MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom Webinar and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Swenson.

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

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

ROLL CALL AND WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Director Browne made a motion to excuse Director Dolle from the meeting. Director Estrellado seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Nicol.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no correspondence or additional items.

PACE Character Trait of the Month – Honesty: sincerity and reverence or love for the truth.

PARTICIPATION BY PUBLIC

Mr. Bill Johns submitted the following comment: “Instead of lobbying OSPI to eliminate the State testing, as a taxpayer, I request that you lobby for the testing. If there is no testing this spring that will make two years of no indications of the Board-adopted Essential Foundations of “High Expectations and Continuous Progress” being achieved.

Referring to the Canvassing Board data from their meeting Feb. 19, 2021 documents, the Cheney School District special election, propositions 1 and 2 because of low turnout did not receive the 40% validation without the counting of the undervotes. As you know undervotes are when the ballot is blank and does not indicate a yes or no.”
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Director Nicol moved that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 10, 2021 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Browne and passed unanimously.

GENERAL CONSENT

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

A. Personnel - Resolution No. 14-20-21, covering the Personnel Status Report for the month of February 2021, including Leaves and Resignations, and Out-of-Endorsements

B. Auditing of Bills and Signing of Vouchers

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REPORTS

A. Financial Report

Finance Director Jamie Weingart shared the certified special election results confirming that both the EP&O and Capital levies passed. The school levy passage rate across Washington state was over 90%. There were no bond or transportation levies run during the February special election. She also stated that there is not a validation requirement for EP&O, Capital or Transportation levies.

Ms. Weingart shared that the transportation funding formula allocation is driven by student ridership. Ridership is reported at the beginning of October and February each year. With adjustments, the actual allocation amount is $1,717,146.97 with projected expenditures of $2,759,321.19.
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ESSER II Funding provides districts with short term relief funds to address the impacts of COVID-19. The preliminary allocation of $2,661,926 would need to be spent by September 2023 on approved expenses.

B. Legislative Update

Superintendent Roettger shared that there is a weekly meeting with the EWQSC committee that he attends. Also, he attended the annual WASAWSSDA/WASBO legislative conference on February 21st. He’s had several zoom meetings with legislators with several more scheduled.

Mr. Roettger gave a brief update on HB 1476 which is on enrollment stabilization, and SB 5128 which is on transportation stabilization.

C. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Rob Roettger started his report with the District mission statement and then spoke about re-opening schools. The 6’ distance requirement limits the number of students schools can have in classrooms and in the buildings. That requirement would have to change in order to have all students back in school together. The positive COVID-19 case rate is at 232 per 100,000 of residents averaged over a two-week period. February 25th is the first day that the district will have full cohorts together in grades 6-12.

There are four different learning choices for Cheney students. In-person learning is being utilized by 3,471 students; and, distance learning is being utilized by 1,226 students. There are 158 students in Home Works! and 64 students in full time running start. Mr. Roettger shared a graph showing student enrollment in each learning choice by grade level.

Assistant Superintendent Tom Arlt shared the district COVID-19 contact tracing data. With 4,324 staff and students on campus, there have been 914 potential cases tracked. Total positive cases since re-opening has been 68 and the total positive cases with an epi link is still zero. This data confirms that following the established safety protocols has been working.

Mr. Arlt shared information about COVID-19 diagnostic testing which will be a voluntary testing program coming soon to Cheney Public Schools and offered to staff and students. There is no cost to the district or individual for testing which would be administered by district nurses and health aids. Negative test results would allow students and staff to return to school faster. Testing is an additional mitigation strategy that the district plans to use.

SRHD has established three levels that schools will be placed in according to their specific positive case count. Level one places close contacts into quarantine.
Level two places cohorts and/or classrooms into distance learning with a re-evaluation at two weeks. Level three places the whole school into distance learning with a re-evaluation at two weeks.

Director Carol Lewis provided an update on state assessments for 2021. States can apply for a waiver for accountability and identification. States and schools would continue public reporting for the usual OSPI report card topics such as equity, improvement, and attendance. OSPI reported that Washington will be applying for the waiver and will be requesting a sample population to be assessed such as 3-10 percent of students being tested. If granted, the testing window will be much later in the school year and the tests will be shorter.

What we are doing right now is teaching students the priority standards and getting them on track to meet graduation pathways.

Superintendent Roettger provided an update on high school athletics. Athletics is operating in Season 1 with girls swim, volleyball, cheer, football, cross country and girls soccer. Certain games are going to be available via a live stream platform. Guidelines around how many spectators can be in attendance is being reviewed across the GSL and the league will present a consistent and uniform approach.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Second reading to consider revising Policy No. 2409, Credit for Competency-Proficiency

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

Director Browne made a motion to approve the revisions to Policy No. 2409 as presented. Director Nicol seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Second reading to consider revising Policy No. 2418, Waiver of High School Graduation Credits

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

Director Nicol made a motion to approve the revisions to Policy No. 2418 as presented. Director Browne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Director Carol Lewis shared that schools are required to assess students to determine if they are ready to advance to the next level of learning.
No action was taken.

B. Consideration to adopt the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Calendars

Assistant Superintendent Tom Artt shared that contracts require that we have a seven-person committee and that four calendar options are developed for each year and sent to all staff for a vote. Calendar option A was selected by the staff for each of the two years.

Director Estrellado made a motion to adopt the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school calendars as presented. Director Nicol seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Consideration to change the location of the March 10, 2021 School Board Meeting to the Cheney High School library

Superintendent Roettger shared that we’ve received approval to start holding public meetings in person as long as a virtual option still exists and we adhere to the distancing and other safety guidelines.

Director Browne made a motion to change the location of the March 10, 2021 School Board meeting to Cheney High School as presented. Director Nicol seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Director Browne expressed his appreciation for all of the tracking and tracing work that is being done to keep staff and students safe.

President Swenson thanked the community for passing the levy.

ITEMS FROM THE STUDENT ADVISORS

Steven Johnson thanked the staff and the Board for all of their work for students. The CHS Leadership class is planning a blood drive at the high school on March 22nd in the new auxiliary gym. CHS and WMS both had FBLA chapters compete in the winter conference. Both teams had a great turn out and the students did exceptionally well. Mr. Johnson shared that he appreciates that the superintendent starts his report out with the district mission statement each meeting. He will be meeting with different legislative representatives in the near future and keeping the district mission at the forefront.

Jackson Redder shared that students and staff are appreciative of going back to school in person and feel it is going well. The yearbook class has not been able to do group pictures so will be capturing photos virtually. The cost of yearbooks will be going up to $65.00. Individual pictures are still being taken in person. Mr. Redder reported that volleyball games have started and students are wearing their masks and keeping their
distance while together. The student perspective on the hybrid model is that they are excited to get back into a routine and do it in a safe way. High School Health Helpers are getting students involved virtually. Mr. Roberts recently shared that 116 Juniors have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Beckett Schoenleber mentioned that the CHS blood drive is a big deal. The high school recently held a pep con to show teacher videos to their students. Drive-in Trivia Night is currently being planned. Sports group photos are being taken and individual student pictures are complete.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Director Nicol and seconded by Director Browne to adjourn the School Board meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Mitch Swenson, Board President

Robert W. Roettger, Board Secretary/Supt.