

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING / Remote Board Meeting
December 14, 2022

M I N U T E S

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

Other Guest(s): Bronson Brown, District Legal Counsel
K.C. Bennion, Principal, Delta High School
Paul Randall, Director, Tri-Tech Skills Center

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 107 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was held per RCW 28A.330.010.

President

Michael Connors was nominated for President by Diane Sundvik.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Vice President

Ron Mabry was nominated for Vice-President by Diane Sundvik.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Legislative Representative

Gabe Galbraith was nominated for Legislative Representative by Micah Valentine.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	No
	Mr. Mabry	No
	Ms. Sundvik	No
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 2-3.

Diane Sundvik was nominated for Legislative Representative by Ron Mabry.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Mabry	Yes
	Ms. Sundvik	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	No
	Mr. Galbraith	No

Motion carried 3-2.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Sandra Jackson stated that she believes the reason that the LBGTQ flag is on the agenda to be banned from the school is based on fear, and she believes the school should be a safe place for all.

Lisa Peppard shared a recap of the conversations around the pride flag and offered another option besides restricting or banning flags. She suggested leaving the flag policy as it was originally written. Ms. Peppard asked the Board to reject the policy change.

Jessi Robledo urged the Board to vote no on the proposed amendments to policy 2333.

Penny Nokes asked the Board to please vote not to ban the pride flag.

James Robledo spoke against removing the pride flag.

Tina Gregory stated that she is asking the Board to stand and stop the grooming and confusion of our children. She thanked the Board for allowing religion and gay pride flags to fly in the classrooms but stated that the only flag that should fly in the classroom is the American flag.

Dan Mildon presented the Board President with a handout titled *Board of Directors: Public Comments and Communications Improvement* for each Board member. He shared his concerns with the Board about changing from the public comment period from open discussion with input from the community to allowing 30 minutes total with two minutes for each speaker. Mr. Mildon stated that he thinks the modification he presented to the Board to change the language would help the community feel like they are being communicated with.

Alliyah Jackson asked the Board not to give power to people who only feel hate. She stated that everyone in every community should be equal, and that includes the flags.

Linda Stephenson spoke about KSD volunteering opportunities. She wanted to give her perspective as a volunteer who has logged thousands of hours in various capacities over the last 13 years. In her experience, she has not felt important and valued as a KSD volunteer. Another pool of volunteers that Ms. Stephenson stated has been overlooked is the high school students. Ms. Stephenson stated that she thinks the Board needs to focus on truly making volunteers feel valued and on retaining people as volunteers.

Virginia Halden stated that the Board should vote no on the proposed policy banning certain flags. Ms. Halden added that schools should provide an environment conducive to learning, and that people learn best when they know they are accepted.

Virginia Tomlinson stated that she is speaking in support of LGBTQIA+ students and their parents. She stated that all students deserve to feel safe and supported in Kennewick public schools.

Jason Goodwin commented on opening the portal for lawsuits and litigation. He stated that if the Board allows one flag, they must allow all flags. The American Flag covers everything that people have talked about.

Mickey Beary stated that teenagers who are LGBTQ deserve to be safe and secure no matter where they live, work, or play. Mr. Beary added that assuring LGBTQ students have a safe place, free of harassment, by allowing a pride flag in the school is a small gesture of concern for these students.

Cati Banta stated that removing the pride flag would be inappropriate or biased because all deserve to feel safe and welcomed. Ms. Banta asked the Board not to remove or ban the pride flags.

Reverend Richard Matters, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, stated that he speaks in opposition to the motion and in favor of free expression within the bounds of mutual respect and love.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Ron Mabry asked if it would be possible to add the School Board meeting dates to the calendars approved on the consent agenda.

