

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
March 22, 2023

MINUTES

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; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Excused: Student Representative to the Board, London Moody

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  
Ryan Jones, Capital Projects Manager  
April Heiser, Transportation Director

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 141 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Winter Sports and Activities

Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education Matt Scott recognized Athletic Directors, Coaches, and state participants from the following schools: Kamiakin High School state participants in bowling and math club state champions; Kennewick High School state participants in bowling; and Southridge High School state participants in boys and girls wrestling with Jacob Chapa as state champion and Trevor Hoopes 3<sup>rd</sup> place in wrestling.

School Retirees' Appreciation Week

Superintendent Dr. Pierce recognized Victoria Russell, and Dottie Stevens, Co-Presidents of the Benton-Franklin Retirees' Association. Ms. Stevens and Ms. Russell shared a few words, and Dr. Pierce presented them a gift of appreciation. Dr. Traci Pierce then read Governor Inslee's proclamation declaring March 20-26, 2023, School Retirees Appreciation Week.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Motion by Diane Sundvik to excuse Student Representative to the Board, London Moody.

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Kelly McFadden commented on specialists reducing contracts and/or traveling.

Michelle Melville yielded time to Kelly McFadden.

Elizabeth Maus commented on specialists reducing contracts and/or traveling.

Karen Brutzman commented on specialists traveling to a second building.

Jenn Coe yielded time to Karen Brutzman.

Lucy Razor commented on reducing specialist time.

Jared Bailey commented on specialists reducing contracts and/or traveling.

Lisa Peppard commented on proposed policy 5242 and her concerns that it would limit teachers' rights to express themselves.

Rick Wells introduced students and advisors and shared that the senior class wants to honor one of the school's postgraduates who exemplifies all their values at Southridge High School. Mr. Wells asked the Board to please consider the petition to rename the Southridge High School gymnasium after one of their graduates who exemplifies the Southridge High spirit.

Brook Minelich, Southridge High School Class President, stated that she "wanted to officially present the senior class gift to name our gymnasium in memory of JoJo Khan."

Emma Detmer, Senior Secretary at Southridge High School, commented in favor of the proposal to name the gym after JoJo Khan.

Brady Bostic, Senior Class Delegate, commented in favor of the proposal to name the Southridge High School gym after JoJo. Brady also spoke on behalf of Charles Logan,

Senior Class Treasurer, who also favors naming the gym after JoJo.

Tyler Hogg, a teacher at Southridge High School, commented that he went to school with JoJo and shared comments from classmates. He states that he is in favor of naming the gym after his fellow classmate, JoJo.

Cambri Longaker, a teacher Senior Class Advisor, and 2005 graduate of Southridge High School stated that she “overlapped” with JoJo for one year at SHS. Ms. Longaker shared that she would like to continue to build and honor JoJo’s legacy by naming the gym after him.

Mima Phillips, JoJo’s mom, shared about her son and thanked the senior class and others for thinking about naming the gym after him.

Monique Vasquez commented on naming the Southridge High School gym after her brother JoJo.

Sandra Lee shared her concerns about specialists reducing contracts and/or traveling.

Linda Stephenson thanked the Board for acknowledging academic teams along with athletes but stated that she is concerned that only students who place first or second at State are invited to the Board meetings. Ms. Stephenson also shared her concerns that the boardroom is not a safe place for students to come as she feels students may hear hate speech spoken during public comment. Lastly, Ms. Stephenson shared her concerns about having someone to manage the Math is Cool program due to so many senior coaches graduating.

Tina Gregory commented that she, too, would like the Board to reconsider what all the people tonight have talked about regarding school specialists. She also commended all the students who came forward and spoke about their fellow student, JoJo, and she stated that it sounds like he donated so much love. Ms. Gregory added that she comes in love, not hate, and is thankful for freedom of speech. She stated that she still believes the only flag that should be in the classroom is the American flag, along with prayer and God.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Gabe Galbraith.

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 March 8, 2023
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2022-2023
- Budget Status Report Ending February 28, 2023
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending February 28, 2023
- Resolution No. 5, 2022-2023: Approve Settlement in JUUL Litigation

## SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared she has started school spring visits, visiting Amon Creek, Amistad, Kamiakin, and Canyon View over that past two weeks. She also shared that the district's 2023 Crystal Apple Award winner is Naomi Devers, a family and consumer science teacher at Kennewick High School, and that she had the honor of presenting Naomi with her award at the recent ESD 123 ceremony. Dr. Pierce also highlighted that the new school safety officer positions have been posted to the district website.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported attending the Eastgate Elementary School Passport Around the World and a couple of athletic events.

