



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, February 8, 2021**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021. This was a Zoom Meeting with login information posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Burchard, Denholm, Olson, Cannon and Green 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 Green made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Director Cannon 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 January 25, 2021, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Director Cannon shared his recent experience serving as a panelist in Marcy Gallinger's *Entrepreneurship* class at Highland Middle School. Referring to Ms. Gallinger as a "super star" teacher, Director Cannon was very complimentary of the *Shark Tank* style event where individual students and/or groups of students "pitched" their business idea to a panel of five community members.

Director Burchard offered condolences to the family of a Mead High School student who tragically passed away over the weekend and referenced the GoFundMe account that has been established to help with expenses.

IV. Five Mile Prairie Elementary Boundary Change Recommendation

Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley, who is the district liaison for the Five Mile Prairie Boundary Committee, before introducing committee members, briefly shared the committee meeting schedule/timeline. The committee held its first meeting on December 15th, followed by five weekly work sessions.

Every residence on Five Mile Prairie received a postcard inviting them to volunteer for the boundary committee. Twenty-eight residents expressed on interest in serving. Using Five Mile Road and Strong Road as dividing lines, the Prairie was divided into four quadrants. The following residents (two from each quadrant) were selected as committee members:

- Quadrant #1 (NW) – Casey Curtis & Karli Hitchens
- Quadrant #2 (NE) – Debbie Harper & Steve Taylor
- Quadrant #3 (SW) – Jess Winston & Annie Voy
- Quadrant #4 (SE) – Rachelle Humphrey & Josh Roys

Sharing the committee's boundary change recommendation were Casey Curtis, Annie Voy, Rachelle Humphrey and Josh Roys. The presentation included the following:

- **Plan Development/Guiding Principles** – Casey Curtis explained the committee was asked to divide the current Prairie View boundary into two elementary school attendance areas taking into consideration geographic boundaries, walk zones, neighborhoods, number of

impacted students, school bus transportation and plan duration. Given included; 1) Prairie View and Skyline will both be K-5 schools and 2) there will be no grandfathering.

- **Next Year Grades 1-5 Five Mile Enrollment** - Annie Voy shared the number of K-4 students (next year's 1-5 graders) living on Five Mile Prairie who are currently enrolled in the Mead School District is 591. This includes Prairie View students, as well as students who live on the Prairie and are shuttled to other district elementary schools (Farwell currently houses 100+ Prairie View students). This number does not include next year's kindergarten students, which is estimated to be approximately 120, and does not include students who attend private schools because of COVID or because they do not want to be shuttled off the Prairie.
- **Geographic Enrollment Distribution** - Annie Voy, aided by a map of the current Prairie View attendance area, explained how the committee divided Five Mile Prairie into 19 small neighborhood areas. One of the identified areas is the "walk zone" for Skyline and one is the "walk zone" for Prairie View. These areas, in conjunction with major arterials (Five Mile Road and Strong Road), were key to the development of the committee's recommendation.
- **Proposal Process/Rationale** - Rachele Humphrey first shared an overview of the committee's proposal followed by a review of the process/rationale behind the recommendation. A copy of the proposed boundary change map is attached. Committee considerations included:
 - **Major Arterials/Safety** - While it was logical to use Five Mile Road as a potential E/W dividing line, Strong Road as a N/S dividing line was not practical because both Skyline and Prairie View are located north of Strong. With a target enrollment of 295 at each school simply having Five Mile Road as the boundary line would have resulted in enrollment numbers of 428 at Prairie View and 163 at Skyline. The committee needed to find an area with approximately 135 students from the east side of Five Mile Road to assign to Skyline.
 - **Walk Zones** - The committee made the determination it was not safe for walkers to cross Five Mile Road and, therefore, the identified walk zones for Skyline and Prairie View, even though the schools are very close to one another, were not disrupted.
 - **Neighborhoods** - The committee was committed to keeping neighborhoods together. Therefore, the proposal does not include any boundary line drawn down the middle of a neighborhood street.
 - **Growth Areas/Davis Demographics** - The committee consulted the Davis Demographics study the district commissioned a few years ago, which shows the proposed Skyline and Prairie View boundaries are projected to grow at nearly identical rates in the next ten years.
 - **Bus Routes/Five Mile Road vs Strong Road Access** - In looking at the SE quadrant of the Prairie to determine which areas could/should be in the Skyline attendance boundary, the committee used the lens of neighborhoods that feed onto Five Mile Road and neighborhoods that feed onto Strong Road. The committee recommends the Five Mile Road neighborhoods, Area 3 and Area 6 with 135 students, be included in the Skyline boundary with the Strong Road neighborhoods (Areas 4, 7 & 8) remaining at Prairie View. This recommendation means students will not have to drive past another school to get to their school.