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 Regular Board Meeting November 9, 2022
- 2023 Board Legislative Priorities
- Career and Technical Education: 2022-23 KSD & Tri-Tech Skills Center Perkins Assurances
- Recommendation of Approval of Instructional Materials:
 - *Frida*, author Kristy Placido, published by Fluency Matters. This material will be used in 9-12 grade World Language.
 - *Mata la pinata*, author Kristy Placido, published by Fluency Matters. This material will be used in 9-12 grade World Language.
 - *IXL Learning*, digital. This material will be used in K-12 grade Special Education.
 - *Unique Learning Systems*, digital. This material will be used in 6-12 grade Special Education.
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Future School Year Calendars
- KSD-Maintenance and Operations Collective Bargaining Agreement 2022-2025
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending October 31, 2022
- Budget Status Report Ending September 30, 2022
- Resolution No. 2, 2022-2023: Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported that the Yakama Tribal Council unanimously passed a resolution approving the district's land acknowledgment and granting the district's request for Kamiakin High School to retain the Braves mascot with the newly designed logo and imagery. Mr. Washines invited Dr. Pierce to attend the Washington State Indian Education Association Conference in April, where she will participate in a superintendent's panel. Dr. Pierce shared that Tina Brewer, Director of Professional

Learning and Assessment, will attend a Yakama Nation Education Collaborative this week.

Student Representative to the Board, London Moody, reported she attended the WSSDA Annual Conference Student Representative Network and the Superintendent Student Advisory Council meeting.

Gabe Galbraith reported he attended the WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane and listened to Dr. Pierce on the radio. Mr. Galbraith stated that he hopes people are getting their levy questions answered, as he wants to ensure everyone has the levy information. He added that he hoped people would stick around to listen to the discussion on policy 2333. Mr. Galbraith asked Dr. Pierce if it is possible to get notifications for school closures or delays a little earlier.

Micah Valentine shared that he, too, hoped people would stick around for the discussion on the flag policy. Mr. Valentine stated that he had a nice conversation with Mrs. Alfaro, one of Kennewick School District's elementary teachers and that he attended the Amazing Shake, the WSSDA Annual Conference, and heard Dr. Pierce on the radio. He encouraged the community that if they have issues with the levy, to please communicate what those issues are so that they can be addressed.

Board Member Diane Sundvik reported that she attended two of the WSSDA Networking Hour meetings, two of the Racial Equity & Social Justice meetings, two of the Get To Know KSD meetings: Technology and Family Engagement. Ms. Sundvik shared that she attended the WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane; two Richland School District Board Meetings; The Amazing Shake at Hawthorne Elementary School; the credit union legislative gathering, and the WSSDA Advocacy Insights meeting to prepare for the 2023 legislative session.

Ron Mabry gave a book reading reminder to Board members and suggested London Moody, Student Representative to the Board, be able to have an advisory vote. Mr. Mabry stated that the advisory vote would allow the Board to hear where the student representative stands on issues, but the vote would not count.

President Conners reported attending part of the WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Delta High School

Dr. Pierce introduced Delta High School Principal K.C. Bennion, who presented the annual update on the school, a partnership among the Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco school districts. Delta is a small public high school that draws students from all three districts and incorporates science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) into all subjects. Ms. Bennion reported that the school has an enrollment of 405 students, including 142 students from Kennewick.

Tri-Tech Skills Center

Tri-Tech Skills Center Director Paul Randall presented the annual report on the cooperative skills center that the Kennewick School District hosts. Mr. Randall reported that the school has an enrollment of 978 students, including 321 students from Kennewick. Tri-Tech has 19 preparatory Career & Technical Education programs, ranging from autobody technology and construction trades to cosmetology, culinary arts, game design, and pre-nursing.

