

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
June 22, 2022

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Michael Connors, President of the Board (attending remotely); Ron Mabry, Vice President of the Board; Diane Sundvik, Legislative Representative of the Board; Micah Valentine, Board Member; Gabe Galbraith, Board Member (attending remotely); and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Cabinet Members: Dr. Doug Christensen, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development; Jack Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Rob Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations; Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations; Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology.

Other Staff: Alyssa St. Hilaire, Director of Federal Programs

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Ron Mabry called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. (10 minutes late due to technical difficulties) and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 154 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Spring Sports

Jack Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, recognized high school spring sports along with athletic directors and coaches who highlighted this year's regional and state accomplishments and introduced outstanding players.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Tammy Neslin commented on hate speech in the boardroom and asked the Board to ensure LGBTQ students are safe and valued and that teachers are respected for their work.

Michelle Melville asked the Board to pause on budget cuts to library secretaries.

Robin Duncan commented on budget cuts to library secretaries.

Linda Stephenson commented on Antiracist Baby and requested that the book not be banned.

Dottie Stevens commented on the failed levy costing the schools \$34 million a year. Ms. Stevens then presented a check to the Kennewick School District and thanked Dr. Pierce and the School Board for all they do.

Sandra Lee thanked the Board members and stated that she appreciated their service. Ms. Lee requested that budget cuts to library secretaries not be made and that future decisions be made with transparency.

Tina Gregory commented on a godless world, gay pride month in schools, and CRT. Ms. Gregory added that schools are not places for indoctrination or grooming and she asked the Board to please rid schools of books, flags, signs, and teachings that push agendas like CRT, which brings division as all men are created equal. She stated to please stand for the right things that build people up.

Mark Chandler shared that he disagrees with the plan to cut library secretaries and talked about its effects on the entire school.

Madge Peterson commented on the book Antiracist Baby and noted that the book seems mature for the age group.

JoJo Davis commented on equity and how schools should be the foundation of equity.

Jennifer Hildman commented against budget cuts to library secretaries.

Elida Alvarez commented on behavior issues and lack of support to help with student behavior. Ms. Alvarez asked the Board what they are doing to hire qualified administrators to offer help in the buildings with this issue.

Amanda Brown commented on teachers not having to give up their rights when they accept a position and students and teachers having the right to feel safe. She stated her interest in having the assurance that when racist comments or conduct happens and when bullying or sexual harassment occurs in school, it will be addressed. She stated that school behavior management systems need to address these issues.

Amy Cook commented against the budget cuts to library secretaries.

Justin Bodes thanked the Board members for what they do and shared that he appreciated the time the Board took to have a respectful discussion on CRT about both sides during the last School Board meeting. He stated that the value of diversity is antithetical to the tenants of critical race theory; valuing the diversity of students is not. Mr. Bodes asked the Board to please use their authority wisely and judiciously to protect children and ensure appropriate focus on skills that have been proven to help students succeed in life. Mr. Bodes ended by asking the Board for transparency on what teachers teach in the classroom to children's very fragile impressionable minds.

Rochelle Cannard, the parent of four children in the Kennewick School District, shared how her son was assaulted. Mr. Mabry directed Ms. Cannard to speak with one of the

administrators in the room.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Diane Sundvik to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Mabry	Yes
	Ms. Sundvik	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of Semi-Annual School Board Retreat June 8, 2022
- Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting May 25, 2022
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending May 31, 2022
- Budget Status Report Ending May 31, 2022
- 2022 – 2023 School Board Meeting Calendar
- 2022 – 2023 Athletic User Fees
- 2022 – 2023 Middle School ASB Fees and Yearbook Prices
- 2022 – 2023 High School ASB Fees and Yearbook Prices
- 2022 – 2023 High School Athletic Admission Prices
- KSD/Sodexo Food Services Management Contract for 2022 - 2023
- Tri-Tech Culinary Arts Contract for 2022 – 2023
- Resolution No. 18 2021-2022: Comprehensive School Counseling Plan
- Resolution No. 19 2021-2022: Authorize Sale of Surplus Property
- Curriculum Adoption:
 - **Healthy Relationships**, digital. Authors Dr. Lawrence Sutton, and Wesley Spectrum, published by Wesley Schools/Wesley Family Services. This material will be used in 6-12th grade Special Education Tier 2 and Tier 3 Classrooms, District-Wide.
- Resolution No. 20 2021-2022: Spokane School District Interlocal Agreement
- Ridge View Elementary School Construction Bid
- KAA, Cabinet, & Off-Schedule Summary of Contract Changes 2022 – 2025
- Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans (2021 – 2022)

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported a strong finish to the 2021-22 school year with graduation ceremonies for nearly 1,200 seniors. She shared that summer school had started and that she attended the Kennewick Police Department Foundation Breakfast. Dr. Pierce gave special recognition to Assistant Superintendent Jack Anderson, who is retiring at the

end of this month.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported that he attended graduation ceremonies, the Amazing Shake, and the end of the year event at Sage Crest Elementary School. Mr. Valentine said he would like to nominate Mr. Hammond as a teacher of the year.

