



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, September 27, 2021**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, September 27, 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 Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

I. Approval of Agenda

Noting receipt of an updated Consent Agenda, Director Olson made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Green made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools

Director Burchard expressed his appreciation that the *Battle of the Bell* football game, cancelled earlier in the year because of COVID, was able to be rescheduled.

Director Cannon shared he had the recent pleasure of observing both the Mt. Spokane and Mead High Marching Bands as they took part in all-day rehearsals of their fall shows. In two weeks (October 9, 2021) the Mead School District will host, at Union Stadium, the Pacific Northwest Marching Band Championships. This is a great fundraiser for both high school band programs and a wonderful opportunity for the community to come watch high school marching bands from all across the Pacific Northwest.

Director Green reported she and other board members were at Shiloh Hills on September 23rd where they observed students planting new garden boxes that were provided thanks to a Project Learning Garden Grant from Albertsons, Safeway, Dole Packaged Foods and Captain Planet Foundation. Director Denholm added how nice it was to have local news stations on hand covering an event not centered on COVID.

Director Denholm expressed his thanks to Garco Construction for supplying a tractor, when needed, to pull the Mead High School band trailer throughout this school year. In the past Mead High has had to rent a tractor to pull the trailer and now that money can be used in other areas.

Director Olson positively commented on the very exciting Mt. Spokane vs. CV football game that was played at Union Stadium before a packed crowd on September 24th. It was a very close contest with CV winning 21-19.

IV. Continuing Business - none

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

**B. 1st Reading Policy/Procedure 2195 Adoption
Academic Acceleration**

Director of Secondary Education Darren Nelson presented Policy/Procedure 2195, Academic Acceleration, for first reading consideration. If adopted this would be a new policy/procedure for the Mead School District.

The presented policy/procedure puts into policy the district's current practice of automatically enrolling students who meet or exceed standards on statewide student assessments in the next most rigorous level, or advanced courses, or program, offered by the high school in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

The policy requires parental notification of this acceleration enrollment practice and the opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt their child out of participation and instead enroll in an alternative course or program that aligns with the student's high school and beyond plan goals.

The procedure sets forth the criteria for awarding dual credit (high school and college), as well as dual credit reporting requirements.

Mr. Nelson assured the presented policy/procedure does not take away student voice in the selection of courses and, as is their practice, counselors regularly reach out to parents regarding course selection/scheduling. The policy/procedure guarantees students will be in a position to challenge themselves. Director Burchard commented that, because of GPA concerns, some students do not want to take harder classes.

No first reading changes were recommended. Director Burchard requested the policy/procedure adoption be brought forward as an action item at the next board meeting.

VI. Reports

A. Learning & Teaching Report . . . Strategic Priority 1, Target Objective 1 – Professional Learning Communities

Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens, along with Director of Elementary Education Rob Haugen and Director of Secondary Education Darren Nelson, provided an update on Strategic Priority 1, Target Objective 1 – Professional Learning Communities. Report highlights included the following:

- A review of Priority Area 1 (Ensure Academic Success and High Levels of Learning for ALL students) including specific information on the work taking place on the following Target Objectives associated with this priority area:
 - Target Objective 1 - Facilitate the development of authentic professional learning communities (Dufour Model) to ensure high levels of learning for all students and to answer the four critical questions of student learning in each grade, course and content area.
 - Target Objective 2 - Align the written, taught and assessed curriculum across the elementary, middle and high schools to create consistency, common language, procedures and standards for all students as they move from one grade to another.
 - Target Objective 6 - Ensure appropriate Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) are in place for both behavior and academics for students.
 - Target Objective 7 - The District will review existing policies, programs, professional development and procedures to ensure the promotion of equity, and all applicable new policies, programs and procedures will be developed using equity analysis tools.
- A review of the recent before school started Learning Improvement Day and a summary of the work currently taking place during weekly dedicated PLC time (Wednesday

mornings at all elementary and secondary schools). The focus of this weekly time, directed by the building principal or Learning & Teaching, is Target Objective 1. This summary included an overview of planned elementary and secondary outcomes for 2021/22. At the elementary level each grade level and job-alike team will have priority standards identified for ELA, mathematics and specialty areas in order to apply and implement the GVC frameworks with fidelity. At the secondary level each offered course will have essential standards identified and ready to publish in 2023/24 course guides.

- Plans for the upcoming October 8th Learning Improvement Day. This professional development day will include a focus on understanding and identifying essential priority standards with a template provided to guide this work.

Before concluding the presentation with the following quote, Mr. Nelson reminded that the work of ensuring academic success and high levels of learning for all students is an ongoing commitment that, through Professional Learning Communities, is continually being refined:

When teams of educators believe they have the ability to make a difference, exciting things can happen in a school. Donohoo, Hattie, Eells - Leading the Energized School, 2018

In response to a question from Director Burchard, the Learning & Teaching team explained that while different school communities may offer slightly different courses in some areas, the work to identify essential Priority Standards at each grade level will assure consistency across the district. This is particularly important for elementary students who may be shuttled from one school to another.

B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items

Superintendent Woodward shared the District Leadership Team feels a sense of urgency this year, even though issues surrounding COVID are still prevalent, to make good solid movement in a variety of priority areas. To that end, he referenced a survey he will be sending to the board asking them to share their personal priority areas. While the district won't be able to make movement in all areas each year, he welcomes the input from each board member.

Board reports planned for the next three board meetings are as follows:

- October 11th - A report from Facilities & Planning Director Ned Wendle focused on bond dollars and future building needs.
- October 25th - A report from Learning & Teaching Assistant Director Robin Placzek focused on the development of innovative elementary choice programs including a language immersion program and a program for gifted students. Regarding language immersion, the district has received a grant in the amount of \$180,000 to assist with program development.
- November 8th - A report from Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson focused on the budgeting process that includes a plan for how to clearly articulate the "how, why & where" regarding school finance to the general public.

Throughout the year, at each board meeting, there will be a report that unpacks one or more of the district's Strategic Plan Target Objectives.

VII. Executive Session

At 6:35 pm Director Burchard called for an Executive Session of approximately 15 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 7:00 pm Director Burchard returned the meeting to Open Session.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

President

Secretary