2021 – 2022 Financial Close-out

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts presented an overview of the district's finances at the end of 2021-22. He reviewed enrollment numbers, noting that the average student FTE for the 2021/2022 school year was 232 less than budgeted. Budgeted, projected, and final General Fund revenue and expenditure amounts were reviewed. Approximately \$15 million in federal ESSER funding (meant to offset pandemic losses and expenses) helped with an enrollment dip and with expenses. In 2021-22, the district used ESSER funding to add online/Endeavor High School staff, nurse/health room support, student mental health support, and to maintain staffing in elementary and middle schools during the pandemic-related enrollment decline. The district ended the year with a fund balance of \$50,845,329. Mr. Roberts reported on the 2022-23 enrollment numbers, the projected ESSER Funding use for 2022-23, and the next steps for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 budgets. He reminded the Board that ESSER dollars are one-time funding through August 31, 2024.

Boundary Process Overview

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Rob Phillips presented the background and history of the most recent boundary changes and reviewed the process for making decisions about boundary adjustments. He shared the current enrollment and capacity numbers for all the elementary schools as of October 2022. Goals for boundary adjustment were presented along with boundary pros and cons. Mr. Phillips shared a boundary process and timeline to complete the process in the 2022-23 school year to determine new boundaries to take effect in Fall 2024.

President Connors announced a five-minute break at 7:35 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises, First Reading

Dr. Pierce presented a draft update of Policy No. 2333, which deals with displaying flags in schools and classrooms. The Board directed Dr. Pierce and district attorney Bronson Brown to update the draft at the November 9 School Board meeting.

Motion by Ron Mabry to discuss Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises for first and second reading with the changes identified by the Board.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Board discussion followed.

The Board suggested the following changes:

- Removing the word permanent.
- Changing the word permanent to full-time.
- Removing the first sentence (The flag of the U.S. stands as the universal and most singularly important emblem of America.) Micah Valentine stated, for the record, he feels the first sentence should be there.
- Removing the last bullet point.
- Removing the bullet point regarding multiples of the same flag.
- Changing the word cloth to material.
- Removing the last sentence.

Motion by Ron Mabry to accept Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises for first reading as amended.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	No
	Mr. Mabry	No
	Ms. Sundvik	No
	Mr. Valentine	No
	Mr. Galbraith	No

Motion carried 0-5.

Board members asked Dr. Pierce to amend the policy by removing the first sentence and the last bullet point (No flag may be hung in a manner that causes distraction), removing the last sentence, and changing the word cloth to the word material.

Motion by Gabe Galbraith to accept Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises as amended for first reading.

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Mabry	Yes
	Ms. Sundvik	No
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes

Motion carried 4-1.

Mr. Mabry asked Dr. Pierce and Mr. Bronson to wordsmith the word “permanently” to see

if there is a better word to use in place of permanently.

The Board requested that Student Board Representative survey students and seek feedback from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council members on this policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Levy "Against" Committee Appointment

Superintendent Dr. Pierce presented a recommendation for the Board to appoint Dallas Burt to serve on the committee to write the "against" statement for the levy for the voters' pamphlet.

Motion by Ron Mabry to approve the Board appointing the following individual to serve as the committee to write the "against" statement for the levy for the voters' pamphlet: Dallas Burt

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. Increasing community engagement and volunteerism/volunteer coordination
- B. Curriculum Cycle
- C. Future facility planning/priorities and use of space

Mr. Mabry asked that the Board discuss the student advisory vote and electric school buses.
Ms. Sundvik asked that the Board discuss having multiple student representatives on the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Michael Connors announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 8:54 p.m. and moved the Board into executive session at 9:00 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue for approximately 15 minutes. Mr. Connors noted that no further formal action would be taken.

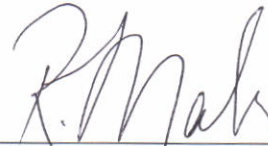
OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Connors reconvened the regular session of the Board at 9:00 p.m. There being no

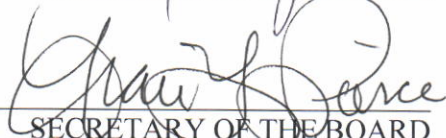
further business, the Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.


RECORDING SECRETARY

Approved: January 11, 2023


PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

For Michael Connors


SECRETARY OF THE BOARD