Board Member Diane Sundvik reported attending the WSSDA Networking Webinar, The Amazing Shake at Hawthorne, WSSDA Nominating Committee Meeting, and the League of Education Voters Webinar – “A Listening Session with Voices from the Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities.” Ms. Sundvik shared that she also attended the Racial Equity and Social Justice Tri-Cities Coalition monthly meeting, WSSDA Advocacy Insights (previously known as Leg Reps Learn) (2 meetings), Richland School District Board meeting (1.5 hours), and three meetings with community members per their requests. Ms. Sundvik attended graduation ceremonies at Mid-Columbia Partnership, Delta, Phoenix, Legacy/Endeavor, Kennewick High, Kamiakin High, and Southridge High Schools.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported he attended graduation ceremonies, the Amazing Shake, and was able to watch the Kennewick High School baseball team play for the state title.

Board President Mike Connors reported attending the graduation ceremonies, the Amazing Shake – Circle of Doom, and hopes the District can expand the program into more schools.

Board Member Ron Mabry reported he attended graduation ceremonies.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing of Proposed 2022 – 2023 Budget

Vice President Ron Mabry called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts presented the proposed District budget and General Fund budget fiscal goal for 2022–2023.

Mr. Roberts started his presentation by giving a description of the different funds. He indicated the earliest date to present a levy proposition to voters is February 14, 2023. He discussed current and future enrollment and Elementary and Secondary Schools. He reviewed total ESSER funding and the amount of ESSER funds budgeted as revenue and as expenditures.

The General Fund budget showed \$285,269,534 of revenues and \$300,358,646 of expenditures. A transfer out of the General Fund in the amount of \$1,500,000 to the Capital Fund was related to Tri-Tech capital project plans. Student enrollment for 2021-2022 was budgeted at 18,230 compared to 2022-2023 projected enrollment of 18,340. It was indicated that the number of certificated staff positions is close to staffing at pre-

Covid enrollment which was close to 450 students more than budgeted for 2022-23 . The ESSER funding has allowed the district to maintain pre-Covid staffing levels. Budget and staffing reductions were discussed in association with low student enrollment and the failure of the 2023 levy. Mr. Roberts explained that the target was to reduce the 2022-23 budget by \$5,000,000 as way to position the district for the next proposed levy amount. It was pointed out that a number of elementary schools have less than 400 students while some have over 600, but all the schools still have the same number of support staff, counselors, librarians, and specialist teachers. Proposed library secretary staffing reductions at elementary schools took the school enrollment in consideration.

The 2022-2023 General Fund budget showed a deficit of \$16,589,112 after the transfer of \$1,500,000 to the Capital Fund and after application of \$10,000,000 in ESSER funding. Ending fund balance for the General Fund for August 31, 2023 is projected at \$33,410,888. Mr. Roberts explained that ESSER funding is one-time funding being used to backfill lost levy funding. ESSER funding expires in August 2024. Additional budget reductions for 2023-24 would be dependent on enrollment, remaining ESSER funding, remaining fund balance, and the outcome of a future levy. Revenues, expenditures, including staff, costs of materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC) were presented. Mr. Roberts gave an overview of program updates for 2022-2023. The Capital, ASB, Debt Service, and Transportation Fund budgets were presented as well as the Self-Insured Program budget for 2022-2023. Four-year projected budgets for all the funds were reviewed.

Vice President Ron Mabry called for comments from the public.

Michelle Melville commented that she appreciated Mr. Roberts speaking directly about the decision to reduce library positions at smaller schools and that the explanation would have been appreciated at the previous presentations. Ms. Melville shared that she felt disrespected as a professional as no one came to the monthly District Library PLC meetings to explain the thinking behind the changes out of respect for their positions and programs; she stated that it did not feel like the District was being transparent.

Jennifer Heldman commented on redistricting to help balance school sizes. She asked if the District thinks voters are concerned more with the staff working closes to students or those working furthest away.