The committee also looked very carefully at Austin Road. Students living on the north portion will catch the school bus on Strong Road and attend Prairie View. Students living on the south portion will catch the school bus at either Cascade Way or Quamish and attend Skyline.

- **Area 3 & Area 6 Boundaries/Feeder Schools/Community Presentation** - Josh Roys, aided by an enhanced street map that clearly illustrated the north and east boundaries of the portion of the SE quadrant recommended for Skyline, reiterated the committee's

commitment to keeping neighborhoods together and, in more detail, talked about the Five Mile Road versus Strong Road access consideration.

Feeder schools for both Skyline and Prairie View will be Highland Middle School and Mead High School, which means, until students enter high school, they will attend school on the Prairie.

Mr. Roys shared the committee would be hosting a community webinar on the recommended boundary change on Wednesday, February 10th at 6 pm. Following this meeting community members will have the opportunity to provide written feedback via an online survey posted on the Mead School District homepage.

The board thanked the committee for their hard work, complimenting them on the thoroughness and clean, clear logic evident in the recommendation. Responding to a question from Director Olson, Dr. Hoadley reported reaching out to the County about widening Five Mile Road was not within the scope of the committee's work. He will speak with Facilities & Planning Director Ned Wendle about that. Regarding enrollment numbers at each school, the committee reminded that kindergarten students and anticipated growth from private school students were not included.

Both Dr. Hoadley and Superintendent Woodward complimented the committee on how well they worked together.

V. Continuing Business - none

VI. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Following a question regarding a payment to CDW Government, Inc. (tech company that provides software licensing for student Chromebooks), Director Olson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Calendar Adjustment - Elementary In-Person

Learning and Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens presented for board consideration an adjustment to the elementary in-person calendar. This calendar adjustment proposal is based on feedback received from elementary in-person teachers at Focus Groups that took place in the fall. Ms. Havens noted the district has implemented other adjustments based on teacher feedback for secondary teachers and virtual program elementary teachers.

Delivering in-person instruction to elementary students during COVID has presented unique challenges to in-person elementary school teachers particularly when it comes to having time to collaborate with colleagues and develop lessons/assessments designed to enhance student learning. To address this need Learning and Teaching recommends providing 15 hours of Learning Improvement Time for in-person elementary school teachers.

While staff participate in professional development, the presented recommendation includes having students independently engaged in learning from home on two half-days, February 19th and February 24th, which were already early release days for elementary students, and March 19th. Learning activities would be posted by teachers on their digital platforms.

Discussion included concern about the short notice to parents about this change especially for February 19th and sensitivity to childcare needs anytime students are not able to attend in-person. Answering a question from Director Burchard, Ms. Havens explained that while there is limited dedicated PLC time before school, teachers, particularly with the challenges presented by COVID this year, simply need larger chunks of time to analyze student data and come together

as teams to create formative assessments that will have a direct, positive impact on student learning.

Superintendent Woodward referenced an email he sent to the board regarding the proposed calendar adjustment and reminded that Mead's elementary teachers, by providing in-person instruction since September, in the midst of a pandemic, are doing something almost no one else in the state is or has been doing.

Director Cannon expressed his support for providing what teachers need and understands the board, by their decision to offer families a variety of both in-person and remote learning options in August, has impacted the ability of elementary teachers to collaborate like in a normal school year. He acknowledged the importance of planning and doesn't want any change in the elementary in-person calendar to not go well because there was not timely communication when you consider February 19th is less than two weeks away.

