MINUTES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was held in the Cheney High School auditorium and electronically via Zoom Webinar and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Swenson.

In attendance: Directors, Nicol, Dolle, Browne, Estrellado and Swenson

Also present: Superintendent Rob Roettger,
Assistant Superintendent Tom Arlt, and
Finance Director Jamie Weingart

ROLL CALL AND WELCOMING OF GUESTS

President Swenson expressed the Board’s appreciation to those in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Nicol.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Superintendent Roettger shared that Governor Inslee proclaimed the week of March 15 – 19, 2021 as School Retiree’s Appreciation week.

Superintendent Roettger shared Governor Inslee proclaimed the week of March 8 – 12, 2021 as Education Support Professionals week. He then announced Saralynn Kerr, a paraeducator at Salnave Elementary, as Classified Employee of the Year. Salnave Principal Celina Brennan honored Mrs. Kerr with some wonderful words. Assistant Principal Sara McKennon shared additional kind words of appreciation. PSE President Gary Albrecht shared that he appreciates Mrs. Kerr’s work ethic and service to the district and also mentioned that he appreciates the district for keeping all classified staff whole during the pandemic.

PACE Character Trait of the Month – Diligence: Persistence, dedication and hard work.

PARTICIPATION BY PUBLIC

There was no participation from the public requested.
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Director Browne moved that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 24, 2021 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Nicol and passed unanimously with the abstention of Director Dolle.

Director Browne moved that the minutes of the Board Work Session of March 3, 2021 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Estrellado and passed unanimously.

GENERAL CONSENT

Under the general consent agenda, the following items were approved on a motion by Director Nicol, seconded by Director Estrellado, and passed unanimously.

A. Personnel - Resolution No. 15-20-21, covering the Personnel Status Report for the month of March 2021, including Leaves and Resignations, and Out-of-Endorsements

B. Auditing of Bills and Signing of Vouchers

Payroll AP vouchers No. 237937 through No. 237937.......................... $1,241.71
General Fund vouchers No. 237938 through No. 237952 ............... $889,729.52
ASB Fund vouchers No. 237953 through No. 237956 ...................... $6,640.79
Capital Projects Fund vouchers No. 237957 through No. 237960....... $25,154.05
General Fund vouchers No. 237961 through No. 238018 ............... $232,498.60
Accounts Payable ACH .................................................. $23,543.25
Accounts Payable ACH .................................................. $14,291.60
Voided Accounts Payable ACH ........................................... $6,930.00
Accounts Payable Bank Wire ............................................. $128,260.28
Electronic Direct Deposit ................................................. $3,886,614.15

REPORTS

A. Enrollment and Financial Report

Finance Director Jamie Weingart shared that enrollment in each grade level is down just a little bit. We are using the enrollment information to plan and budget for next school year. Not much has changed in the fund balance since the last update. Round two of ESSER funds will help fund additional staffing the rest of this year.

Capital levy collections in 2020 and so far in 2021 total $2,023,200. Much of that has been spent on technology, and fleet vehicles. Work on safety upgrades, clocks, and intercoms as well as conference room upgrades are expected to begin soon.
B. Legislative Update

Director Dolle shared that March 9th was the last day to have bills considered, March 26th is last day to read committee reports, and April 25th is the last day of the legislative session. Mrs. Dolle then provided a brief update on the following bills:

- HB 1476 – addressing enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- SB 5128 – concerning student transportation funding during a local, state, or national emergency
- HB 1121 – concerning the emergency waiver of graduation requirements
- HB 1162 – concerning high school graduation credit and pathway options
- SB 5030 – developing comprehensive school counseling programs
- SB 5265 – creating a bridge year pilot program

C. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Rob Roettger started his report with the District mission statement and then provided a reminder of the district’s work in PLCs.

Mr. Roettger shared that Windsor Principal Vince Songaylo is retiring at the end of the school year and Laura Roehl will be assuming the role as principal of Windsor Elementary.

The Superintendent shared that SHB 1356 prohibits the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols or images as public school mascots, logos, or team names. He has briefly discussed this SHB with principal Heuett and together they will analyze the bill and involve students and the community in discussions as appropriate. The goal will be to be respectful and honor various viewpoints as this issue is considered.

Director Carol Lewis shared that there are several bills moving through the Senate at this time and shared information on a couple of them in regards to graduation requirements such as the high school and beyond plan, pathways, and credits.

HB 1121 – Waivers for Emergencies is currently on the Governor’s desk after passing the House and Senate. This bill, if signed, will allow some credits (and pathways) to be waived for some individuals that are in certain circumstances. The State Board of Education will create rules if it passes. All school districts were asked to provide input in which Cheney did.

