



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, February 27, 2023**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023. The meeting began at 6 pm and was held in-person at Union Event Center and virtually via a Zoom link posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Denholm, Burchard, 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 Denholm 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 Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Director Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2023, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Remarks for the Good of the Schools – Public Comment

Noting there were no community members/individuals present who signed-up to speak on agenda topics, President Denholm first opened the floor for Mt. Spokane High School ASB student representatives to report on school activities/athletics followed by board/staff comments.

Mt. Spokane High School Report

A brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mt. Spokane High School was presented by current (22/23) ASB President Cole McNamee and future (23/24) ASB President Stetson Gilbert. The Theatre Arts Department recently held One-Act Play auditions, as a team wrestlers finished 4th at State with three individuals making finals including Jarom Liljenquist who was the 195 lb. weight class State Champion, boys basketball is the #1 overall seed heading into the 3A State Tournament and three gymnasts placed at State. Spring Sports started on February 27th and 41 Mt. Spokane DECA students will take part in the upcoming State event. The Spring Assembly takes place on March 16th and a Blood Drive will be held after Spring Break. Senior Prom is April 29th at the Spokane Convention Center.

Board/Staff Comments

Director Olson congratulated the Mead High School cheer squad on their second place finish at Nationals and acknowledged the continuing success of the Mead High girls basketball team who continues their quest for a State Championship.

Director Gray also offered her congratulations to the Mead High School cheer squad noting in particular their very impressive showing that qualified them to compete on day two at Nationals – a first for Mead High School.

Director Cannon positively commented on the recent Jazz Night that featured great performances by two Mountainside and three Mt. Spokane ensembles. He additionally noted 215 students are involved in the Mountainside Middle School band program. This is a huge testimony to a successful transition and the availability of music opportunities for 6th graders who are now middle schoolers.

President Denholm, noting the resignation of Superintendent Woodward effective June 30, 2023, acknowledged and thanked him for his service to the Mead School District. The district has been honored to have him as its Superintendent for the past four years. He will be missed.

Regarding the hiring of a new superintendent, President Denholm invited Director Cannon to provide an update on that process. Information shared on behalf of the board by Director Cannon included the following:

The community was invited to provide input on the qualities, skills and qualifications they would like to see in the next Superintendent. 944 individuals responded to the survey (31% staff, 57% parents, 5% community with sliver percentages attributed to other categories - i.e., both parent & staff).

When asked to rate a number of qualifications the top three, in order of importance, were:

- Ability and willingness to work effectively with staff, students and parents
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Recognizes value and affirms staff members

When asked to rate a number of skills the top three, in order of importance, were:

- Transparent
- Accountable
- Strong Listener

The community was also asked to answer open-ended questions on district strengths, issues and other thoughts the board should consider in the superintendent selection process. Response themes included the following:

Strengths

- Reputation of offering a wide range of quality programs (academics, athletics, arts, ALE, etc.)
- Staff (teachers, administrators, bus drivers, para-educators, custodians, cooks, etc.)
- Parents/Community

Issues

- Navigating national political challenges
- Social issues
- Distrust
- Creating unity around issues
- Budget/Upcoming Levy
- Student social-emotional challenges
- Special Education
- Safety/Security

Other Thoughts/Considerations

- Understands Mead’s long-standing history
- While not wanting the individual to be too insular the desire for them to consider themselves a part of the Mead community
- Present, visible and involved
- Fully invested/long-term commitment
- A centrist – Ability to work well with/unite stakeholders
- Able to make hard decisions
- A known quantity/part of the regional community
- Strong budgetarily (solid Levy and Bond knowledge)
- Able to hit the ground running and immediately add value
- Get the “right” candidate

Following this overview of survey results, Director Cannon referenced the following hiring avenues the board is considering including pros and cons for each scenario:

1. Full National Search – This option has both the potential of yielding a large pool of candidates or only a handful of candidates, and the search may or may not include individuals with the desired attributes identified from the survey. This type of search takes several weeks and if the candidate pool is not good it would be problematic from a timing standpoint to start over and have a new superintendent in place by July 1st.
2. Interim Appointment – Other school districts in the area in the recent past have gone this route. This would buy time to conduct a larger, full-scale search earlier in the next school year. However, going with this option could create a sense of uncertainty or unsettledness and hinder the district’s ability to address urgent issues.
3. Direct Hire/Appointment – It has only been four years since the district conducted a full national search that resulted in the hiring of Shawn Woodward. The board could make a permanent hire from the pool of candidates who applied in 2019. These individuals have already been vetted and one of these individuals may meet much of the current qualification criteria. The district’s current situation is “same enough” to inquire about candidate interest/availability and give this option consideration.

In conclusion, Director Cannon shared all options are still on the table. The board continues to explore each scenario to determine what is best for the Mead School District.

President Denholm thanked Director Cannon for this update.

V. Continuing Business - none

VI. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

In response to a question from Director Gray, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens explained the Special Education Case Manager, SLP and School Psychologist stipends are a part of the recently negotiated MEA contract and are connected to the increased responsibilities for these employee groups as a result of the elimination of Educational Specialists starting in the 22/23 school year. Director Olson noted over 100 individuals received either a Case Manager, SLP or School Psychologist stipend. Director Gray also inquired about the three Program Manager stipends listed in the Consent Agenda. Ms. Havens explained each of these stipends is connected to extra managerial responsibilities associated with specific programs offered through Mead Learning Options.

