

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Administration Building
December 13, 2023

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Michael Connors, President of the Board; Micah Valentine, Board Member; Gabe Galbraith, Board Member; Brittany Gledhill, Board Member; Josh Miller, Board Member; Mallory Dupaquier, Student Representative to the Board; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Student Board Member-Elect: Annie Maltos

Cabinet Members: Dr. Doug Christensen, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 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
Paul Randall, Director, Tri-Tech Skills Center

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 96 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

OATH OF OFFICE

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce administered the oath of office to returning Board Member Mike Connors and newly elected Board members Brittany Gledhill and Josh Miller.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was held per RCW 28A.330.010.

President

Gabe Galbraith was nominated for President by Micah Valentine and seconded by Josh Miller.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Vice President

Micah Valentine was nominated for Vice-President by Josh Miller and seconded by Brittany Gledhill.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Legislative Representative

Brittany Gledhill was nominated for Legislative Representative by Josh Miller and seconded by Micah Valentine.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Dottie Stevens thanked the Board for their service and leadership. She expressed her gratitude to the community for voting to pass the levy and showing their support for school safety and activities. Ms. Stevens shared concerns about schools no longer teaching cursive.

Pat Mastaler said he is here tonight representing the Kennewick Levy and Bond Committee and shared their role in working with the school district as volunteers.

Loren Parker followed up on the discussion from the last meeting regarding honors classes, specifically math. He and his wife met with Alyssa St. Hilaire. They reviewed the information Alyssa shared and discussed his interpretation of the difference between honors math classes and what the district does now in place of the honors classes, noting the classes function differently. He asked the Board to add the honors math classes back into middle school.

Mark Cheney discussed cell phone use during instructional time. He suggested conducting a survey to determine if the public wants a district-wide cell phone ban during instructional time. Mr. Cheney submitted why he believes it should not fall on teachers to determine if cell phones are allowed in class.

James Robledo thanked the Board members for running a clean campaign and welcomed them to the Board. He shared concerns about content posted and shared by Micah Valentine on various social media platforms. He requested that the Board review their ethics policy.

Becky Elias (remote) wanted to thank the district for allowing her daughter to become bilingual as she attends Fuerza and the 21st Century Extended Day Program provided by Educational Service District 123. She expressed concern that the grant to support the 21st Century Program will end soon.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mike Connors to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Brittany Gledhill.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows.

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting November 8, 2023
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Transportation-KSD Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2026
- L-12 Kennewick School District-City of Kennewick School Resource Officer Agreement
- Budget Status Report Ending September 30, 2023
- Budget Status Report Ending October 31, 2023
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending September 30, 2023
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending October 31, 2023
- Resolution No. 2, 2023 – 2024: Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce addressed the Ridgeview project completion and thanked neighbors and voters for their support of the project. Dr. Pierce also addressed school safety, noting the recent lockdown activity, the incident at Kamiakin High School, and other police activity in the area unrelated to our schools. She discussed transparency,

communication, and ongoing efforts to maintain safe schools. Dr. Pierce also brought up the topic of math pathways, noting that the topic would be addressed during tonight's student goal report.

Student Representative to the Board, Mallory Dupaquier, reported she attended the Superintendent Student Advisory Council meeting where financial literacy was discussed. Students participated in a feedback session focused on financial literacy. Students believe the topic is important and have various ideas regarding the implementation of a graduation requirement.

Board Member Dr. Josh Miller reported he is happy to be here and be involved.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill reported attending the WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue and shared that she greatly appreciated the sessions where Dr. Pierce sat in with her. She attended the Tri-Tech pie contest, was very impressed, and had a positive experience. Ms. Gledhill attended a Board orientation with Dr. Pierce and toured the new Ridgeview Elementary School.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported attending the Pacific Research Institute School Board Conference, the WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue, and the Tri-Tech pie competition. He noted that he experienced the school safety officers in action as there was police activity in the area near a school he visited. He took a tour of Ridgeview and was very impressed with Ryan Jone's knowledge, the building, and the technology. He also noted that he spent an hour on the Heartland Radio podcast.

President Conners reported attending the Community Partners breakfast and touring the new Ridgeview Elementary School.

