

Tumwater School District
Special School Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting originating at
District Office
621 Linwood Avenue SW
Tumwater, WA 98512
May 28, 2020

Board Members Present: Melissa Beard, Darby Kaikkonen, Scott Killough, Casey Taylor, 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 will work.

Agenda Discussion/Approval:

- Agenda Changes: Superintendent Sean Dotson shared that an Executive Session was added at the end of the meeting since the agenda was originally published. **Darby Kaikkonen/Scott Killough, Moved/Seconded (M/S) to approve the amended agenda.**

Review of Minutes

- **Scott Killough/Casey Taylor, M/S to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

Special Recognition

- The student reps from each high school were to be recognized but it turns out none of them were able to participate this evening. Tami Collins will work with the Board on a way to formally thank them for their input and time throughout the course of the year.

Consent Agenda

- **Casey Taylor/Darby Kaikkonen, M/S to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:**

➤ Personnel Report

Employment:				
Jamie Escobar	Teacher	THE	Continuing (2020-2021)	TEA
Adjusted:				
Jon Halvorson	Principal	THE	From Assistant Principal at PGS to one year only Interim Principal at THE for the 2020/2021 school year	ADMIN
Cathy McNamara	Principal	TMS	One year only Interim Principal at TMS for the 2020/2021 school year	ADMIN
Retirement:				
Susan Dixon	Teacher	MTS	Effective June 19, 2020	TEA
Leaves:				
Jennifer DeHaan	Psychologist	Special Services	0.2 LOA for the 2020-2021 school year	TEA
Co-Curricular:				
Linda Moffitt	Health Services Coordinator (2020-2021)	SS		TEA
Recommend Approval Of:				
Recommend approval for a title change to the New Market Office Manager position, schedule 51, with the New Market Executive Assistant to Director beginning June 1, 2020, as approved by New Market's Administrative Council on May 15, 2020				
Recommend approval to update salary schedules 51 and 52, NMSC Office Manager, Administrative Secretary, and Registrar, effective June 1, 2020, as approved by New Market's Administrative Council on May 15, 2020				

- Capital Projects-Construction Contract Award: THS PAC Addition/Modernization-Scott Wall Construction
- Capital Projects-Acceptance of Contracts as Complete: THE Security Cameras and District Stadium Upgrades/Demolition.
- Transportation-Vehicle Surplus

Public Comment

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

Action Items

- Resolution 14-19-20, Delegating Authority to WIAA: Shawn Batstone. **Darby Kaikkonen/Scott Killough, M/S to approve Resolution 14-19-20, Delegating Authority to WIAA as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Other Business

- Budget Update: Sean Dotson began by sharing some headlines and quotes from articles from around the State regarding budget predictions given COVID-19 closures. Statements like “this could be worse than the Great Recession of 2008” and the fact that the State Senate chief budget writer says “everything is on the table” including potential furloughs and pay freezes.

Jim Brittain talked about information that OSPI has been sharing with district financial teams across the state. The State will get about \$216,000,000 through the CARES ACT Funding. Tumwater might get \$535,000. These are reimbursements for purchases made related to COVID only. Sean Dotson said that we have been warned to be careful in depending on this money as we still cannot fully count on it because it could be offset by cuts at the State level.

Some of the General Fund budget assumptions we are making to help develop the budget for next year include flat enrollment, conservative budget, may use unassigned fund balance reserves to establish a balanced budget, ability to make a 3% to 5% reduction in case of revenue shortfall, staff hiring freeze or staff reductions where possible, MSOCs-flat, new programs/projects on hold, determine how to reduce program overages, limit overtime or additional pay, limit travel and food for meetings and reduce contracted services. Sean outlined unknown enrollment factors such as K-3 class size, Running Start, online enrollment, homeschool, PK and kindergarten and transfers.

Sean reviewed FTE enrollment for the past four years, including how it is being calculated since the closure. Melissa Beard thanked Sean and Jim for all the work that has been done to get us to where we are, financially.

Jim explained the levy collection rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000, which is a \$3.5 million increase from the previous year. He reviewed 20-21 LEA for non-basic education funding. He reviewed the General Fund balance history and projection. Sean said thank you to Jim, who is putting a lot of work into finding ways to save money in any way possible so we have to make as few cuts to programming for students as possible! We will end the year with a fund balance of just over \$6 million with about \$1 million being unassigned, if State revenue does not result in a significant cut...which, unfortunately, seems likely.

