

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
February 8, 2023

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
Lexie Buschbach, Director of Special Services

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 102 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to excuse Board member London Moody for the first portion of the meeting.

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

RECOGNITION

National School Counseling Week

Superintendent Dr. Pierce read a proclamation from the American School Counselor Association recognizing February 6-10, 2023, as National School Counseling Week. Dr. Pierce thanked the Kennewick School District school counselors for their hard work.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Allison Dabler implored the Board to vote against any changes to the current flag code.

Ruvine Jimenez commented on the Special Education Report to be given during the Board meeting. Board President Mike Connors asked Ms. Jimenez to email the Board with all her questions so they could follow up with her.

James Robledo commented on the behavior of Board members and spoke against removing pride flags and the flag policy.

Lisa Peppard commented on the student survey and the different interpretations of the feedback.

Andrew Strom commented against the Board passing the flag policy.

Cameron Rivera shared comments against the passing of the flag policy.

Linda Stephenson commented against the passing of the flag policy.

Jordan Huck commented on why schools should have only the United States flags in the classrooms. Mr. Huck stated that he did not believe the issue was about diversity or inclusion but about allowing the potential for young children to be exposed to things they don't understand without the parent's consent, especially for younger children.

Alliyah Jackson spoke against the flag policy being changed.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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| 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 January 25, 2023
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Superintendent Contract 2023 – 2026
- Retiring Outdated and Redundant Policies

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported on the upcoming school levy vote and the number of ballots returned, accepted, and rejected as of today. She reminded everyone that Election Day is Tuesday, February 14.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported that he had many discussions around the levy with the community and encouraged people to go to the KSD web page for levy information.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported that he visited Delta High School and attended the WSSDA Conservative Director Zoom Meeting.

Board Member Diane Sundvik reported attending the WSSDA Weekly Networking Hour and the WSSDA monthly Legislative Reps Network. Ms. Sundvik added that she provided online comment for the following proposed bills: SB 5174 STARS transportation, SB 5059 prejudgment interest, and HB 1118 mandatory cameras and seatbelts on buses.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Capital Budget Update

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts reported on projected capital fund revenues and expenditures for September 2021 – August 2026. He reviewed the projected costs of projects planned to be completed during the school year 2022 - 2023. Mr. Roberts highlighted projected ending fund balances through the school year 2025 - 2026 as related to financing upcoming school construction projects as well as other capital improvements.

Special Education: Program Update and Inclusionary Practices

Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education, presented an update on special education programs and services. Special Services Director Lexie Buschbach reported on Special Services staff and enrollment trends and described the strategic efforts to provide behavioral support for students with special needs in the district, along with inclusion rates and efforts to improve the rate.

London Moody, Student Representative to the Board, arrived at 6:49 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises

Dr. Pierce reviewed the direction provided by the Board during the last Board meeting on Policy No. 2333. She provided two different versions of the policy for the Board to consider.

Motion by Ron Mabry to accept the first version of Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

Ron Mabry amended his motion to be effective after spring break.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion failed 2-3.

Discussion followed to amend the original policy to include language to align with state statute regarding flag exercises and displays.

Motion by Ron Mabry to accept Policy No. 2333 INSTRUCTION: Flag Exercises to include language to align with state statute regarding flag exercises and displays.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Policy No. 1115 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Student Representatives to the Board of Directors

Dr. Pierce reviewed the direction from the Board to bring back Policy No. 1115 for discussion.

Board discussion followed.

Motion by Micah Valentine to accept Policy No. 1115 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Student Representatives to the Board of Directors with amendments to include Student Representative provides a non-binding vote at the end of the roll call.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion failed 2-2-0.

Motion by Gabe Galbraith to accept Policy No. 1115 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Student Representatives to the Board of Directors with the following amendments: Student Representative to be given the option to provide the Board with advisory votes on agenda items. Should the the student representative choose to provide an advisory vote, immediately before the Board votes, the student will be asked to provide an advisory vote.

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

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

Motion carried 3-2.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Behavior/Restrooms

Dr. Pierce reported on the topic of high school restrooms, which was a topic raised by the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Dr. Pierce shared information regarding the overall issues raised by students including lack of restroom cleanliness, vandalism, vaping, and resulting lack of access. She also shared the ideas and recommendations students identified to help address the issues and strategies schools are currently using to address issues.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. 2022-2023 Budget Update
- B. Boundary Scenarios/Impacts

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Michael Connors announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 8:16 p.m. and moved the Board into executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue for approximately 40 minutes. The Executive Session began at 8:35 p.m. 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 9:15 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: February 22, 2023