

Tumwater School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting originating at the District Office
621 Linwood Avenue SW
Tumwater, WA 98512
October 22, 2020

Board Members Present: Melissa Beard, Casey Taylor, Stephanie Goebel, Darby Kaikkonen, Scott Killough, Sean Dotson (Secretary)

President Melissa Beard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and acknowledged that the Tumwater School District sits on the ancestral land of the Nisqually, Squaxin Island and Chehalis people.

Public Comment Reminder:

- President Melissa Beard outlined how the Public Comment portion of the meeting works.

Agenda Discussion/Approval:

- Agenda Changes: Superintendent Sean Dotson shared that there were not changes to the published agenda.

Public Comment

- Agenda and Non-Agenda Items: Tami Collins stated that no one signed up to address the Board.

Action Items

- Reopening Schools: Sean Dotson presented on this topic. He began by reviewing COVID data and discussed the letter that Public Health put out on the 14th, asking there to be a two week pause before schools come back to any form of in-person learning, including hybrid. He also shared that as of today Thurston County has moved into the High range. The district put out another survey to district parents and 48.7% recommend that the timeline be approved, 9.2% want us to wait and begin later and 26.6% said to not do any hybrid but to wait until all students can come back in person. 15.5% marked “other” and made many suggestions, some of them want us to accelerate the timeline. He shared staff results which included 29% who suggest approving the timeline, 19% do not want it approved and 39.3% want us to wait to do anything until everyone can come back in person. 12.7% chose “other” and made many suggestions. The survey was based around the timeline that was presented during the October 8th board meeting. Given what has happened since that time with regard to the increase in COVID cases in Thurston County and the data pointing towards us remaining in the high range, it is no longer practical for the Board to consider that timeline. He is now asking the Board to consider a framework for making

the decision so that we do not have to keep coming to the Board for approval every time something changes. The hope is that we could start at semester for secondary because switching over mid-term at that level would be a big challenge. He reviewed the proposed hybrid opening decision framework, sharing all of the things that must be in place in order to return, no matter the dates. The Board discussed the plan in detail, offering other suggestions including revisiting the entire return to in-person instruction plan. Details will be worked out at a later time as this is work that needs to be done by staff. He made the change to the framework to reflect the changes discussed. **Stephanie Goebel/Scott Killough, Moved/Seconded (M/S) to approve the Opening Decision Framework. The motion passed unanimously.**

With no further business coming before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:55pm with the Work Session to begin at 8:05pm.

Recorded by:
Tami L. Collins

Signed this 12th day of November, 2020.

Board Member

Board Secretary