



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, November 23, 2020**

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The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, November 23, 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 Burchard 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 November 9, 2020, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools**

Director Denholm expressed his personal thanks that, in spite of increasing COVID cases, Mead School District students are still able to attend school for face-to-face instruction.

Director Green, noting it is Thanksgiving Week, extended a well-deserved thank you to ALL Mead School District staff for their valiant efforts in providing school options for Mead students. In her job at Providence she regularly hears sad stories of kids who, primarily because of feeling isolated, are struggling with mental health issues. The work Mead is doing to provide in-person instruction provides a place for students to see one another, learn and interact with teachers/mentors. This is critical to the mental well-being of many students.

**IV. Continuing Business - none**

**V. New Business**

**A. Consent Agenda**

Responding to a question from Director Cannon, Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard shared that *Dude Solutions* provides the software used for Maintenance Department work orders and facilities scheduling. Director Burchard requested clarification on the work associated with the presented Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular contracts. Mr. Leonard reported those being paid have collaborated with their building principal to determine the activities/events that will take place for the stipend being paid. If that work is unable to be performed there will be adjustments in pay.

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

**B. New Elementary School Name**

In early November the Mead School District invited the community to submit potential names for the new elementary school being built on Five Mile Prairie that will open in the Fall of 2021. 700+ individuals responded to this initial survey.

From these suggestions the school board narrowed the list down to five names and asked the community to select their favorite. The voting window was open November 12-18, 2020.

Superintendent Woodward shared 929 survey responses were received with Skyline receiving the most votes (324) followed by Sky Ridge in second place (262 votes).

Director Cannon made a motion to approve Skyline as the name for the new elementary school located on Five Mile Prairie. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Resolution 20-13  
Renewal Enrichment and Operations Levy**

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented Resolution 20-13, Renewal Enrichment and Operations Levy, for board consideration.

Every three years the Mead School District seeks voter approval of an excess levy for enrichment and operations support. The levy approved by voters in February 2018 expires at the end of the 2021 calendar year.

The enrichment levy represents approximately 11.9% of the Mead School District operating budget and supports nurses, small class sizes, activities (band, choir, drama, orchestra), athletics (middle and high school), increased learning opportunities (AP, STEM and Highly Capable), reading, music and PE specialists, counselors and social workers, bus transportation and much more.

Resolution 20-13 sets the levy amount for voter approval at \$16,450,000 for 2022, \$17,750,000 for 2023 and \$19,000,000 for 2024 and a special election date of February 9, 2021. The estimated tax rate for the enrichment levy each year is \$2.00. By way of comparison, Spokane Public Schools is asking voters to approve an estimated rate of \$2.40 in 2022, \$2.45 in 2023 and \$2.50 in 2024.

Director Denholm made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-13, Renewal Enrichment and Operations Levy, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Resolution 20-15  
Acceptance of the Building Commissioning Report for  
Highland Middle School**

Facilities & Planning Director Ned Wendle presented Resolution 20-15, Acceptance of the Building Commissioning Report for Highland Middle School, for board consideration.

The Mead School District has received the final Building Commissioning Report from Testcomm LLC regarding the new Highland Middle School Project. (A copy of this report was provided electronically to each board member and Superintendent Woodward for their review prior to the board meeting.) Adoption of Resolution 20-15 certifies the Board of Directors approves the final Building Commissioning Report. This report is a requirement when a school district receives state match funds for a building project.

Responding to a question from Director Cannon, Mr. Wendle shared that problems found throughout the building process were corrected as they were identified. All building systems have a one-year warranty from the general contractor.

Director Olson made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-15, Acceptance of the Building Commissioning Report for Highland Middle School, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **E. Resolution 20-16**

### **Acceptance of the Completion of New Highland Middle School Project**

Facilities & Planning Director Ned Wendle presented Resolution 20-16, Acceptance of the Completion of New Highland Middle School Project, for board consideration.

The Mead School District has received notification from ALSC Architects confirming that the New Highland Middle School Project is complete in accordance with contract specifications and documents. Adoption of Resolution 20-16 officially certifies the work of contractor Graham Construction on the New Highland Middle School Project is complete.

Mr. Wendle invited any board member who has not yet had the opportunity to tour Highland to get in touch with him to set up a time to do so. On a personal note Mr. Wendle shared, "Highland is a beautiful building. Graham Construction did a fantastic job and was very easy to work with. The building was completed on-time and under budget."

Director Denholm made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-16, Acceptance of the Completion of New Highland Middle School Project, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. Reports**

### **A. Financial Report for the Month of October 2020**

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Leonard presented a brief financial report for the month of October 2020. Of particular note were the following:

- November enrollment shows an increase of 40 students primarily in the district's ALE program.
- Regarding the three-year General Fund monthly spending comparison, Mr. Leonard reminded that each year included (18/19, 19/20 & 20/21) is unique in its own way and therefore cautioned about drawing too many comparisons because of the outlier nature of each year. 2018/2019 was the first full year of the state's new McCleary funding model. In March of 2019/2020 schools were closed for in-person instruction because of COVID resulting in an atypical spending pattern. In 2020/2021 Mead's enrollment is down 500+ students and the district is operating in a hybrid learning environment which is more costly than in a typical school year.
- The state is currently funding the district at its budgeted enrollment. That will change in January. After the first of the year the district's cash balance will show the impact of decreased enrollment and higher operating expenses.
- Because Spokane County allowed property owners to delay paying their 2<sup>nd</sup> half taxes until the end of December the district may need to have the board approve a short-term loan from the Capital Projects Fund to pay its upcoming debt service payment.

Responding to a question from Director Burchard regarding refinancing bonds, Mr. Leonard shared the district is watching the interest rate situation closely. Recent bonds (2015 & 2018) must be five years old before they are eligible for refinancing.

### **B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items**

Superintendent Woodward provided a brief update on COVID related issues with highlights provided below. He thanked staff for their diligence in reinforcing safety behaviors. To date, there have been no diagnosed COVID cases that trace back to exposure at any Mead School District school.

- The district continues to receive great support from Spokane Regional Health District. The relationship between the two organizations is continually improving.

- Statewide other school districts and state officials are watching the Mead School District. The district is leading by example when it comes to operating for face-to-face instruction during COVID.
- Spokane Regional Health District has established three COVID quarantine levels. Mr. Woodward provided a brief explanation of each level. The majority of district schools are in Level 1 with Brentwood, Prairie View, Farwell and Mt. Spokane in Level 2. There are currently no schools that fall into the Level 3 category.
- In Level 1 the district found they were quarantining a fairly large number of students. Using Mead SD data since the beginning of the school year, and discovering no quarantined student became ill, Spokane Regional Health District on November 19<sup>th</sup> made adjustments to its Level 1 quarantine guidelines. Now, as long as students are six feet apart and masked, they do not need to quarantine if they sit adjacent to a diagnosed student. However, if one member of a household suspects they have been exposed all members of that household must quarantine at home until a negative test result is obtained.

Answering Director Burchard's question, Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley shared notification communication regarding COVID remains essentially unchanged even with the Level 1 changes referenced above.

In conclusion, Superintendent Woodward shared the recent spike in COVID cases, which resulted in the recommendation that local school districts pause their phased approach to bringing students back for face-to-face instruction, does not impact Mead because all grade levels are already in attendance.

#### **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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**President**

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**Secretary**