HB 1162 – New Permanent Credit Waiver Option has passed the House and is in the Senate. This bill would allow students to graduate with 20 credits without compromising their high school and beyond plan. The State Board of Education will create rules if it passes. The District will consider how to link the proposed performance exhibition pathway to the existing course offerings and create a process for students to access this pathway.
SB 5265 – Gap Year for Juniors and Seniors has passed the Senate and is in the House. This bill requires OSPI to administer a pilot program allowing current Juniors and Seniors to take an additional year to graduate. The students would be considered Running Start students for allocation and would be able to engage in extracurricular activities. This would also require the removal of D and F grades on the students’ transcript if they earned a higher grade in the same course during that additional year.

HB 1208 - Flexibility in LAP Funding has passed through the House and is in the Senate. This bill requires districts to allocate LAP funding to identify and address academic and nonacademic needs of students resulting from the COVID state of emergency. It also would temporarily repeal K-4 literacy requirements and LAP Menus of Best Practices as well as expand the Extended Learning Opportunity Program to ninth and tenth graders. If this bill passes, we will begin identifying needs based on data and consider temporary changes to our use of intervention programs.

OSPI is in the application process to request the State Assessment Waiver. This waiver would allow for testing of a small portion of students, perhaps about 10% in Washington state and allow Washington to meet all accountability requirements. If the waiver application is approved, Cheney plans to gather benchmark data if all students are not required to test. The benchmark data would be iReady for elementary students and MAP for secondary students.

Superintendent Roettger shared that we are nearing the one-year mark of the initial closure of schools. He shared significant dates to show the progression throughout the last year.

Director Annie Wolfley shared that Teaching & Learning is working on bringing 4th and 5th grade students back fully after spring break. There has been communication with principals and teachers as well as a survey to parents of 4th and 5th graders. The number one concern is class size. There is a need for additional teachers to keep class sizes lower in order to comply with distancing requirements.

Next steps for secondary students include getting more students in person more of the time. Also, to continuously improve the current model of asynchronous and Zoom instruction.

Superintendent Roettger shared additional considerations for reopening. Transportation continues to be a topic of consideration. Transportation is currently running 38 routes whereas there were 55 routes prior to the closure last March. The District is considering staggered start and end times in order to transport all students daily.
While the plan is to start the 2021-2022 school year fully open for students, it will be contingent on health and safety protocols at the time. Questions such as "will the 6' distance rule still be in effect" and "do we have enough classrooms and staff to accommodate extended spacing requirements" are yet to be answered. The goal is to get students back to a full and normal schedule. The District will most likely offer a distance learning model for families moving forward into future years.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Second reading to consider new Policy No. 2195, Academic Acceleration

Assistant Superintendent Tom Arlt shared there are no new changes from the first reading and recommended approval.

Director Estrellado made a motion to adopt new Policy No. 2195 as presented. Director Browne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. First reading to consider adopting new Policy No. 5117, Civility

Assistant Superintendent Tom Arlt shared that this policy is not required by WSSDA yet many districts around the state are including Civility in their adopted policies.

There is an expectation that every staff person and volunteer behave and interact in a civil manner. This new policy outlines the expectations.

No action was taken.

B. Consideration to renew the two-year WIAA Cooperative Agreement with Medical Lake High School for Boys and Girls Swim

Superintendent Roettger shared that the District previously approved this cooperative agreement and recommends renewal. There are currently two swimmers from Medical Lake that join Cheney.

Director Nicol made a motion to renew the two-year WIAA Cooperative Agreement with Medical Lake High School for Boys and Girls Swim as presented. Director Browne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Director Nicol appreciates that she has been able to watch sporting events through the live streaming until we can attend in person.
ITEMS FROM THE STUDENT ADVISORS

Beckett Schoenleber shared that the Class of 2021 has been preparing for Senior prom. Because the maximum occupancy is 200 and there are 350 seniors, no other grade levels are allowed to attend. Safety protocols will be followed with masks, distance dancing, and an outdoor venue. He shared that cross-country runners are no longer required to wear a mask after they leave the starting line. Also, the National Honor Society has been looking for volunteer opportunities.

Rylan Welling shared that band is choosing a drum major. Running Start students will be taking finals in a week. The annual blood drive is coming up for Juniors and Seniors. There are volleyball games scheduled for Thursday after school.

Jackson Redder shared that yearbook group pictures were taken that day over Zoom. Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors will be selecting their classes for the next school year soon. ASB elections will take place in a couple of weeks. The Junior class is attempting to plan a Junior prom since they are not allowed to attend the Senior prom. Many sporting events are available for viewing via Facebook live pages and YouTube. High School Health Helpers will be using Kahoot as a tool to engage students. The first 100 participants will be receiving a free t-shirt. He reported that students seem to be getting used to the new normal. The transition to hybrid has gone better than expected. Students are excited to be back in school and to see people even though they can’t sit close together.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Director Nicol and seconded by Director Browne to adjourn the School Board meeting at 7:08 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Mitch Swenson, Board President

Robert W. Roettger, Board Secretary/Supt.