



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

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 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 Superintendent Jared Hoadley. Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens was excused.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with President Denholm asking all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Agenda

Director Burchard made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Director Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Work Session of March 13, 2023 and Regular Board Meeting of March 13, 2023, as presented. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Noting there were four community members/individuals present who signed-up to speak on the technology agenda topic, President Denholm first opened the floor for students from Mt. Spokane High School to speak. This was followed by comments from the four community members. *Remarks for the Good of the Schools* concluded with board/staff comments.

Mt. Spokane High School Update & Sports Medicine Competition Recap

Next year's ASB Treasurer Ben Joireman, filling in for the school's ASB President, provided a brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mt. Spokane. Spring sports are underway with many teams having recently traveled to the Tri-Cities for competitions, band and orchestra students are leaving for California later in the week and leadership students are working on the slide show for the end of the school year assembly. The Senior Prom will take place on April 29th at the Spokane Convention Center and plans are underway for a Midnight Volleyball Tournament.

Senior Sports Medicine students Bella Granlund and Lyssa Bingley who, along with other Mt. Spokane students, competed at the AACI California Regional Sports Medicine Competition March 16-19, 2023, provided a brief update on the event. More than 700 students from 45 schools in California, Nevada and Washington took part in this regional competition. As a team, Mt. Spokane placed 4th in the Small School Division, which qualified them for the upcoming (May) AACI National Sports Medicine Competition. Individual award winners included Sydney Bastian (Medical Terminology Champion and 2nd in Novice Division), Isabella Granlund (1st in Advanced Division) and Mackenzie Bell (5th in Advanced Division). The trip also included a tour of UCLA's athletic training facilities. In conclusion, Bella and Lyssa shared traveling to California and taking part in this regional competition was a very rewarding experience. They thanked the board for their support of Mt. Spokane's Sports Medicine program.

Community Member/Individual Comments

On the topic of Chromebooks/technology, Cameron, whose daughter is a Mead School District student, talked about his daughter who, while using her district issued Chromebook, met a guy in a Chat Room that led to the eventual sending of a series of pictures to this individual. He expressed concern regarding the lack of step-by-step instructions regarding Chromebook usage. Something needs to be done or there will end up being lawsuits. The district needs to provide better assurances to parents. He noted COVID exacerbated the situation resulting in his daughter chatting with and emailing individuals she does not even know. His daughter has been able to circumvent safeguards the district has on its Chromebooks. In conclusion, Cameron noted he has had many conversations with Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley on this matter.

On the topic of Chromebooks/technology LeeAnn Burdick and Jennifer Killman, speaking on behalf of approximately 1,000 other Mead School District parents, shared the following top five areas of concern:

1. Safety & Security
 - a. Email
 - i. Students emailing each other and outside of the district
 - ii. Receiving email ads that are not school related
 - b. GoGuardian not flagging inappropriate content
 - c. Inappropriate ads popping up
 - d. Disable zooming, chat rooms and live streaming
 - e. Cameras (disable/enable) on as-needed basis in class
 - f. Ability to get out of the network and access outside websites
 - i. YouTube
 - ii. Games
 - iii. Social Media
 - g. Multi-Tab use versus Single-Tab use
 - i. Kids hide non-educational viewing during class with tabs open
 - ii. Access to groomers and pornographic material
2. Healthful Allowance
 - a. Amount of time on screen in the classroom
 - b. What content students are exposed to
 - c. Mental Health Wellness with the amount of screen time
 - d. Mental Health Wellness with the content of social media
 - e. How much homework is on the screen
 - f. Access to internet during lunch and breaks
 - i. Can internet be turned off completely during lunches
 - ii. Interaction student-to-student during lunches decreases due to internet access
3. Accountability
 - a. Daily/Weekly reports on screen time of each child
 - b. Teachers holding students accountable
 - c. District-wide policies so guidelines are the same in every class
 - i. Training and understanding of policies and practices for teachers
 - d. Teacher-led instruction and not Tech-led instruction
 - e. Teachers holding students accountable to stay on task
 - f. Teachers telling parents Chromebooks are necessary for school work/homework
 - i. Teachers telling parents they MUST use Chromebooks
4. Quality of Education
 - a. Have Chromebooks improved the education of our students
 - b. Student/Teacher communication and instruction
 - c. Paper and Pen

- i. Processing & Absorbing versus Copy & Paste
 - ii. Homework/Classwork
5. Parent/Child Relationships Surrounding Chromebooks
 - a. Containing and managing conflict surrounding Chromebooks at home

Additional comments included:

- Computer lids being open in class thereby allowing students to look at sites that do not pertain to class instruction.
- Expressed appreciation for the safeguards that have been added with the notation that there is more work to be done.
- The need for formal GoGuardian training for teachers and staff.
- The desire to have teachers “teach” and not rely so much on technology.

