

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

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Michael Connors, President of the Board; Diane Sundvik, Legislative Representative of the Board; Micah Valentine, 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; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations; Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations; Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology.

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 56 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Education Support Professionals Week

Superintendent Dr. Pierce shared about the many Education Support Professionals who make Kennewick schools great for staff, students, and families. Dr. Pierce read Governor Inslee's proclamation declaring March 5-11, 2023, as Education Support Professionals Week.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Joan Hue commented that she is glad that the levy passed. She asked the Board to enlarge their vision to include and embrace all the diverse citizens of Kennewick, whether they are independent, conservative, republican, or democratic voters.

Tina Gregory commented that she believes the only flag in the classroom should be the American flag. She stated that she would like prayer in the schools and a prayer month like there is a pride month. Ms. Gregory added that she is glad the levy passed.

Nicole Carby stated that the Board would receive an email from her regarding discrimination in the Kennewick School District. Ms. Carby asked each Board member if they knew that children attending school in the Kennewick School District were required to pray to the Hindu gods based off the current curriculum in ancient history without parent knowledge or consent. She asked that it be noted that the KSD attorneys Brown & Rio are members of the LDS church and were involved in the 2011 situation with her daughter that speaks to the premeditated component regarding content; she stated that they are also the City Prosecutors for the City of Richland.

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	Abstain

Motion carried 4-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting February 22, 2023
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Budget Status Report Ending January 31, 2023
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending January 31, 2023
- Candidates for Early Graduation

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared an update on the Safety Officers and SROs. She stated that the goal is to post positions within the next week or two and begin hiring Safety Officers who would begin at the start of the school year in August. Dr. Pierce reported that after talking with the City and Kennewick Police Department, based on their staffing and training plans, the goal is to have one middle school SRO placed at the start of the school year and the other two placed by January.

Dr. Pierce shared that she had the privilege to read at Sunset View Elementary and Canyon View Elementary during Read Across America Week and attended the DARE graduation at Ridge View. She added a thank you to the staff involved in last night's Classified Job Fair.

Due to Student Representative to the Board, London Moody, not feeling well, Dr. Pierce provided her report for her. She shared that the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council looked at the district's three student focus goals, and students provided feedback about what was going well this year and what could be improved.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported that he read to students at Sunset View Elementary School on Read Across America Day. He also attended the Read Across America Day at Canyon View, Cascade, and Sage Crest Elementary Schools. Mr. Galbraith shared that he attended Westgate STEM night, Fuerza Kids Day in Engineering, and checked out the job fair last night, adding kudos to HR and those who put the event together.

Board Member Micah Valentine shared that he met with some teachers about issues and questions they had, met with some staff about identifying challenges with students who have trouble reading, and met with two groups of people regarding social media. Mr. Valentine also reported reading to fourth graders at Sunset View, serving as a judge for the Tri-Tech/Sodexo Future Chefs Competition, and attending the Math is Cool 5th-grade championship.

Board Member Diane Sundvik shared that she attended the WSSDA Legislative Representative Networking Hour (two sessions), WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill, and KEY Connections. She also reported that she was a reader at Read Across America Day at Sunset View Elementary. Ms. Sundvik said that she served as a judge for the Tri-Tech/Sodexo Future Chefs Competition and the Math is Cool 5th-grade championship.

Board Member Ron Mabry reported attending the WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill.

Board President Mike Connors reported attending the WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill, reading to kindergartners at Sunset View Elementary School, and attending the Fuerza Engineering Day put on by Energy Northwest.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Tribal Collaboration Update

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared an update on tribal collaboration with the Yakama Tribal Council regarding school branding, mascots, curriculum, classroom education activities, and the formation of Tribal Collaboration and Education Committees. She shared a district Land Acknowledgement approved by the Tribal Council. She also shared that the first Tribal Collaboration and Education Committee Meeting will be held on March 16.

Academic Progress Update

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire presented progress toward meeting performance indicators in early learning, elementary, middle, and high schools. Mrs. St. Hilaire reviewed the reporting calendar and discussed multi-tiered support systems.

2023 - 2024 Preliminary Budget

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts presented the Transportation Vehicle Fund with a proposal of purchasing eight buses for delivery summer of 2024 and added that Transportation Director, April Heiser, will present at the March 22 Board meeting. Mr. Roberts ended by reviewing the Debt Service Fund and gave a budget timeline showing June 21 as the date for Board adoption of the 2023-2024 budget.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported on the status of key legislative issues, including special education funding, transportation funding, and Transitional Kindergarten. Dr. Pierce also noted other bills of interest.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. 2023-24 Preliminary Budget
- B. Asset Preservation
- C. Southridge High School – Gym Naming
- D. Policy 5252, Staff Participation in Political Activities

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: March 22, 2023