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

Consent Agenda

1. Hired Certificated Personnel:

Lisa Corning	Mead Learning Options	Cert	.2 FTE Leave Replacement teacher 22/23 school year effective 2/15/23 in addition to .3 FTE Continuing & .1 FTE Leave Replacement
Emily Bertholic	Mead Learning Options	Cert	.2 FTE Leave Replacement teacher 22/23 school year effective 2/14/23 in addition to .5 FTE Continuing
Kari Hammond	PreSchool	Cert	.2 FTE Continuing teacher in addition to .5 FTE Continuing LAP/Title & .2 FTE Leave Replacement PreSchool effective 1/30/23

2. Hired Classified Personnel:

Courtney Countryman	Mountainside	Class	6.15 hrs/day DLC Para Ed effective 2/1/23
Robert Mielke	Transportation	Class	4.0 hrs/day Bus Driver effective 2/7/23
Shawn Phillips	Shiloh Hills	Class	4.5 hrs/day DLC Para Ed effective 2/14/23
Abigail Phillips	Northwood	Class	3.0 hrs/day Cook III effective 2/14/23

3. 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, **February 27, 2023**, the Board, by a unanimous vote does approve for payment the vouchers included in the above referenced list and further described as **Warrant Numbers 110152 to 110328** in the following amounts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund - AP	\$ 511,357.16
General Fund - PR	203,020.77
ASB Fund	103,180.00

4. Approved Extra-Curricular and Supplemental Contracts.

5. Accepted the Following Donation:

- \$500.00 from Mt. Spokane Wrestling Club/John Parry to Mt. Spokane Wrestling ASB Account

6. Approved Requests for Retirement/Resignation:

Shawn Woodward	District Office	Cert	Resignation effective 6/30/23 (Superintendent)
Cathi Sigurdson	Shiloh Hills	Cert	Retirement effective 8/31/23 (teacher)
Maddison Merrill	Prairie View	Class	Resignation effective 3/3/23 (DLC Para)

B. Student Travel Proposal Mead High School Yearbook

Director of Secondary Education Darren Nelson presented a request from Mead High School Yearbook staff (eight students), advisor Makena Busch and one additional adult chaperone to travel to San Francisco, California, April 20-23, 2023, to attend the JEA/NSPA Spring National High School Journalism Convention. This is an opportunity for students to attend sessions on various journalism and yearbook topics, take part in national competitions, bond with fellow Mead High School Yearbook students and meet professionals in the journalism/publishing community. This travel request mirrors the trip approved by the board on February 13, 2023, for Mt. Spokane Yearbook staff.

The estimated per student cost is \$568 (airfare and meals). The remaining costs associated with the trip plus all advisor/chaperone expenses will be covered by the Mead High School Yearbook ASB budget. Students will miss two days of school (Thursday, April 20th and Friday, April 21st) and Ms. Busch will need a substitute teacher for two days.

Director Gray made a motion to approve the request from Mead High School Yearbook to travel to San Francisco, California, to attend the JEA/NSPA Spring National High School Journalism Convention, April 20-23, 2023, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for the Month of January 2023

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson presented a brief financial report for the month of January 2023. Enrollment is seven students higher than last year at this time. Current enrollment of approximately 10,200 is lower than prior to COVID when enrollment was 10,500. Noting it does not appear the legislature will be providing any additional funds for the current school year Ms. Ellingson, as shared in earlier financial reports, noted the district's fund balance will see a decline of approximately five to six million dollars for the 22/23 budget cycle. The reduction in fund balance limits district spending options going forward. Ms. Ellingson reminded about the upcoming March 2nd Board Work Session starting at 2 pm that will focus on finances and the 23/24 budget.

Director Cannon, who had the opportunity to check out the budgeting tool Ms. Ellingson will use on March 2nd to illustrate various budget scenarios, complimented her on the excellent functionality of the tool design. He additionally noted that the possibility of the legislature removing the cap on Special Education funding looks promising. Ms. Ellingson noted the revenue increase to the district if this bill is approved would be between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

B. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Woodward shared copies of the newly-created academic scorecard for the entire school district, as well as each individual elementary school, middle school and high school. These scorecards, created by Mark St.Clair, Director of Assessment and Program Effectiveness, use an after COVID baseline and include data from last spring. The Mead School District as a whole exceeds state and national averages in all reported categories. Each September scorecards will be updated to reflect new data from the previous spring. At an upcoming board meeting Learning & Teaching will share learning goals for the next five years including strategies to reach these goals.

Superintendent Woodward asked the board to let him know of any other big picture items/categories they would like to see included in the scorecard. He additionally shared scorecards will be prepared for the Business & Operations side of the district including Business Services, Transportation, Nutrition Services, etc.

Director Cannon was very complimentary of the new scorecards and President Denholm likes that the board will have the opportunity to drill-down and understand better what is happening in schools.

VIII. Executive Session

At 6:45 pm President Denholm called for an Executive Session of approximately 2.5 hours to evaluate the qualifications of potential superintendent candidates.

At 9:30 pm President Denholm returned the meeting to Open Session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

President

Secretary