



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, May 9, 2022**

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The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 9, 2022. This meeting was held in-person and virtually via a Zoom link posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Burchard, Denholm, Olson, Cannon and Gray were present. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting began with President Burchard asking all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

With the notation/correction by Director Gray that the copy of Resolution 22-04, attached to and made a part of the April 25<sup>th</sup> minutes, did not reflect a Special Education Para Educator reduction range of \$0 - \$640,000, Director Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, with that correction. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Remarks for the Good of the Schools - Public Comment**

President Burchard first opened the floor for board comments followed by comments from the three individuals who signed-up to speak.

*Board Comments*

Director Denholm was very complimentary of the *Trades Night* that took place at Mead High School on May 4<sup>th</sup>. He noted attendance was up from last year's event and that he saw lots of parents attending with their children as they explored summer job possibilities.

Director Olson noted the recent accomplishments of Mead High School golfer Taylor Malarski. At a tournament in the Tri-Cities she shot a 66 and then, the next day at Palouse Ridge in Pullman, shot an incredible 63. Taylor will be attending Gonzaga University next year on a golf scholarship.

Director Gray, who had the opportunity to attend a recent Mt. Spokane High School choir concert, shared it was a fantastic performance noting, in particular, the excellent job the choir staff did advertising the event to feeder schools.

Referencing the most recent edition of *Naslund's Notes* (Mead High School newsletter), President Burchard shared Mead High School is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the WIAA 3A Scholastic Cup with Mt. Spokane High School in 4<sup>th</sup> place. This award recognizes academic, athletic and sportsmanship excellence.

## *Public Comments*

Autumn Bogart, parent of a DLC student, expressed her concern regarding the potential cuts to Special Education staffing. Regarding the reductions, she noted DLC teachers are already struggling to meet student needs and, therefore, she does not see how having fewer resources could work. In inquiring about how the reduction determination was made she wondered what experts were consulted. She is personally concerned for her son who right now does not have access to general education classes. Less resources will make transitioning to general education classes even harder. Regarding inclusion, she referenced the Riverside School District program and stated Mead, in her opinion, does not have a good program. She feels her child is segregated and she would like him included in school.

Superintendent Woodward indicated he would like to schedule a follow-up meeting with Ms. Bogart. He acknowledged Mead can do a better job when it comes to inclusion. He does, however, believe there are some misunderstandings regarding the nature and scope of potential Special Education reductions.

Tanya Holmes, mother of an Autistic student who attends Highland with a 1-on-1 para educator, and Mead School District employee working as a 1-on-1 para educator, thanked the district for the email that was sent following the April 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting. This email provided clarity and answered many of her questions regarding the approved range of Special Education para educator reductions. Even with receiving this additional information she has questions. She noted at her school they could not serve Special Education students without the help of para educators because of the high number of goal areas per student. She additionally reminded that IEPs are binding and that, for students like her son where the IEP references a 1-on-1 para educator, the para could not be taken away without team/parent approval. She noted that, especially at the secondary level, parents must continually advocate for their child to be more included in general education classes. Through her work with local Special Education committees, she has observed Lakeside does a good job with inclusion, Spokane is making progress and Mead has work to do.

Helen Black, mother of several children who have attended school in the Mead School District including a special needs child who currently attends high school, and someone who has until her recent retirement worked closely with Special Education departments in 14 area school districts, shared that, when asked, she tells parents of special needs children not to come to the Mead School District. She noted statements on the district's webpage that point to the district's pride in developing successful students and shared this has not been the case for her special needs son. Her son, who is a senior, could continue attending school in the Mead School District until he is 21 years of age but they are looking at different options because of their dissatisfaction with current offerings/opportunities. She is frustrated the district does not have programs in place to meet her son's needs. She hates that Special Education is once again being considered for cuts and questioned if the district is really committed to Special Education students.

For the record, and to provide clarity, Director Cannon reminded the current Special Education para educator allocation is a classroom model not a needs-based model. The resolution approved by the board on April 25<sup>th</sup>, that authorizes a reduction in Special Education para educator spending of up to \$640,000, allows the district to move to a needs-based model. There could be savings of up to \$640,000 by making this allocation change or the change could result in no savings at all. It is not the intention of the school board to target Special Education.

Superintendent Woodward added that to comply with contractual obligations, and move away from a classroom para educator allocation to a needs-based allocation, the modification to the education program that resulted from the declared financial emergency had to include, as a line item, Special Education para educators. Because each special education student has unique needs

it could be additional para support may be needed for a DLC student with less support than is currently provided necessary to meet the learning goals of a Resource Room student. Moving to a needs-based model will allow a para educator to follow a student rather than being assigned to one specific teacher for the entire day. The district wants to push resources where they are needed.