On the topic of technology/Chromebooks John Zelinski shared his family has not had good experiences with computers in the classroom. While they can regulate computer usage at home they have less control at school. At school the ability to “use the computer” is a reward for students when they finish their work or a test early. Therefore, their son’s work is quickly finished with little attention to detail and he has failed tests. He questioned how the district can expect a primary student to have self-control with technology when most adults are unable to regulate their own technology usage.

Mr. Zelinski also shared he does not approve of Lexia as a reading program and contended it is replacing direct instruction in the name of differentiation. He and his wife noted their child, when working in Lexia, was unable to read the questions and was simply “guessing” until he got the right answer. This was primarily a problem in Kindergarten and 1st grade. He was moving through levels without any real learning taking place. A computer program should not be teaching students to read. That is what teachers are paid to do. Large chunks of instructional time are being taken out of each day for students to use Lexia and other online programs. He questioned the ability of a teacher to truly track real progress and ensure students are on task as they cannot see every screen at every moment. In conclusion, Mr. Zelinski asked that computers be removed from classrooms. Computers should be used only occasionally and computer labs and computer specialists should be brought back into the district.

Board/Staff Comments

Director Burchard congratulated the Mt. Spokane High School Debate team (14 students) on being the State 3A Academic State Champion with a 3.81 team GPA.

Director Cannon first thanked all of the community members/individuals who spoke on the topic of technology. He additionally referenced the annual Jazz Festival that took place on Saturday (March 25th) at Mead High School. It was a huge event – 24 schools, 38 bands, 490 students. Out of a field of 14 bands, Highland won the Middle School Division and Mt. Spokane High School won the *Terry Lack Sweepstakes Trophy* named in honor of Mead High School’s former band director who is also a highly regarded jazz musician in the area.

President Denholm noted the upcoming Orchestra Concert taking place on Wednesday (March 29th) at Mead High School starting at 7 pm.

V. Continuing Business - none

VI. New Business

A. Superintendent Contract

President Denholm, referencing the board’s action on March 13, 2023, to hire Travis Hanson as Mead School District Superintendent effective July 1, 2023, pending contract negotiations, and

noting those negotiations have been successfully completed, asked for a motion to approve the presented three-year contract (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026) between the Mead School District and Travis Hanson.

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the three-year Superintendent Contract (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026) between the Mead School District and Travis Hanson, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Denholm noted Mr. Hanson wanted to be in attendance but was unable to because the time of the Deer Park School Board’s regularly scheduled meeting conflicted with this meeting.

B. Consent Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. Hired Certificated Personnel:

Christopher Gonzales	Mountainside	Cert	.4 FTE Leave Replacement Social Studies teacher effective 3/6/23 – 6/20/23
Priscilla Limon	Mountainside	Cert	1.0 FTE Leave Replacement Social Studies teacher effective 3/8/23 – 6/20/23
Emily Bertholic	Mead Learning Options	Cert	.3 FTE Leave Replacement Teachers in addition to .5 FTE Continuing & .2 FTE Leave Replacement effective 3/13/23 – 6/20/23

2. Hired Classified Personnel:

Mari Heaton	Prairie View	Class	6 hrs/day Para Ed effective 3/1/23
Rick Williams	Colbert	Class	6.1 hrs/day Para Ed effective 3/1/23
Samantha Rose	Shiloh Hills	Class	4.5 hrs/day Para Ed effective 3/1/23
Danika Enfield	Transportation	Class	4.0 hrs/day Bus Driver effective 3/8/23
Maureen Merryman	Evergreen	Class	3.5 hrs/day Para Ed effective 2/14/23

3. Hired Certificated Substitutes:

Kala Betschart	Marcos Caballero	Aneгла Puri	Joshua Callero
Delaney Plump	Shirlina Peroff	Amanda Hegel	Taylor Greenberg
Bianca Mejia-Birrueta	Hailey Snell-Campbell	Ellaney Jelcick	Emma Allen
Ashley Bruce	Nicholas Cerenzia	Jennifer Gentry	Jacquelyn Pinkney

