cannon shared he had a conversation with Doug Edmonson regarding Extra-Curricular stipends and Mark St. Clair regarding Co-Curricular stipends. This conversation was

very helpful as it provided context for why these particular stipends are being paid. In particular he referenced the Dual-Modality Stipends being paid to secondary teachers who are teaching in-person and live-streaming students at the same time. This stipend acknowledges the extra-work involved in providing this type of instruction. Regarding athletic director stipends, even though sports have not yet started, there is behind the scenes work taking place that includes creating schedules based on a whole host of potential season scenarios. Doug Edmonson shared WIAA will meet in mid-November to talk about the winter athletic season. Debate starts in November and runs through May. Debate this year will be all virtual.

Director Green noted there are no Extra-Curricular athletic coaching stipends being paid.

**B. First Reading Policy 3290 Suspension
Re-Admission of Expelled or Long-Term Suspended Students**

Student & Family Services Director Josh Westermann presented the suspension of Policy 3290, Re-Admission of Expelled or Long-Term Suspended Students, for first reading consideration.

In September of 2018 the board approved the adoption of Policy & Procedure 3241, Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action, which covers the processes and procedures to be followed when a student is expelled or long-term suspended. The updated language in Policy/Procedure 3241 sets forth how the reengagement of expelled or long-term suspended students will take place and, therefore, makes Policy 3290 obsolete.

A copy of both Policy 3290 and Policy/Procedure 3241 were provided to the board.

There was no objection to the recommendation to suspend Policy 3290. This will be brought forward as an action item at the next board meeting.

C. Highly Capable Program Grant Renewal Authorization

Rob Haugen, Director of Elementary Education, presented the annual Highly Capable Program Grant renewal authorization for board consideration. This state funded grant supports program options for students who perform, or show the potential to perform, at a remarkably high level when compared to students of similar experience or environment. Submission of the request to continue receiving grant funds requires school board authorization.

The amount of funding anticipated from this grant for 2020-2021 is \$300,000. These grant funds cover the costs related to the daily provision of appropriate instructional support for students with the highly capable designation. In addition to supporting the salary and benefits for two full-time certificated staff, each school is given a modest allocation to help support their school-specific efforts to serve highly capable students.

Mr. Haugen shared changes being implemented to Mead's Highly Capable Program in the current school year (first steps) as well as plans to enhance the program in coming years. Highly Capable is a component of basic education. Students are identified based on CogAT scores at or above the 90th percentile in one or more of three identified categories (Language Arts, Math, Visual/Spatial).

In the Mead School District 889 students are identified as "highly capable" and a break-down of the grade distribution and school distribution of these students was presented. Of particular note are the low number of identified students at low poverty schools and the need to address this by, for example, taking a look at the qualifying tests for implicit bias.

A summary of highly capable opportunities at the elementary, middle and high school levels was presented. At the elementary level Mr. Haugen shared priority shifts this year will include casting a wider net for identification of students for Hi-Cap designation, a desire to offer support for all

elementary aged students with the highly capable designation, including a commitment to ensure all students and families have equitable access, and moving away from a pull-out model.

Director Green, responding to the move away from the pull-out model at the elementary level, shared the importance of messaging this change well to parents. She is concerned this change will be seen as “watering down” the program.

Addressing questions regarding the middle school and high school Highly Capable offerings, Director of Secondary Education Mark St. Clair shared opportunities for students are robust at both levels. He additionally reported both honors courses and AP courses are open to all students.

Director Green, responding to a chat comment from Ann Campbell (parent) who recently moved from the Everett School District on the west side of the state to Mead, who unfavorably compared Mead’s program to what they experienced in Everett, shared that Mead’s Highly Capable program “does need work”. Mr. Haugen invited Ms. Campbell to get in touch with him to discuss the district’s Highly Capable program.