Robin Duncan commented in support of keeping library secretaries. Ms. Duncan shared that it would be difficult for her as a librarian to do an additional 15 hours of work and shared concerns that hands-on activities would not be happening in the library.

Annette Rose asked about using ESSER funds to maintain library secretaries at the schools and about the possibility of getting a list of all administrator costs and comparing it to student/teacher ratios. Ms. Rose asked if now is the best time to be building a new school if enrollment is down and agreed that we should be looking at redistricting.

Amy Cook shared that the cost of a portable (\$95,000) would cover the cost of library secretaries if the District looked at redistricting.

There being no other comments or questions, Vice President Ron Mabry called for a motion to close the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to close the public hearing.

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Board discussion followed.

Resolution No. 17, 2021 – 2022: Adoption of Proposed 2022 – 2023 Budget

Motion by Mike Connors to accept Resolution No. 17, 2021-2022: Adoption of Proposed 2022-2023 Budget as presented.

General Fund	\$300,358,646
Transportation Fund	\$1,085,000
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 44,250,000
Debt Service Fund	\$ 16,360,000
Associated Student Body Fund	\$ 2,043,000

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

The Board directed staff to reinstate the reductions to library secretary positions noting that positions impacting direct instruction to students were a priority.

Vice Present Ron Mabry asked to take an eight-minute break at 8:21 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:29 p.m.

Public Hearing – Appeal of Decision re: Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Vice President Ron Mabry called the public hearing to order at 8:30 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. Pierce presented information regarding the request for reconsideration, along with the District policy and procedure regarding the selection of library materials and the policy and procedure regarding reconsideration of instructional materials. Dr. Pierce shared that an Instructional Materials Reconsideration Committee convened to consider the request to remove the book “Anti-Racist Baby” from elementary school libraries. She shared the recommendation of the committee was to retain the book in library circulation, and she shared her decision and rationale to accept and support the recommendation of the committee.

President Ron Mabry called for comments from the public.

Allison Dabler commented that she is against removing the book Antiracist Baby from school libraries.

Michelle Melville commented she is against removing the book Antiracist Baby from school libraries.

JoJo Davis commented that she is against removing the book Antiracist Baby from school libraries.

Annette Rose commented that her concern with the book, Antiracist Baby, is that it teaches children that they are inherently racist.

Amanda Cone commented she is against removing the book from school libraries.

Justin Bodes commented he is for removing the book from school libraries.

Robin Duncan commented she is against removing the book but felt the content is for older students.

There being no other comments or questions, Vice President Ron Mabry called for a motion to close the public hearing at 9:14 p.m.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to close the public hearing.

Seconded by Mike Connors.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Board discussion followed.

Motion by Micah not to uphold Dr. Pierce's decision to retain Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi as a book in circulation in libraries within the Kennewick School District.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Roll call vote:	Connors	No
	Mabry	No
	Sundvik	No
	Valentine	Yes
	Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 2-3.

Motion by Diana to uphold Dr. Pierce's decision to accept and support the recommendation of the committee to retain Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi as a book in circulation in libraries within the Kennewick School District.

Seconded by Mike Connors.

Roll call vote:	Connors	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Sundvik	Yes
	Valentine	No
	Galbraith	No

Motion carried 3-2.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Dr. Pierce asked the Board if they would like to save time by reviewing the following reports in their Board packets instead of having them presented here tonight. The Board agreed they would review the reports on their own time.

Course Offerings, Arts, Extracurricular Activities, and Athletics

Report by Jack Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, and Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development.

Summer School

Report by Alyssa St. Hilaire, Director of Federal Programs.

Get to Know Kennewick Schools

Report by Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Learner Profile

Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development, reviewed the Learner Profile timeline, phases of development, and the next phase of implementation. Mr. Scott provided a recommendation for the Board to adopt the KSD Learner Profile.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to adopt the KSD Learner Profile as presented.

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Mabry	Yes
	Ms. Sundvik	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy No. 2340 INSTRUCTION: Race and the Curriculum, First Reading

Dr. Traci Pierce presented a new draft policy on race and the curriculum per Board Members' discussion during the June School Board Retreat.

Board discussion followed.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to table Policy No. 2340 INSTRUCTION: Race and the Curriculum until the August School Board Meeting to obtain feedback from District legal counsel Bronson Brown.

Seconded by Mike Connors.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Mabry	Yes
	Ms. Sundvik	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

A. Consent Items Only. No Public Comment. All Board Members will attend remotely.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: July 27, 2022