Board Member Micah Valentine shared he went to Chinook Middle School and spoke with Principal Jake Davis. He shared that he also had the opportunity to talk with Rick Wells and Ron Williamson at Southridge High School, and he visited with a few people regarding the Board's policy work.

Board Member Diane Sundvik shared that she attended the WSSDA Legislative Representative Networking Hour (two sessions); the Mid-Columbia Regional Science Fair; ESD 123 Crystal Apple Award Ceremony; and Kamiakin High School "Connecting with Our Students' Mental Health" provided by Lutheran Services of the NW. She also reported that she attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Townhall, Racial Equity and Social Justice Coalition of the Tri-Cities; Getting to Know KSD: Support the Whole Child; Mid-Columbia Partnership STEM/Projects and High School/College Financial Information Night; Ben Franklin Transit Mobility Access Taskforce; and League of Urban Latin American Citizens,

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 2023-24 Preliminary Budget

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts discussed preliminary 2023-24 General Fund revenues and expenditures. Preliminary 2023-24 basic education and special education revenue were projected to increase by approximately \$23.2M. The preliminary 2023-24 expenditure increase associated with staff cost changes is projected to increase between \$14.0M and \$15.0M, with MSOC expenses expected to increase by \$1.5M. Preliminary revenue and expenditure projections were provided through 2027-28. Mr. Roberts discussed the District funded wage and benefit cost as compared to costs funded

through the state funding formula, indicated a shortage of \$31M that needs to be funded through local funding. A budget timeline schedule was presented that resulted in the Board's adoption of the Budget at the June 21 meeting.

Asset Preservation

Ryan Jones, Capital Projects Manager, presented the District's Asset Preservation Program required by OSPI to be completed by April 1 each year. The Asset Preservation Program demonstrates the district's commitment to maintaining buildings through upgrades to building infrastructure. One of the State's requirements is to ensure a certified evaluator completes a building condition evaluation every six years. Mr. Jones reported that the evaluation was completed in March 2020. He then reviewed the building condition scores explaining the evaluation process for scoring.

Star Assessment Data

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire presented information on student performance on the Star math assessment as a follow-up to the academic progress update provided at the last Board meeting.

President Connors announced a five-minute break at 7:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bus Purchase Plan

April Heiser, Transportation Manager, presented an overview of staff, state funding, fleet summary, and depreciation. She also shared plans with a priority to purchase enough buses with air conditioning to support the district's summer school programs. Ms. Heiser recommended that the Board authorize her to order eight buses for delivery in the summer of 2024.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to authorize the Transportation Manager to order eight buses for delivery in the summer of 2024.

Seconded by Ron Mabry.

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

Mr. Galbraith                      Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Board Initiation of Naming Facilities, Southridge High School Gymnasium

Dr. Pierce reviewed Policy 9250, Naming of School District Facilities, and Procedure 9250, with a recommendation for the Board to discuss and determine whether to initiate a naming process for the Southridge High School gymnasium.

Motion by Gabe Galbraith to initiate a naming process for the Southridge High School gymnasium.

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Policy No. 5242 PERSONNEL: Staff Participation in Political Activities

Dr. Pierce presented information on the laws and Public Disclosure Guidelines regarding staff participation in political campaign activities while on district property during work time. In addition, she shared model policy from the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) and presented a new policy on staff participation in political activities.

Motion by Gabe Galbraith to approve Policy No. 5242 PERSONNEL: Staff Participation in Political Activities for the first and second readings.

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

**NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. 2022-23 Preliminary Budget
- B. Legislative Update

- C. Family/Parent Involvement and Engagement Efforts
- D. WSSDA Policy Changes
- E. Legislative Page Program

Ms. Sundvik shared that she is proud of our Nutrition Services Department. She shared that the Tri-City Herald and Ben Franklin Health Department websites show that when they come to our schools to conduct inspections, our schools almost always receive perfect scores.


#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

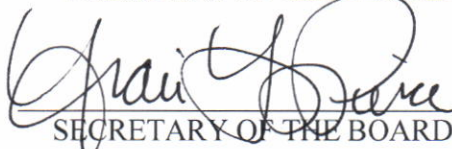
President Michael Connors announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 8:07 p.m. and moved the Board into executive session at 8:12 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue for approximately 25 minutes. Mr. Connors noted that no further formal action would be taken.

#### OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Connors reconvened the regular session of the Board at 8:35 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

  
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RECORDING SECRETARY

  
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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

  
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SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: April 12, 2023