Director Denholm made a motion to authorize the submission of the Highly Capable Program Grant renewal paperwork for the 2020-2021 school year. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. At-Risk Taskforce Report

Student & Family Services Director Josh Westermann, who last year facilitated the district’s *At-Risk Student Task Force*, shared the work and recommendations of the group including the following:

- **Team Members:** Kristi Amend (Mountainside), Karina Berven (Highland), Doug Edmonson (Technology), Moleena Harris (Mountainside), Coretta Hoffman (Mead HS), Jeff Lochhead (Mountainside), Suzanne McKibbon (Special Services), Darren Nelson (Mt. Spokane HS), Kerrie Rowland (5MP & North Star), Adam Strate (Mead HS,) Alyssa St. Clair (Highland), Mark St. Clair (Teaching & Learning) & Josh Westermann (Student & Family Services)
- **Task Force Charge:** Construct a strategic plan for the Mead School District outlining a recommended course of action to serve at-risk students at the secondary level.
- **Scope of Work & Recommendation:** Summary of work (February – June) culminating in the creation of a five-year strategic plan. This work involved self-reflection and analysis including carefully considering feedback provided via survey from staff, parents and students. The Task Force recommends a multi-tiered system of intervention for both academic instruction and behavioral instruction with Tier 2 students receiving both Tier 1 AND Tier 2 support and Tier 3 students receiving Tier 1 AND Tier 2 AND Tier 3 support. Examples of Tier 3 support might be placement in an off-site learning center or a flexible school schedule.

Mr. Westermann shared he is very excited to begin implementing this five-year strategic plan and invited board members to reach out to him if they would like to talk further about the *At-Risk Student Task Force* recommendations.

Director Green thanked Mr. Westermann for the informative presentation noting, “It is clear this is a passion area for you.” Responding to a question about supports in place right now, Mr. Westermann referenced the academic enrichment programs in place at both Mead HS and Mt. Spokane HS and shared these programs will be expanded to include Edgenuity distance learners.

B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items

Expanding on the information shared by Josh Westermann, Superintendent Woodward talked about how the action steps identified by the *At-Risk Student Task Force* fit into the district's overall Strategic Plan. In particular Priority #5 - *Whole Child - Safe, Challenged & Supported*. Even though district administrators are enveloped in the daily details of keeping students in school during COVID, they are also focused on the mission of making sure each student is future ready.

Addressing the Strategic Plan Target Objective of . . . *Through community partnerships develop cost neutral medical and behavioral health clinics in schools . . .* Superintendent Woodward reported he and Mr. Westermann are actively engaged in working on this objective. Strategies include looking at what other school districts are doing, exploring possible college/university partnerships, piloting a program in a high poverty elementary school next year, researching how to make programs offered "cost neutral" and looking for ways to expand mental health services with Children's Home Society similar to the district's current partnership available at Meadow Ridge, Northwood and Mead HS.

Superintendent Woodward plans to spend time sharing action steps/progress on select Strategic Plan priorities/objectives at upcoming board meeting.

Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley shared how proud he is that the district is nearing completion of the sixth week of school with students attending for face-to-face instruction and provided the following COVID update:

- There have been 36 confirmed COVID cases. All cases involved exposure outside of school with the exception of one that is still under investigation.
- Slightly more than 600 students have been quarantined. No quarantined students have developed COVID.
- While placing students in quarantine is still following Phase 1 Spokane Regional Health District guidelines, there is the potential that, because of the high number of COVID cases in Mead SD zip codes, upcoming quarantines may be required to follow Phase 2 guidelines. In Phase 2 quarantine could involve an entire classroom or an entire bus rather than just those seated adjacent to the diagnosed student. Phase 3 involves closing down an entire school.

Superintendent Woodward added that the possibility of a Phase 2 quarantine is not an indictment on the safety protocols the district has in place. Current measures are working very well.

Discussion included a recommendation that the district be more proactive in reminding families about the risks of outside of school gatherings without appropriate safety protocols in place that contribute to the spread of COVID.

Responding to a question from Director Cannon, Dr. Hoadley reported that, now that school is in session, Spokane Regional Health District has the authority to dictate, based on several community transmission rate factors, the quarantine phase for the school district. Dr. Hoadley restated the district is currently quarantining students under Phase 1 guidelines.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

President

Secretary