

**Tumwater School District**  
**Special School Board Meeting Minutes**  
Zoom Meeting originating at  
District Office  
621 Linwood Avenue SW  
Tumwater, WA 98512  
May 14, 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 the Sponsorship of WSSDA Legislative Position has been added to Action Items on the agenda since it was originally published. **Scott Killough/Darby Kaikkonen, Moved/Seconded (M/S) to approve the amended agenda.**

**Review of Minutes**

- **Darby Kaikkonen/Scott Killough, M/S to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Election/Appointment**

- Vice-President: Casey Taylor stated he would be willing to serve in this role until December 2020. President Melissa Beard asked three times if there were other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.
- Legislative Representative: Darby Kaikkonen stated she would be willing to serve as the Legislative Representative for the District until at least December 2020, when the Board will review Committees and Assignments.

**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

<b>Employment:</b>				
Alison Fisher	Registrar	NMSC	Effective May 18, 2020	Non-Rep
Anna Sullivan	SLP	Special Services	Continuing (2020-2021)	TEA
Mackenzie Dunphy	SLP	Special Services	Continuing (2020-2021)	TEA
Kelley Devoe	OT	Special Services	Continuing (2020-2021)	TEA
Omar Flores	Assistant Director of Special Services	DO	Effective July 1, 2020	ADMIN
<b>Resignation:</b>				
Corey Fleischer	Speech Language Pathologist	Special Services	Effective end of the 2019/20 school year	TEA
<b>Retirement:</b>				
Penny Marksheffel	Teacher	EOE	Effective at the end of the 2019/20 school year	TEA
Gloria Wilson	Office Professional	BHHS	Effective June 30, 2020	TOPA
Judy Fondaw	Teacher	PGS	Effective at the end of the 2019/20 school year	TEA
<b>Leaves:</b>				
Lacie Rotella	Bus Driver	Transporation	LOA starting April 8, 2020, returning September 1, 2020.	PSE
Robyn Knight	Teacher	MTS	LOA for the 2020-2021 school year, returning the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year	TEA
Emily Weber	Counselor	THE	0.4 LOA for the 2020-2021 school year	TEA
Molly Saylor O'Rear	Teacher	MTS	0.2 LOA for the 2020-2021 school year	TEA
Sarah Wyrembek	Registered Nurse	Special Services	0.4 LOA for the 2020-2021 school year	TEA
Melinda Mulcahy	Teacher	BHHS	0.2 LOA for the 2020-2021 school year	TEA
<b>Co-Curricular:</b>				
Brian Hardcastle	Administrative Oversight for Cascadia High School	CHS		N/A

- Payroll and Vouchers
- Budget Status Report
- Capital Projects-Acceptance of Contracts as Complete: BHHS Fire Alarm System Install; BHHS Safety, Security & PAC; THS Career Center Update; District Stadium Upgrades.
- Capital Projects-Change Order: #4 for TALC
- Annual Perkins Report-NMSC

### **Public Comment**

- Agenda and Non-Agenda Items: Tami Collins stated that she has four submissions for Public Comment, all on the topic of support for Henry Valz, who is a teacher at Black Hills High School.

### **Action Items**

- Resolution 13-19-20, Emergency Waiver of School Days and Instructional Hours: Sean Dotson presented this item. Shawn Batstone addressed the Continuous Learning Plan that is attached to this Resolution and is required to be submitted to OSPI. He gave detailed information and examples of the grading portion of the plan to include all the things that could be considered. Ella Jimenez asked for clarification as to whether or not the grading scale had been adjusted and Shawn Batstone explained that it was, after feedback from students and teachers. The topic of how an “Incomplete” would be assigned and the fact that those are very rare situations and that there would be a plan in place when that is being considered. Melissa Beard asked if teacher evaluations are being considered given this unique situation. Superintendent Dotson shared that OSPI gave guidance as we apply the “do no harm” model to teacher evaluations in addition to student grading. If the Board approves the Resolution and Continuous Learning Plan, communication would go out to staff, parents and students. **Darby Kaikkonen/Scott Killough, M/S to approve Resolution 13-19-20, Emergency Waiver of School Days and Instructional Hours as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Sponsor WSSDA’s Legislative Position-No Mid-School-Year Budget Cuts: Melissa Beard presented this item. In the past, the Legislature has cut funding to school districts after the start of the school year. The Board agrees to support WSSDA’s position on this topic.

### **Student Reports**

- Genevieve Dabrowski- Cascadia High School: She received her cap, gown and diploma case, which reads Cascadia High School. As far as credits is concerned, she has essentially graduated. She hopes for something in person so that it feels real and agrees with Emma and Ella that she does not want a virtual ceremony.
- Ella Jimenez- Tumwater High School: She feels like students will be happy with the resolution and grading decisions. Students are upset about all they are missing out on. She will be participating in the second Graduation Planning Committee meeting and hopes that something other than virtual will happen. Perhaps at the stadium.
- Emma Prybylski- A.G. West Black Hills High School: She was part of the Graduation Planning Committee, where they looked at the results of the ThoughtExchange put

out to parents and seniors. She would be happy with anything other than a virtual graduation ceremony! Some of the AP tests were this week and she has been doing work in an attempt to improve her grades. She thinks people at BHHS will be pleased with the grading decisions.