4. Hired Classified Substitutes:

Joanna Netzel	Ramona Priest	Heidi Bergman	
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5. 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, **March 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 110564 to 110749** in the following amounts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund - AP	\$ 511,949.84
General Fund – PR	147,960.73
ASB Fund	86,224.79
Capital Projects Fund	11,851.17

6. Approved Extra-Curricular and Supplemental Contracts.

7. Accepted the Following Donation:

- \$500 from Adventure Sport Rentals to Mt. Spokane HS Baseball Program
- \$500 from Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation to Mt. Spokane HS Football Program
- \$1,000 from Rejuvenate to Mt. Spokane HS FCCLA
- \$500 from Les Schwab Tire Centers to Mt. Spokane HS Baseball Program
- \$500 from LAC Drywall, Inc. to Mt. Spokane HS Softball Program
- \$500 from Pattison’s North Skate Center to Mt. Spokane HS Baseball Program
- \$500 from Baker Construction to DLC Olympics
- \$500 from HOP Mountain LLC to Mt. Spokane HS Baseball Program
- \$1,000 from Your Mom’s Soda Shop to Mt. Spokane HS Softball Program

8. Approved Requests for Unpaid Leave (i.e., parenting, medical, Good of the District, etc.):

Courtney Gilbreath	Mountainside	Class	5/9/23 - 5/11/23
Kayleigh Sliman	Evergreen	Class	5/12/23 - 5/16/23
Christina Marshall	Creekside	Class	5/12/23
Naysha Summers	Mead High	Class	3/22/23 - 4/8/23
Andrea Anderson	Mountainside	Cert	1 st Semester 23/24 school year
Melissa Kehr	Special Services	Cert	1 st Semester 23/24 school year
Haley Calhoun	Special Services	Cert	23/24 school year
Rebecca O'Neel	Mead HS	Cert	.2 FTE 23/24 school year (will work .8)
Toby Doolittle	Mead HS	Cert	23/24 school

9. Approved Requests for Retirement/Resignation:

Darren Nelson	Learning & Teaching	Cert	Resignation effective 6/30/23 (Director Secondary Education)
Dory Wiser	Prairie View	Class	Resignation effective 4/6/23 (Para Ed)

C. Resolution 23-01

2023-2024 Financial Emergency and Budget Uncertainty

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson presented Resolution 23-01, 2023-2024 Financial Emergency and Budget Uncertainty, for board consideration.

Based on current funding formulas the financial resources of the Mead School District will not be adequate to permit the district to maintain its educational programs and services at substantially the same staffing level for the 2023-2024 school year, due to several factors, including but not limited to enrollment that has yet to recover fully because of the COVID pandemic and the loss of LEA funding.

To comply with bargained agreements with district employee groups, when the district finds itself facing a financial emergency and budget uncertainty, the Board of Directors must, by resolution, officially declare a financial emergency and budget uncertainty and direct the Superintendent to develop and recommend to the Board a Modified Education Program to address and resolve the budget shortfall through the reduction of expenses, including but not limited to reductions in the workforce and reductions of non-employee costs.

In the 2022-2023 school year the district will be accessing approximately \$5 million from its cash reserves to balance the budget. In the 2023-2024 school year the district will need to bring expenditures in line with revenue.

Director Cannon noted district finances and the 2023/24 budget were talked about extensively at the March 2, 2023 and March 23, 2023 Board Work Sessions.

In response to a question from Director Burchard, Ms. Ellingson confirmed that in addition to 2023/24 budget cuts the district anticipates it will also, once again, need to access financial reserves to balance the budget in 2023/24.

Director Olson made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-01, 2023-2024 Financial Emergency and Budget Uncertainty, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached.

D. Student Travel Proposal

Mead HS & Mt. Spokane HS DECA Nationals

Darren Nelson, Director of Secondary Education, presented a travel proposal from eight Mead High School and six Mt. Spokane High School students who have qualified for DECA Nationals, along with teachers/advisors Brandon Butler and Todd Slater and two additional chaperones, to travel to Orlando, Florida, April 20-26, 2023, to participate in the National DECA Competition. Students will miss five days of school and Mr. Butler and Mr. Slater will need a substitute teacher for those same five days.

