

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Administration Building  
February 28, 2024

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Gabe Galbraith, President of the Board; Micah Valentine, Vice President of the Board; Brittany Gledhill, Legislative Representative of the Board; 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; and Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology.

Other Guest(s): Bronson Brown, District Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

President Gabe Galbraith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 55 online and in-person staff and guests.

RECOGNITION

National Board-Certified Teachers

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared what is required to become a National Board-Certified teacher, highlighting the rigorous process and benefit to teachers and students. She then recognized the following new National Board-Certified teachers: Kymberlee Barrera, Katelyn Berry, Kathleen Gregerson, Tracy Hamar, Kendra Ledford, Cambri Longaker, Rebecca Maag, Ana Navarro, Shelby Osborn, Britni Royce, Cara Suarez, Melissa Trevino, and Morgan Valerio.

Career and Technical Education Month

Dr. Pierce presented information and a video highlighting Kennewick School District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings in recognition of CCTE Month. Dr. Pierce concluded by reading the Governor's proclamation designating February as CTE Month and thanking the district's CTE teachers.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Jenny Matthew thanked the Board for opposing two legislative bills during last week's Special School Board meeting. Ms. Matthew shared that no matter the outcome, it was important for her that the Board understands that the bills are restrictive and remove community voice and Board authority.

Dottie Stephens expressed concern about the special Board meeting on the two legislative bills. She stated that many people could not attend due to short notice and meeting time. She indicated that most people work, including three Board members who had to participate online. She expressed how easy it was to read the bills online and even print them out. Ms. Stephens shared that after reading the bills, she felt some local control still existed.

Diane Sundvik thanked Vic Roberts for always being transparent with the budget. She asked the Board to look closely at a cost-benefit ratio, not just the bottom-line dollar, as they begin to work on the 2024-25 school budget. Ms. Sundvik shared research showing the rate of return on money spent on non-academic programs that ultimately save taxpayer dollars and advance student health, safety, and graduation rates in the long run.

## CONSENT ITEMS

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

Seconded by Micah Valentine

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 Study Session February 13, 2024
- Minutes of School Board Meeting February 13, 2024
- Minutes of Special School Board Meeting February 20, 2024
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2023 - 2024
- Budget Status Report Ending January 31, 2024
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending January 31, 2024
- Recommendation Instructional Material

## COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOW UP

None

## SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Representative Mallory Dupaquier reported attending the February Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) meeting. She asked the SSAC committee to be available in April to be a part of the interview process for the new Deputy Successor Superintendent. Mallory invited the Board to attend the next SSAC meeting on March 13, where Dr. Pierce and Mallory will hold a focus group on Financial Literacy. Next, Mallory expressed that had she been given the opportunity for an advisory vote at the recent Special Board Meeting, she would have voted against Resolution No. 4. Mallory shared that she believes students truly value hearing the perspective and history of mainalized groups.

Superintendent Pierce shared that she presented the State of the District Update at the Tri-City Hispanic Chamber. She also shared that since the last Board meeting, she has had great visits to Westgate, Canon View, Amon Creek, and Washington elementary schools. Dr. Pierce also shared that she attended the Vista Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra recital and was a reader at Sunset View Elementary for Read Across America week, as were a number of Board members.

Board Member Mike Connors reported attending Sunset View Elementary for Read Across America week and reading a book called Potato Pants.

Board Member Josh Miller congratulated all the teachers who obtained National Board Certification and wished good luck to all the DECA teams heading to the state competition. He thanked all the community members who expressed their support for the Board's passing of Resolution No. 4.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill shared why she spent time reviewing the legislative bills last week and looking up each RCW to have credibility on what she was going to say, and she shared that she was happy to do it. Ms. Gledhill reported visiting the following schools: Fuerza Elementary School, Desert Hills Middle School, Highlands Middle School, Canyon View Elementary, Washington Elementary, Kennewick High, and Cascade Elementary. She also read to Sunset View Elementary School students for the Read Across America Week.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported attending Delta High School to speak at Career Day. He also shared that he met with community members for a cup of coffee and conversation to discuss why he voted the way he did on Resolution No. 4. Mr. Valentine shared that he talked with school boards across the state regarding Resolution No. 4. In addition, he stated that he also visited Sunset View Elementary to read to two groups of students for Read Across America. He added that a national journal asked him to write an



article explaining some of his positions, and he thanked the community for their feedback and support in passing Resolution No. 4.

President Gabe Galbraith attended Sunset View's social emotional learning (SEL) night and read two books to the students for Read Across America. He also shared that he attended Westgate Elementary's STEM night and an indoor soccer game where he recognized one of the students who participated in the Amazing Shake and saw him practicing in the community what he had learned in school.

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 2023 – 2024 Budget Update

Executive Director of Business Operation Vic Roberts presented projected student enrollment for the school year 2023-24 at 18,580 students compared to 18,430 budgeted. The increase of 150 students was primarily due to an increase in the Running Start program of 85 students and an increase of 49 students in grades 6 -12. Preliminary 2024-25 student enrollment is projected to decrease from current enrollment by 129 at grades K–5, with grades 6–12 remaining unchanged. Projected revenues were reviewed for the school year 2023-24. Historical and projected utility and liability insurance costs were reviewed. Challenges with the budget over the next few school years were explained, with enrollment projected to decline and other revenue sources projected to decrease. The district will have more information for projecting revenues and expenditures for school year 2024-25 after the legislative session ends on March 7.

### Middle School Math: Pathways and Highly Capable Update

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire reported on the refined middle school math pathways and highlighted how they include Honors Algebra and Honors Geometry and provide a continuum for highly capable students.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### Board Committees

Superintendent Pierce reported that during the February 13 Board study session, which focused on Strategies to Improve Graduation Rates and Post-secondary Outcomes, the Board discussed forming a Board committee to delve further into this topic. She shared that, per policy 1130, the Board may vote to create a Board committee with a specific

purpose and term, and that the Board President may appoint Board members to serve on such committees.

Dr. Josh Miller made a motion to create a Board Graduation and Post Secondary Preparation Committee, with the purpose and term as proposed.

Seconded by Micah Valentine.

Board discussion followed.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

President Galbraith appointed Brittany Gledhill and Josh Miller to serve on the Board Graduation and Post Secondary Preparation Committee.

#### NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. 2024-25 Preliminary Budget
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Academic Progress Update

Per the Board's request, the topic of Robert's Rules and seconding motions will be added to the agenda.


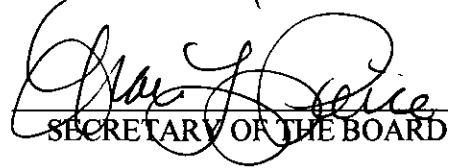
#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Gabe Galbraith announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 7:06 p.m. He moved the Board into executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue for approximately 30 minutes and noted that no further formal action would be taken. Executive Session started at 7:12 p.m.

#### OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Galbraith reconvened the regular session of the Board at 7:42 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

  
RECORDING SECRETARY

  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD  
  
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: March 13, 2024