

Tumwater School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting originating at the District Office
621 Linwood Avenue SW
Tumwater, WA 98512
July 23, 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 6:03pm and acknowledged that the Tumwater School District sits on the ancestral land of the Nisqually, Squaxin Island and Chehalis people.

Instructional Model for the 2020/2021 School Year

➤ Superintendent Sean Dotson and Assistant Superintendent Shawn Batstone presented on this topic. Superintendent Dotson began by reviewing the Roadmap to Re-Start, which is a timeline of the events that have occurred and will continue to occur with regard to getting a plan together for restarting school in September. He went on to review COVID-19 statistics, going back to June. He went on to review the data that came to us in June through a family survey and then the ThoughtExchange that went out to staff and families in July. 54% of the people participating said the A/B Day option was the best. Most of the comments posted were about the need for distance learning to be improved over the way in which it was offered during the Spring closure. There were a lot of comments/concerns about safety, cleaning and training needed for staff. Participants had a lot of questions about cleaning, testing and in general, how we plan to keep students and staff safe.

He moved back to the models considered and presented a continuum of options with a “green”, a “yellow” and a “red” option based on many factors based on guidance from the Department of Health, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor. Several districts up north have made the decision that they will be starting school with on-line services only. We are waiting to hear back from health officials before we make that decision. We are asking the Board to approve the continuum so that we have the freedom to move forward as necessary without having to delay by needing to come back to the Board for approval.

Assistant Superintendent Shawn Batstone discussed Tumwater Virtual Academy (TVA) and the fact that we will begin communicating details about it to families tomorrow. We will be focusing on ensuring that parents understand that if they choose this option, they are 100% on-line and will not have access to what is going on with those who are enrolled in the traditional sense and receiving in-person and virtual teaching/learning.

The Board is in agreement with the District moving forward with the options that are being presented, understanding that we will choose whichever option is appropriate based the evolution of this virus.

With no further business coming before the Board, President Melissa Beard adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 6:44pm and convened the Work Session.

Recorded by:
Tami L. Collins

Signed this 13th day of August, 2020.

Board Member

Board Secretary