President Burchard acknowledged the emotional impact on parents of special needs children.

Ms. Black stated her belief that it is time for parents and the school board to come together on the subject of Special Education and move the district forward.

**V. Continuing Business - none**

**VI. New Business**

**A. Consent Agenda**

In response to a question from Director Gray, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Doug Edmonson, who oversees secondary athletics, confirmed the running of summer sports camps is cost neutral for the district. The fee for each camp the board is being asked to approve via the Consent Agenda is the cost that will be paid by each participant.

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

**Consent Agenda**

**1. Hired Certificated Personnel:**

Erin O'Connor	Meadow Ridge	Cert	1.0 FTE Leave Replacement (Interim) Principal 3/21/22 - 6/30/22
Kimberly Jensen	Mead High	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing Principal effective 7/1/22

**2. Hired Classified Personnel:**

Mary Finch	Midway	Class	4 hrs/day Cook II effective 5/9/22
Tamara Zufall	Shiloh Hills	Class	6.25 hrs/day Para Ed effective 4/28/22
Thomas McNamee	Warehouse	Class	8 hrs/day Custodian II effective 4/20/22

**3. Hired Certificated Substitutes:**

Maria Friesen	Barbara Bezdicek	Jenna Cosgrove
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**4. Hired Classified Substitutes:**

Edwin Roose	Hailee Muller
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**5. Approved AP Vouchers for General Fund, Capitol Projects, Private Purpose Trust & ASB.**

Vouchers audited and certified by auditing officers as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board. As of this day, **May 9, 2022**, the Board, by a unanimous vote does approve for payment the vouchers included in the above referenced list and further described as **Warrant Numbers 105798 to 105971** in the following amounts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund - AP	\$ 248,124.48
General Fund - PR	10,275,857.69
ASB Fund	25,188.55
Capital Projects Fund	348,623.12

**6. Accepted the Following Donations:**

- Midway Elementary \$1200 from Kalispel Tribe/Northern Quest to purchase 5<sup>th</sup> grade rocket kits

**7. Approved Mt. Spokane and Mead High Athletic Summer Camp fees.**

**8. Approved Requests for Unpaid Leave (i.e., parenting, medical, Good of the District, etc.):**

Yolanda Valenzdez	Evergreen	Class	5/27/22 (4.5 hrs)
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Maddison Merrill	Prairie View	Class	5/26/22 (3 hrs)
Tina Solomon	Creekside	Class	5/5/22 - 6/20/22
Bruce Hagstrom	Creekside	Cert	22/23 School Year (1.0 FTE)
Timothy McMichael	Warehouse	Class	5/2/22-6/8/22

**9. Approved Requests for Retirement/Resignation:**

Chris Backman	Meadow Ridge	Cert	Resignation effective 8/31/22 (Principal)
Monica Piergallini	Creekside/Learning Services	Cert	Position Elimination effective 6/30/22 (Asst. Principal/Learning Services EL Admin)
Scott Tubbs	Creekside	Class	Resignation effective 5/6/22 (Para Ed)
Christine Brown	Midway	Class	Resignation effective 6/25/21 (Para Ed - was on leave for 21/22 school year)
Glenda Pearson	Brentwood	Class	Resignation effective 4/22/22
Tonya Riggins	Evergreen	Class	Resignation effective 5/13/22

**B. Student Travel Proposal  
Mt. Spokane High School FCCLA**

Darren Nelson, Director of Secondary Education, presented a request from two Mt. Spokane High School FCCLA students and teacher Maureen Collins to travel to San Diego, California, June 28 – July 4, 2022, to participate in the FCCLA National Leadership Competition, for board consideration. Both student attendees have earned top Gold status, which qualifies them for this national leadership competition. Mr. Nelson explained FCCLA is an off-shoot of the ProStart program.

The estimated per student cost to attend the competition is \$300-\$350. ASB funds will be used to cover the remaining student travel costs with district CTE monies covering Ms. Collins’ expenses. Ms. Collins will fly to San Diego, one of the students will fly with parents and the other student will travel by car with parents.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the presented trip from Mt. Spokane FCCLA to travel to San Diego, California, June 28 – July 4, 2022, to participate in the FCCLA National Leadership Competition. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy & Procedure 4311 Adoption  
School Safety & Security Services Program**

Family & Student Services Director Josh Westermann presented the adoption of Policy & Procedure 4311, School Safety & Security Services Program, for first reading consideration. Having a school board approved policy/procedure that addresses the district’s school safety and security services program is a requirement of Substitute House Bill 1214 passed by the state legislature in 2021. WSSDA Sample Policy 4311 and Sample Procedure 4311 are templates for the presented drafts. The presented policy and procedure comply with state/federal statutes and clearly outline the duties of a School Resource Officer.