To address the concern about the short notice regarding the change for February 19th, Director Denholm made a motion to adjust the in-person elementary school calendar and have Wednesday, February 24, 2021, be a guided instruction, at-home half-day for students (it was already an early release day) and Friday, March 19, 2021, be a guided instruction, at-home full-day for students. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reports

A. Learning & Teaching Report - Middle School Improvement Plans

Before presenting the School Improvement Plan for Highland, Mountainside and Northwood, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens stated how proud she is of the work administrators and staff have done in opening Highland and transitioning this year to a 6-8 grade middle school model. For 2020-2021 all three middle schools have the same three goal/priority areas. Middle School Learning Improvement Plan highlights include the following:

- **School Improvement Plan Purpose** - Working with the school's Guiding Coalition Team, use an eight-step process to create a road map that sets out the changes a school needs to make to improve the level of student achievement, and show how and when these changes will be made.
- **Alignment With District Strategic Plan** - To ensure high levels of learning for all students, facilitate the development of authentic professional learning communities to answer the four critical questions for each grade, course and content area.
- **Data Driven Decision Making** - To assess where students are, and make informed, data-driven decisions to help them improve or provide differentiated instruction for those who are advanced, the district uses several assessment tools including: Smarter Balanced and Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), as well as teacher driven formative assessments. Parents, students and staff are also surveyed on a regular basis on a variety of subjects with the information provided used to help inform practices.
- **Goal #1** - Improve the effectiveness of Tier 1 (Core) instruction to ensure high levels of learning and growth for every learner. Action steps to attain this goal were shared.
- **Goal #2** - To identify successful systems of social/emotional support that promote success for students in the 6-8 middle school model. Action steps to attain this goal were shared.
- **Goal #3** - To ensure that identified sub groups of students will make more than one year's growth as measured by the SBA. Action steps to attain this goal were shared.

In conclusion, Ms. Havens recognized the outstanding, collaborative work of the district's three middle school principals and six assistant principals who are working together to assure each middle school student is *Future Ready . . . Empowered to Dream, Believe, Achieve.*

The board thanked Ms. Havens for this very informative report. Director Green likes that goals are aligned across all schools.

B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items

Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley shared the district is in communication with Spokane Regional Health District about becoming an on-site COVID test location. On-site testing would provide quick results and help keep schools open.

Regarding vaccinations, Human Resources Director Keri Hutchins, giving credit to school nurses, reported 360 staff members received their first vaccine dose at a district sponsored clinic on January 29. This number included staff who work with unmasked students, as well as those who met the state's Phase 1 vaccination protocols. These individuals will receive their second dose on February 26. The district is also working with an outside agency to provide a vaccination clinic on February 20.

Superintendent Woodward, as part of his Strategic Plan update, highlighted Strategic Priority Area #1 (Ensure Academic Success and High Levels of Learning for ALL STUDENTS), Target Objective #3 (Expand on Career Track and Work Opportunities for Students). Action steps for this target objective include using data to inform decisions.

Using information provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department that shows the highest demand jobs in the state in December 2020, Superintendent Woodward highlighted the following three jobs: Certified Nursing Assistant (250 openings), Certified Medical Assistant (75 openings) and Certified Pharmacy Technician (43 openings). All three of these jobs can serve as career paths to higher paying jobs in the medical field.

To increase opportunities for Mead students in the health sciences area, CTE Director Doug Edmonson will be working to begin offering, in the 2022-2023 school year, courses that will allow students to work toward and/or obtain a variety of health industry certifications. To provide as many career-type opportunities for students as possible the district would also like to move toward having its own Skills Center, thereby allowing students to remain on campus and benefit from both a career specific curriculum while still being able to enjoy a traditional high school learning experience.

Discussion included the pros and cons of duplicating what is already offered at Spokane's NewTech Skill Center. Director Cannon is in favor of opening as many opportunities and options for students as possible including business-type courses and after school/summer apprenticeships.

Responding to a question from Director Green, CTE Director Doug Edmonson shared the district does offer a stand-alone financial literacy class at both Mead High and Mt. Spokane. Superintendent Woodward added that a financial literacy band could be woven into the math curriculum at all grade levels.

Providing a quick levy update, Director Cannon shared voter turnout is currently at 40%, which is very high for a February election.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

President

Secretary

Proposal

Skyline Boundary . . .

Everything North & West of Five Mile Road PLUS Area 3 & Area 6

298 Students

Prairie View Boundary . . .

Everything South & East of Five Mile Road MINUS Area 3 & Area 6

293 Students