The estimated per student cost is \$750-\$900 for airfare, entertainment/activities and meals. ASB funds will cover student hotel costs. Teacher/advisor and chaperone expenses, along with rental car and registration fees will be paid using district CTE funds. The Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School Student Stores serve as year-round fundraisers to help offset trip costs.

Director Gray made a motion to approve the presented travel request from Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School students who have qualified for DECA Nationals, along with teachers/advisors Brandon Butler and Todd Slater and two additional chaperones, to travel to Orlando, Florida, April 20-26, 2023, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for the Month of February 2023

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson presented a brief financial report for the month of February 2023. Student enrollment is down 30 FTE in the last month primarily at the secondary level. March 1st enrollment from last year to this year is down slightly. As has been shared at recent Board Work Sessions regarding finances, the district anticipates needing to access \$5 million from Fund Balance in the 2022/23 fiscal year, which will result in an ending Fund Balance of approximately \$8 million. Ending this low will require careful monitoring to assure the district can meet all of its financial obligations.

Proposed spending reductions/adjustments for 2023/24 will be presented for initial review/discussion at the April 24th board meeting.

The district has been closely monitoring House and Senate budgets. It appears the district may receive some additional Special Education funding. While “regionalization” next year will be zero dollars this loss in revenue will be offset by “experience factor” monies.

Director Cannon noted that the board has spent considerable study and discussion time on district finances at two recent Board Work Sessions. The community can expect to hear a lot more about the budget and budget adjustments in the next couple of months. There is also considerable budget information available on the district's website.

B. Asset Preservation Report

Director of Facilities & Planning Ned Wendle, referencing Resolution 10-14 adopted thirteen years ago that authorized the district to participate in the state's Asset Preservation Program, shared building condition information as set forth below:

- Shiloh Hills Elementary School . . . Building Condition Assessment - 99.70%
- Mt. Spokane High School . . . Building Condition Assessment - 91.11%
- Prairie View Elementary School . . . Building Condition Assessment - 94.13%
- Mountainside Middle School . . . Building Condition Assessment - 94.96%
- Midway Elementary School . . . Building Condition Assessment - 100%

In response to a question from Director Burchard, Mr. Wendle reported that a “Study & Survey” of district properties is required every six years. This report is done by an architectural firm. In response to a question from Director Olson regarding modernization of Mt. Spokane which is 25 years old, Mr. Wendle reported the district has done a good job upgrading systems at that site as monies have been available. This has contributed to the 91.11% assessment score.

President Denholm thanked Mr. Wendle for this report. He additionally thanked taxpayers. It is because of them the district has such nice facilities.

C. Technology Report/Update

Before presenting this report Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley thanked parents who spoke this evening about technology, as well as those who have reached out to him on this subject. Mr. Hoadley noted this technology report/update will include a historical review of where the district has been, where it is now and where it hopes to be in the future. Information shared included the following:

- At the start of the 2019/20 school year the district did not provide a one-to-one technology option for students. On March 17, 2020, because of COVID-19, Governor Inslee closed schools. Following this the district made the decision to provide online learning opportunities for students. To help facilitate at-home, online learning the district began distributing Chromebooks to students on March 24, 2020 . . . Seven days following the closure declaration.
- During the 2020/21 and 2021/22 school years the Mead School District offered both in-person and online educational opportunities for students. The potential of another school closing was a reality. Therefore, being able to move students to an online learning format at a moment's notice was a real concern.
- For the current school year (2022/23) in the Mead School District there are approximately 12,000 Chromebooks provided for K-12 students, staff and substitutes, with approximately 782 internet access points available throughout the district. The district continues to provide both online and in-person learning options for students.
- Reasons for students to have access to technology were shared. These included:
 - Technology usage is a part of preparing students for their future.
 - Approximately 15% of curriculum at the elementary level is now web-based.
 - At grades 9-12 approximately 75% of the English curriculum is web-based with many other content areas also accessing web-based materials.
 - Adaptive technology helps meet the needs of some students.
 - State testing requires the use of an electronic device by students.
- Acknowledgement that technology/email safety concerns have been brought forward. This has been coupled with requests that the district implement tighter control on student access to email, information and screen time during and after school hours. In response the following "first steps" have already, or will very soon, be implemented:
 - Learning opportunities with technology devices will be teacher directed.
 - Students will be directed to open and close lids during instructional time.
 - Screen time will be considered when assigning tasks.
 - Instructional staff will be trained on how to set specific web page access for students during instructional time (GoGuardian software).
 - As it relates to the district email address assigned to each student, students in grades K-5 will only be able to email their teacher. Administrators in grades 6-8 are discussing with staff the pros and cons of students only being able to email their teachers. Starting in mid-April 2023, email accounts and Google applications for students in grades 9-12 will be monitored by Gaggle software for inappropriate words and phrases.
 - District issued Chromebooks will be turned off for K-8 students from 10 pm to 6 am and screen time will be considered prior to homework tasks being assigned.
- To help monitor and adjust technology usage the district plans to establish an advisory committee to guide this work. The advisory committee will include parents, staff members and administration. This 12 member advisory committee will include six parents equitably representing elementary, middle and high school age students, a representative from Learning & Teaching, an elementary, middle school and high school teacher, a Technology administrator and a District Office administrator.