Board Member Gabe Galbraith reported attending the Ridgeview tour and the WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue, where he enjoyed getting to know the new Board members.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Tri-Tech Skills Center

Tri-Tech Skills Center Director Paul Randall presented the annual report on the cooperative skills center that the Kennewick School District hosts. Mr. Randall reported that the Skills Center provides a Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum with career preparation and is a school of choice. Tri-Tech has 984 students, with - 32% of students from Kennewick. There are 18 preparatory programs and one more pre-medical assisting to be added in the fall of 2024. Programs range from autobody technology and construction trades to cosmetology, culinary arts, game design, and pre-nursing. Mr. Randall shared several student success stories.

2022 – 2023 Financial Close-out

Vic Roberts, executive director of business and operations, presented 2022-23 year-end financial information. The average enrollment for the school year was 18,527 compared to the budgeted enrollment of 18,340. Enrollment exceeded budget by 99 students in grades K through 5 and 88 students in grades 6 through 12. District enrollment at the elementary level still lags well behind enrollment from pre-COVID-19 school years.

The district has been using Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding to offset lost levy revenue resulting from the failed 2023 levy, with the majority of ESSER funding used to support staff positions. The funding has allowed for very low-class sizes, primarily throughout the elementary schools over the past few years. The funding has also provided access to mental health and tutoring services.

The ESSER funding expires at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Funding will no longer support the low classes, resulting in fewer sections and teachers for the 2024-25 school year.

The revenue budget outlook for the 2024-25 school year was negatively impacted by the large increase in property assessed value effective for 2024. The assessed property value is tied into state funding provided to school districts through computations that consider changes in assessed values, levy amount, inflation, and enrollment. Work on the 2024-25 budget will begin in early 2024 and be completed in June 2024.

Student Goal Report: All Students Are Ready for Their Future

Alyssa St. Hilaire, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, reported on graduation rates, dual credit rates, and middle school math pathways. She noted a correction for MCP graduation rates, which is being pursued through the state. This will improve their graduation rate and increase the district's overall graduation rate. She mentioned we are using increased engagement to increase graduation rates.

A brief 5-minute recess was called at 8:05 p.m. to reconvene at 8:10 p.m.

Financial Literacy

Dr. Pierce presented and discussed our district's goals and graduation requirements. She shared that both Pasco and Richland School Districts have financial literacy requirements, while Kennewick has a computer competency requirement. The district is currently conducting a review to determine whether to recommend to the Board implementation of a financial literacy graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 2029.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Policy No. 2314, INSTRUCTION: Use of Outside Media Resources in the Classroom

Dr. Pierce presented Policy No. 2314 for discussion. The Board discussed and amended the policy to allow G movies to be shown without parent permission.

Motion by Mike Connors to accept Policy No. 2314, INSTRUCTION: Use of Outside Media Resources in the Classroom for first and second reading as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Gledhill.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

February 14 Board Meeting Date

Mr. Valentine made a motion to move the February 14th meeting and study session to Tuesday, February 13.

Seconded by Dr. Miller.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Organizational Changes and Succession Planning

Dr. Pierce and the school board discussed organizational changes and leadership transition plans. Dr. Pierce will retire at the end of the 2024–25 school year, and Vic Roberts, executive director of business operations, will retire at the end of the summer of 2024. Dr. Doug Christensen, associate superintendent of human resources, is leaving the district later this month. Dr. Pierce and the Board discussed engaging a firm to help the school Board conduct a search for a deputy successor superintendent to oversee operations for the 2024–25 school year and step into the superintendency effective July 2025, when Dr. Pierce retires. This succession plan enables combining the roles currently held by Mr. Roberts and Dr. Christensen and provides the opportunity for a comprehensive transition.

Motion by Mr. Valentine to have Mr. Galbraith work with Dr. Pierce to create the next steps and to hire a search firm to hire a new Deputy Successor Superintendent.

Seconded by Mr. Connors.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Connors	Yes
	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda: (Semi-Annual Retreat)

- A. Board Procedures
- B. School Safety
- C. Behavior and Discipline

The Board also identified topics for future meetings:


- A. Role of Counselors
- B. Strategies to Improve Graduation Rates and Post-Secondary Outcomes

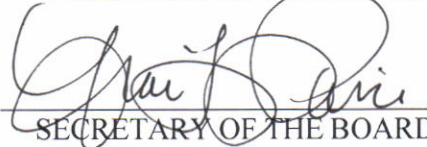
OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:33 p.m.



RECORDING SECRETARY



PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD


SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: January 24, 2024