The presented policy sets forth the purpose of the School Safety & Security Services Program, which includes the improvement of safety and the educational climate at school.

In the *Limitations* section, the policy states “the primary responsibility of maintaining proper order and conduct in the schools resides with school principals or their designee, with support of other school staff.” The School Resource Officer (SRO) is prohibited from being involved in formal school discipline situations that are the responsibility of school administrators.

Other sections of the policy address *Requests for Intervention* and *Law Enforcement Activity & Immigration Enforcement*, as well as *Annual Review & Adoption of Agreements with Law Enforcement Agencies or Security Guard Companies*. Any agreement must include: 1) a clear statement regarding SRO duties and responsibility as they relate to student behavior and discipline; 2) a jointly determined hiring and placement process and a performance evaluation process; and 3) an avenue to confirm the SRO has completed an appropriate training series. The

agreement review and adoption process must involve parents, students and community members.

The presented procedure includes sections on *Safety & Security Staff Training*, *Complaint Resolution Process* and *Annual Data Collection & Reporting*. A comprehensive list of data to be collected is set forth in the procedure. This data, along with a copy of any signed agreements between the district and a law enforcement agency or security guard company, must be submitted annually to OSPI.

In response to a question from Director Olson, Mr. Westermann shared the cost for resource officers is split 50/50 with Spokane County. The district's share for two officers is approximately \$80,000, which is paid out of the Family & Student Services budget.

Chris Young, who was in attendance, in response to a question from Director Denholm, stated he has never been involved in immigration enforcement in his role as a School Resource Officer.

Mr. Westermann, following a question from Director Cannon, shared the impetus for the presenting the policy/procedure is compliance with the provisions as set forth in Substitute House Bill 4311. Director Cannon stated he would like to take time to compare the presented policy and procedure with the language in Substitute House Bill 1214. He additionally requested that a copy of the MOU between the school district and Spokane County regarding School Resource Officers be provided to board members.

Regarding the evaluation of School Resource Officers, Mr. Westermann shared the district provides feedback that is included by Spokane County in officer evaluations. Regarding who provides SRO training (a question asked by Director Gray), Mr. Westermann noted this is being developed and will be delivered by Education Service Districts.

Director Cannon indicated he would like to solicit feedback on the policy/procedure from district School Resource Officers as well as other district stakeholders.

President Burchard asked that the policy/procedure adoption be brought back for second reading at the next board meeting as a non-action item.

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Woodward's report consisted of an update on the following new elementary school programs that will start in the fall:

*Dual Language Immersion* – This update was provided by Learning & Teaching Assistant Director Robin Placzek. Mead will offer this dual language immersion experience in Spanish. Placement priority will be given to multilingual students, regardless of home school, with one-half of seats set aside for Midway students where the program is being housed. Hiring of the Dual Language Immersion kindergarten teacher is nearing completion. A *Family Information Night* is planned for the evening of Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

*Highly Capable Program* – This update was provided by Director of Elementary Education Rob Haugen. Highly Capable will include three strands next year: K-1 In-Building, 2-5 In-Building, plus a 2-3 full-time gifted classroom and a 4-5 full-time gifted classroom. Teachers for the two full-time classrooms have been hired. The two full-time classes will be housed at Farwell. The district is just wrapping up student qualification assessments (CogAT & math) and by the end of May will communicate with families of students eligible for full-time programming. In response to a question from President Burchard, Mr. Haugen shared he is confident there will be no trouble filling the two full-time classrooms with qualified students from all ten elementary schools. Funding for the program, with the exception of curriculum, is cost neutral.

*Transitional Kindergarten* - This update was provided by Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens. This program will be housed at Shiloh Hills Elementary School. There are currently 19 students fully registered, one is in process and there are three students on the waitlist. The class will be staffed with one certificated teacher (this position has been hired) and one para-educator. A second Transitional Kindergarten classroom will be opened if there are 16 students on the waitlist. The hope is to expand this program into other elementary schools in the coming years. Regarding transportation, the district hopes to utilize a smaller bus that will be used solely to transport Transitional K students to and from school. If that is not possible, regular buses will be used with seatbelts added to the first few rows of seats. A copy of the program *Entry Criteria Rubric* was provided to board members. A primary purpose of Transitional Kindergarten is to provide a program for four-year old children who do not have access to other kindergarten readiness programs.

### **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

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**President**

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**Secretary**