### **Superintendent's Reports**

- Superintendent's Remarks: He began by providing some follow-up on public comment. He let Henry Valz, who is on the Zoom meeting, that he will reach out to set up a meeting. He started by saying that although the State is losing revenue at an unprecedented rate but at this time we are not losing any staff. We don't really know how much the \$4-\$6 billion deficit will impact us or when.

With the State really emphasizing career pathways and many new courses that provide science credits. This is a good thing as it provides students with options. Students are choosing these pathways, which means that the general physics course had only 12 requests. During a better financial time, we might be able to run courses with a class that is not full. Unfortunately, we do not have a lot of options as to where we can make adjustments. He recognizes that Henry provides a College in the High School course and it is a problem we will have to solve. There are courses at both high schools that will not be offered due to low demand and BHHS does have at least one physics class that is not offered at THS. He is glad we don't have to let anyone go but acknowledges that these decisions are definitely not easy.

He reviewed COVID-19 data in Thurston County and time-line of events such as closures and phased plan to reopen.

#### **BY THE NUMBERS:**

17,512: The total COVID-19 cases in Washington State.

98.93: The District's confirmed contact rate percentage.

68: The number of students we are still trying to reach.

95: Percentage of students reporting as engaged for the week of May 2-8. He shared average rate of attendance at each building, with all schools reporting in the 90s. He added that there are 24,718 attendance marks for a typical day in TSD so there is definitely room for error but we will continue to improve.

1,605: Number of responses to first community feedback survey, asking how we are doing as a district. He shared some of the results. We will send this survey again at a later date to see if we are making improvements.

He shared an update on the Graduation Task Force. The committee includes student board reps, class presidents, senior advisors, principals, parents and himself. The consensus seems to be something in person is the goal and now we try to figure out time-frames and the different stages the Governor has outlined. The group meets again on May 19<sup>th</sup> and will hopefully come to a decision, after a survey goes out to seniors to see how long they would be willing to wait.

Lastly, a fun and interesting by the numbers: 20,690 is the KWh produced by PGS solar panels since October, which is 8% of the electricity used by the school.

Our teachers and staff are trying to make connections with students and he appreciations everything everyone is doing during this challenging time.

Darby Kaikkonen asked about the Fall and the planning that is beginning in some areas. Sean Dotson shared some of the options that are currently being discussed and the plan is that official guidance from OSPI in cooperation with the Governor's office will be offered to districts by the end of June.

Principals are leading the efforts to help with some sort of closure for students and staff this year. One way that was shared was an end of the year/goodbye parade. It might look different at different buildings.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Scott Killough: He was the driver as his wife participated in the PGS parade and it was really fun! He noticed that there were 41 participants on the Zoom tonight. He talked about pros and cons of a Zoom vs an in-person meeting. He is hoping for some data regarding how many students from BHHS went to Running Start in some manner and wants to know the same info next year. He is interested to know why BHHS is always several hundreds of enrolled students under THS even though the numbers at the elementary and middle schools is equal. We have 11 teachers who are thankfully not losing their jobs but will have work to do over the summer and we need to support them.
- Casey Taylor: He wondered if the 11 teachers have been given new assignments yet. He congratulated the seniors! Juniors are already starting to miss out on the senior year and wants to acknowledge them too. Thinks we need to do everything we can to take the reality of what the Fall will likely look like seriously. He heard from several teachers on-line about being willing to track down students who are not engaged. He wants to keep the momentum going in engaging students. We have come a long way with our Zoom meetings but he recognized that there are many people on specifically to support Henry Valz, who is a great teacher and loved by students and colleagues. He is happy we will not be losing anyone. He hopes to talk with district staff to get more info about this process.
- Darby Kaikkonen: All the submissions for all the seniors on Facebook! She loves seeing all the backstories for everyone. It is very special and she appreciates it. She wanted to talk a bit about dual-credit as a strategy in getting Juniors and Seniors their credits. In her job there have been a lot of questions about Running Start and can confirm that participation is increasing. It is a nationally recognized best practice and a high priority for Superintendent Chris Reykdal. Overall enrollment is down but Running Start is up compared to last year. It is beginning to emerge as a strategy for Juniors and Seniors who might not be able to return to the buildings this Fall. She feels it is critical that we plan for it and acknowledge it as it could see astronomical growth. She is hoping that a budget update for the Board is coming.

- Melissa Beard: She mentioned that the BHHS students won an award for a video they put together for the middle schools welcoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and she is wondering if something like that could be done.

With no further business coming before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:19pm

Recorded by:  
Tami L. Collins

Signed this 28th day of May, 2020.

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Board Member

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Board Secretary