In conclusion, Mr. Hoadley shared Mead's Technology Department wants students to be using technology appropriately. They would like to thank teachers, students, administrators and parents for sharing technology concerns and problems, as well as potential solutions.

Discussion included board questions about how Gaggle works. Mr. Hoadley noted many school districts throughout the state are using Gaggle. When a concern with a word or phrase is identified a Gaggle employee immediately contacts the district. In response to questions regarding GoGuardian, Mr. Hoadley answered he and his team would be happy to put together a presentation on that program in particular to share with the board.

Mr. Hoadley also reminded that the district can control what takes place on its devices and Mead School District email accounts. These safeguards/controls do not extend to personal cell phones and personal accounts. It is primarily students in grades 6-12 who take their Chromebooks home on a consistent basis.

It is anticipated the first meeting of the Technology Advisory Committee will be sometime this spring. President Denholm requested that Travis Hanson be included in any upcoming technology decisions/discussions as he has a strong IT background.

In response to a question from Director Burchard regarding the Lexia reading software, Mr. Hoadley indicated he would be happy to have someone from Learning & Teaching, who has more expertise on the program than he does, present to the board.

Superintendent Woodward reminded that technology is an important learning tool and therefore it will be important to carefully consider how the district moves forward.

Director Cannon expressed his desire to learn how the various systems work (GoGuardian, Gaggle). He also noted that at STCU you are unable to access Facebook. He wondered if the district could do something like that. He suggested the district compile a list of what it will allow as opposed to what it won't allow.

Director Gray inquired about the training timeline for teachers on GoGuardian. This training is currently being formulated. It will be available very soon.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Woodward referenced an act of kindness from the district's Transportation Department to the Central Valley School District related to a bus breakdown. Both Mt. Spokane High School and University High School drama students were attending an event in Bellingham. The Central Valley bus broke down stranding their students. Mead's bus was already headed back to Spokane but turned around and rescued the U-High students transporting them back to Spokane.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

President

Secretary



**RESOLUTION 23-01
2023-2024 Financial Emergency and Budget Uncertainty**

WHEREAS, the financial resources of the District will not be adequate to permit the District to maintain its educational programs and services at substantially the same staffing level for the 2023-2024 school year, due to several factors, including but not limited to enrollment that has yet to recover fully because of Washington state's response to the COVID pandemic and the loss in LEA funding.

WHEREAS, a general uncertainty exists regarding the District's projected budget for the 2023-2024 school year, also due in part to the loss in student enrollment attributable to Washington state's response to the COVID pandemic and the loss in LEA funding.

WHEREAS, this lack of adequate resources and general uncertainty negatively impacts the District's ability to maintain educational programs and services at substantially the same staffing level for the 2023-2024 school year,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has been given the fiduciary responsibility to maintain the District's fiscal health at reasonable levels of financial stability and the Board of Directors is accountable to the citizens and patrons of the Mead School District to provide an appropriate public educational program for students,

WHEREAS, the District adheres to bargained agreements and understands that items in some bargained agreements may be financially affected in the case of uncertainty and financial emergency and are subject to staff/program reduction or elimination,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors, that a financial emergency exists for the 2023-2024 school year and a general uncertainty exists regarding the projected budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors, that the Superintendent is directed to develop and recommend to the Board a modified education program to address and resolve the above-described financial emergency and general budget uncertainty, as here determined to be certificated and classified staff reductions for the 2023-2024 educational program year, through the reduction of expenses, including but not limited to reductions in the workforce and reductions of non-employee costs.

Adopted this 27th day of March 2023.

Attest:



Secretary to the Board

**Mead School District No. 354
Board of Directors**










