

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Administration Building
January 24, 2024

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Gabe Galbraith, President of the Board; Micah Valentine, Vice President; Brittany Gledhill, Board Member; Dr. Josh Miller, Board Member; Michael Connors, 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, excused.

Cabinet Members: 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.

Excused: Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology

Other Guest(s): K.C. Bennion, Delta High School Principal
Molly Lutz, Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist
Christine Benson, Sodexo Nutrition Services Director

CALL TO ORDER

President Gabe Galbraith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 68 online and in-person staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce read Governor Inslee's proclamation naming January School Board Recognition Month. Dr. Pierce expressed her appreciation for the Board by handing out a certificate from the Washington State School Directors' Association and a gift of gratitude from the Kennewick School District.

Fall Sports and Activities

Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education Matt Scott introduced Kyle Cowan, Kamiakin High School Athletic Director. Mr. Cowan shared the school's many successes: conference champions in four fall sports, academic state champions in volleyball and cross country, and second place at state for the math club. Mr. Cowan introduced Matt Rexus, the Cross-Country Coach. Mr. Rexus shared that the team was the state academic champions for the first time in school history and placed second at state.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Genevie Parker commented on math honor classes and how they prepared her for college.

Tamara Parker requested the reinstatement of honor classes in middle school and noted confusion on the wording of advanced and accelerated math classes.

Blaine Meek spoke about having honor math classes reinstated in middle school.

Penny Nokes commented on math honor classes in middle school.

Jessi Robledo commented on math honor classes in middle school.

Lori Moody commented on math honor classes in middle school.

Kelsie Davey commented on math honor classes in middle school.

Dottie Stevens spoke about the ribbon cutting at Ridgeview Elementary and the support of Kennewick schools.

Ron Mabry commented on the status of the State Board of Education decision regarding graduation pathway waivers.

Jaxon Clark commented on math honor classes in middle school.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Micah Valentine to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Mike Connors.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of School Board Meeting December 13, 2023
- Minutes of School Board Retreat January 10, 2024
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Budget Status Report Ending November 30, 2023
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending November 30, 2023
- Tri-Tech Architect Selection
- Foreign Exchange Agencies and Coordinators for the 2024-25 School Year

COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOW UP

Superintendent Dr. Pierce reported that at the January 10 Board retreat the Board discussed adding a communications follow-up to the Board agenda to follow up on correspondence received since the last Board meeting. Dr. Pierce followed up on the concerns regarding honors math in middle schools, cell phone use and Policy 3308, and a reported rumor being shared on social media.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Pierce shared that she attended the Ridge View ribbon cutting and recognized all the staff involved and the community for their support in passing the bond. She thanked everyone who gave input by taking the survey or attending one of the focus groups regarding the deputy successor superintendent position. She shared that the search firm is developing the job description and plans to have it ready to be posted in February. Dr. Pierce reported that a scheduling issue with the Delta High School graduation and the Three Rivers Convention Center has been resolved, with the Delta High School graduation being moved to the HAPO Center in Pasco with the same graduation date of June 6.

Student Representative to the Board, Mallory Dupaquier, reported that there may have been some confusion regarding her comments at a previous Board meeting surrounding the computer application credit. Mallory clarified that she supports having a computer competency requirement.

Board Member Mike Connors reported attending the ribbon cutting at Ridge View Elementary. He also shared that he observed Ms. Woods's class at Eastgate Elementary School as she taught the Second Step program. Mr. Connors also stated that he went to Olympia to support student Ashwin Joshi as he presented to the Education Committee in the House of Representatives in support of HB 1915.

Board Member Josh Miller reported that the Kamiakin High School robotics program placed first at their district meet and will attend state for the first time. Dr. Miller shared that he spoke with parents and students in preparation for the February Board discussion on school counselors as he is trying to understand the process counselors use to prepare our students for graduation and post-graduation plans.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill reported attending the SEWASA Annual Board Workshop. She shared that she also observed Ms. Woods's class at Eastgate Elementary School to see the curriculum being taught through Second Step and talked with the safety officer at the school. Ms. Gledhill stated that she met with Jeremy Fox, principal at Horse Heaven Hills Middle School, who answered many questions and gave her a tour of the school.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported attending the interview with Bill Jordan regarding the new deputy successor superintendent position and had a chance to speak with parents and teachers regarding the Second Step program.

President Gabe Galbraith reported attending the Ridge View ribbon cutting. He also shared that he observed a class at Eastgate Elementary School where a Second Step lesson was being taught. In addition, he stated that he met with the principals at Amon Creek and Cottonwood Elementary Schools and met with Bill Jordan regarding the deputy successor superintendent position.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Delta High School

Dr. Pierce introduced Delta High School Principal K.C. Bennion, who presented an annual update on the school, which is a partnership among the Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco school districts. Ms. Bennion reported that the school has an enrollment of 413 students, including 141 students from Kennewick.

Nutrition Services

Christine Benson, Sodexo Nutrition Services Director, provided an annual report which included information on meal count comparisons, summer school, and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, and the upcoming Kennewick Future Chef competition. She also presented feedback from the student survey, and shared revenue and expense information for the last five years.

Staff Safety

Mollie Lutz presented an annual safety report focusing on Safe Schools training, Labor & Industries (L&I) claims, and “time loss.”

Boundary Update

Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education Matt Scott presented a recap on the recent boundary adjustment and shared an update on communications, implementation plans, enrollment projections, and next steps.

HB 1915 Making Financial Education Instruction a Graduation Prerequisite and a Required Component of Public Education

School Board members discussed House Bill 1915, Making Financial Education Instruction a Graduation Prerequisite, and a Required Component of Public Education. Following Board discussion, Dr. Pierce agreed to draft a resolution supporting financial literacy for the Board to review at the next Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

President Galbraith announced a five-minute break at 7:42 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Instructional Materials Committee Recommendation: Second Step

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire shared background information and an overview of Second Step materials for K-8, together with the Instructional Materials Committee review process and recommendation. Following Board discussion, the Board asked for access to the digital program so that they could personally review the material prior to making a decision at a future Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

A. Study Session


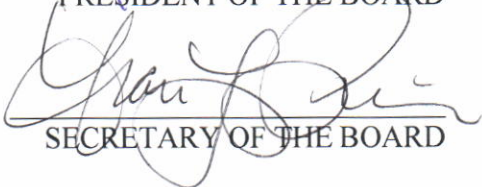
1. Comprehensive School Counseling Program

B. Business Meeting

1. Strategies to Improve Graduation Rates and Post-Secondary Outcomes
2. Capital Budget Update
3. Special Education
4. Healthy Youth Survey

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:56 p.m.


RECORDING SECRETARY


PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: February 13, 2024