

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
October 12, 2022

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Michael Connors, President of the Board; Ron Mabry, Vice President of the Board; Diane Sundvik, Legislative Representative of the Board; Micah Valentine, Board Member; Gabe Galbraith, Board Member; London Moody, Student Representative to the Board; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Cabinet Members: Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education; Rob Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Alyssa St. Hilaire, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations; Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations.

Other Guest(s): Bronson Brown, District Legal Counsel
Rhonda Pratt, Director of Secondary Education
Eric Bruce, Director of Maintenance and Grounds
Ryan Jones, Capital Projects Manager

CABINET MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Doug Christensen, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, excused.
Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology, excused.

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 120 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Dottie Stevens commented on the levy and expressed appreciation to the Board for all they do.

Garret Brinkley commented on the article in the Tri-Cities Herald regarding removing pride flags from the classroom.

Zanna Grandineth commented on the safety of LGBTQ students at school.

Allison Dabler commented that she is here to address the threat that the Board may be forced to vote on requiring teachers to remove flags of support indicating safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ students.

Jubilee Alexander commented on LGBTQ student safety and banning pride flags in the

classroom.

Katherine Chumney thanked the Board for their commitment and support of the Dual Language program at Eastgate Elementary School and their continued support.

Lisa Peppard encouraged the Board to keep politics out of the agenda and to vote no on any proposed policy against flag banning. She encouraged everyone to vote and not to hold the levy hostage.

Eva Peppard commented against policies to ban LGBTQIA symbols.

Kauser Gwaduri commented on statistics regarding the safety of LGBTQ students and the importance of a positive environment.

Scott Rogers commented on what would happen legally if the Board decided to ban the welcome flag, indicating that lawsuits costing millions would surely follow.

Marianne Bloxham commented on wanting neutrality in our schools, stating that students should feel safe with or without a flag.

Annette Rose commented on flags in the classrooms and how teachers should be accepting of all students.

Tanya Bentley commented on pride flags and how the pride flag should not be used as a political issue in an attempt to hold the levy hostage.

Ronan Rising commented on pride flags in the classrooms and noted that if the Board votes against having pride flags in the classrooms, there will be protests, and many people will be upset by such policy.

Michelle Rising commented on the pride flag, student safety, and how better to put energy into gangs and safety.

Kathy Daily, a former School Board Member, commented on the role of a School Board member.

Sara Austin supported allowing the LGBTQ flag to stay in the classroom.

Shelly Burt offered suggestions for how school counselors could help LGBTQ students.

Tina Gregory commented that parents want their children educated, not indoctrinated and added that the American flag is the only one that needs to be in the classroom unless it is the state flag.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

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 School Board Meeting September 14, 2022
- Minutes of School Board Meeting September 28, 2022
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported she visited many schools over the last two weeks and shared how fortunate Kennewick School District is to have amazing teachers and great things happening for students in our schools.

Student Representative to the Board, London Moody, reported she attended the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council meeting where they met with the Sodexo Nutrition Services team and discussed school lunches.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported he visited the following schools: Phoenix, Cottonwood, Hawthorne, Fuerza, and Sunset View. Mr. Galbraith shared that he met many support staff while visiting the schools.

Board Member Micah Valentine shared that he held a townhall Q & A. He stated that his goal is that everybody feels welcome and every student feels safe, known, and valued.

Board Member Diane Sundvik reported that she attends the Ben Franklin Transit Mobility Access Taskforce meetings; (18 and younger can ride the bus for free), WSSDA Networking Hour, and KEY Connections. Ms. Sundvik shared that she was able to listen to part of two of the Richland School Board meetings, the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce Elective Officials Reception, and the WSSDA General Assembly. She attended the KSD Grade 6-12 Health Education curriculum review (Zoom), Urban League of Latin American Citizens, and the Southridge High and Kennewick High School Career and Expo Fair.

Board Member Ron Mabry visited Washington Elementary School and shared a homework assignment with the rest of the Board to read 40 books by the end of the school year.