Scott Killough said thank you for all the hard work!

Casey Taylor asked about overages and thanked everyone for their work. Jim shared that we are over in Transportation and Special Education but said that Kelli Ehresmann is doing a great job in monitoring this and noted that serving these students the way they need to be served usually causes overages! Melissa Beard agreed with this.

Darby Kaikkonen is pleased with the district being very conservative in planning. She confirmed her understanding that idea of the CARES ACT funding is directly related to COVID and is reimbursable only.

Superintendent's Reports

- Superintendent's Remarks: Sean began with a review of COVID timelines and the current status, which brings us into Phase 2 in Thurston County.

BY THE NUMBERS:

20,181: Number of COVID cases in Washington.

99.21: It is our confirmed contact rate.

46: The number of students that we are still unable to reach across the district.

92.2: The average number of students identified as engaged in at least one period.

73.9: The average attendance across all class periods.

16: Days left in school year.

104: Days to prepare for the 20-21 school year.

He provided some follow-up regarding public comment from the last board meeting. 11 teachers were impacted by involuntary transfer this year, based on various reasons. A couple of these ended up not being involuntary because other staff members stepped up to voluntarily transfer.

Tara Richerson talked a bit about how teachers are taking attendance and how we are measuring "engagement" and what attendance looks like during a standard year. Sean talked about some of the reasons why students may not have been engaging.

Sean gave an update on graduation for the class of 2020 and the committee work done to make the decision. Students said they want to have family present and so plans started forming from there. In June there will be an individual recognition for those who are unable to wait until later, maybe leaving for the military or some other commitment they have made. The graduation ceremony will be on July 31st for THS and August 1st for BHHS, with details to come based on gathering restrictions at the time. If restrictions have not changed, we will have to resort to doing individual recognition.

We are working on a plan for next year with our own Back To School Team and outlined what each departments are focusing on. We have to have a lot of processes in place to keep students and staff safe. OSPI has a workgroup going with over 120 participants working to provide guidance. We have been told only that we must plan for a non-tradition start to the school year and we should be prepared to pivot to a

more robust continuous learning environment. There are currently three different types of potential openings that will be offered by the State, based on whether or not our County/area is Low Risk, Moderate Risk or High Risk and the options range from a traditional opening to continuing with continuous learning. We also have to consider that even if we are back to traditional school, there may be students who cannot return and will work towards options.

Melissa Beard is happy to be conservative with the health and safety of our students!

Lastly, Sean discussed Board meeting schedules, this year and next. He suggested adding a Board Retreat on June 25th since we will have a new board member by then. He also suggests cancelling the July 13th Workshop but changing the July 23rd meeting to a Work Session. Board members were in agreement. For next year, the hope is that the 2nd Thursday of the month will be a business meeting in the evening. The 4th Thursday will include a morning Learning Walk in Schools, a 5pm SIP Discussion with the Principal and a 6pm Work Session. We will bring a calendar to the Board for consideration.

Board Member Comments

- Darby Kaikkonen: She has been wanting to make sure we are planning as far into the future as possible. There is a strong need to make sure we care clearly communicating with our community. All of us have access to updates and information about COVID via work and board meetings but is often reminded that community members do not. Regarding the list of participants on the OSPI return to school workgroup, she brought up that there doesn't seem to be a lot of consideration of mental health in the representation. Bigger problems start to come into play if these needs are not identified. She plans to start carefully looking at her role as the Legislative Rep for the board.
- Scott Killough: Today a local district announced that they cut all athletics. And it was after they made cuts to academic programs. He really wants to thank our community for passing our levies! We do not have to make these kind of decisions and he is very thankful! We are very fortunate and in a better place than some other districts.
- Casey Taylor: He agrees it is very unfortunate that other districts are having to cut sports programs. He does not feel very good about the OSPI workgroup and has more confidence in the TSD Back To School Team. The Governor will say when school will open. OSPI will decide what that looks like and knows that our team is doing great work.
- Melissa Beard: If we were in "normal" times we might not be having these same conversations. Darby brought up mental health and she feels our kids need support in "normal" times and even more so now.

The regular meeting recessed at 7:47pm. The Executive Session began at 7:55pm and was scheduled to last approximately 45 minutes. The Executive Session ended at 8:39pm and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:39pm.

With no further business coming before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Recorded by:
Tami L. Collins

Signed this 11th day of June, 2020.

Board Member

Board Secretary