

**Tumwater School District
Special School Board Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Meeting originating at
District Office
621 Linwood Avenue SW
Tumwater, WA 98512
April 30, 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 nothing has been added to the agenda since it was originally published.

Review of Minutes

- **Scott Killough/Darby Kaikkonen, Moved/Seconded (M/S) to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

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

Employment:				
Matt Ishler	Executive Director	NMSC	Effective July 1, 2020	ADMIN

Public Comment

- Agenda and Non-Agenda Items: Tami Collins stated that she did not receive any submissions for Public Comment.

Action Items

- 2nd Reading, Policy 2409, Credit for Competency-Proficiency: Shawn Batstone presented this item. **Casey Taylor/Scott Killough, M/S to approve Policy 2409, Credit for Competency-Proficiency as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Resolution 12-19-20, Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation Credits-State: Sean Dotson presented this item. **Scott Killough/Darby Kaikkonen, M/S to approve Resolution 12-19-20, Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation Credits-State as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Superintendent's Reports

- Superintendent's Remarks: Sean began with a review of the timeline of COVID 19 in Thurston County and school closures, including the announcement that the stay at home order from the Governor will be extended beyond the original end date of May 4, 2020 but we do not yet know the date or the plan. OSPI has announced their outline for grading with the plan to "do no harm" and guidance was provided to school districts for assigning grades to students in grades 9-12. March 17, 2020 is being used as a baseline. Meaning, the grade a student had on that date is the lowest grade they can receive in a class. They can go up from there but not down. D, F and NC or not options available and districts do have some flexibility with how they proceed with As, Bs, Cs and Incompletes.

Tara Richerson shared that she worked with separate focus groups consisting of principals, teachers, registrars, parents and students to discuss the grading options. Eventually, reps from each of those groups formed a larger group to continue discussing the issue. They are looking at expanding the scale so what might normally qualify as a B, could be an A and are looking more deeply into how/when an Incomplete would be given. It was mentioned that Seattle School District voted to give students either an A or an Incomplete, which brought up the question as to whether or not that puts Tumwater students at a disadvantage. Tara said she did not believe that was the case as most districts are not doing what Seattle did, this is only one semester on their transcript and all of these grades will have an indicator to remind the reviewer that the grade was assigned during COVID. They are being very mindful about why students are not engaged before an Incomplete is given. Sean said that student contact rates are at 97.54% so working with students and families is continuing and the plan is to not give an Incomplete unless it is the only appropriate option.

OSPI will be collecting engagement rates next week and we have started the processing of gathering that data. Last week 68.26% of our students had logged into their google accounts. Of course, that number does not take into consideration all the other ways that students are engaged such as packets, especially at the elementary level.

Sean talked a bit about graduation for the Class of 2020. A ThoughtExchange was sent out to parents of seniors and seniors with 166 people participating, mostly parents. He outlined the results and stated that since we do not know yet when we

will have to ability to have any size public gathering, we are unable to make a final decision but stated that a virtual ceremony is the very last resort. This issue will continue to be discussed.

Shawn Batstone talked about the professional development that has been going on this week, including Generation Wellness, Shifting our Schools and Synchronous vs Asynchronous on-line learning. He thanked Technology and Student Learning staff for all the work they have been doing.

Jim Brittain shared that he participated in the exit interview with the auditor's office. The audit was not on site as it usually is but done remotely. There were no issues or findings and he wanted to thank Bob Gibson for everything he did to ensure that Food Services passed with flying colors!

Beth Scouler announced that Cathy McNamara will be taking the Interim Principal position at Tumwater Middle School next year. Interviews for the Tumwater Hill Principal position will be held on May 12, 2020. Brian Hardcastle will take on the Administrator role at Cascadia High School. The announcements to staff regarding Cathy and Brian generated a lot of supportive and appreciative messages from staff...people are excited! Lastly, Matt Ishler will take the position at New Market Skills Center and is already hard at work with Kris Blum as he prepares for the transition.

BY THE NUMBERS:

14070: The number of COVID cases in Washington State

169: The number of participants in Google Classroom-Beginners training.

184: The number of participants in Google Classroom-Intermediate training.

124: The number of participants in Google Classroom-Advanced training.

82: The number of participants in SeeSaw professional development.

91: The number of participants in instructional video professional development.

46: The number of participants in Google Certification Level 1.

28: The number of participants in Google Certification Level 2.

16: The number of participants in Google Independent Study.

He is so proud of our staff. Everyone is stepping-up and finding ways to contribute.

Kelli Ehresmann responded to a question by sharing that they are relatively on track with IEP meetings. The only ones that have not been completed are those where the parents have opted out of having the meeting at this time. There are a variety of things going on as far as services such as packets and YouTube channels. She echoed Sean's appreciation for those trying new things and finding a way to reach students and families!

Shawn Batstone talked a bit about ELL students and shared that Lisa Justice has been reaching out and even doing home visits.

Board Member Comments

- Darby Kaikkonen: She was on the auditor's exit call with Jim and she offered her congratulations to him for the positive results! As a parent, she has seen a big change from just a couple weeks ago and feels that everyone is going above and beyond! She appreciates teachers being honest in tell kids and parents that they are learning too. She has a student who will be entering Tumwater High School next year and she appreciated the video that they put together regarding registration. It was very impressive and she thinks that the students going in to middle school could really benefit from something similar.
- Casey Taylor: He offered his congratulations to the four schools recognized by OSPI and also to New Market for their engagement rate...very impressive! He is hoping that the 1100 Fs that are out there right now drops considerable as well as the number of students that across the district that we still have not had contact with (156.) He wants to hear more about summer school and what the Fall might look like. He would like to hear from our student board reps, especially on grading and graduation. He does not like the use of "incomplete" and said that students didn't get professional development days to learn how to learn on line. They don't necessarily need four days but this way of learning is new to them too.
- Scott Killough: He offered congratulations to Tara for all her hard work and interpreting everything coming down from OSPI. He is struggling also with tissue of "incomplete" and his focus is really on the seniors. He looks forward to further discussion on this issue. He truly looks forward to graduation each year and has been since he was elected to the Board. He has been to every single graduation and he thinks it is a great idea to have the ceremony outside at the stadium.
- Melissa Beard: She shared that WSSDA has calls two days a week (info is on their website) that provide a lot of great information for board members. She knows districts will be planning but until we hear from the Governor, we don't know for sure what we can and cannot move forward with. She reminded everyone that there is an opening on the board. Current board members should think about who should serve as the Vice President and who should serve as the Legislative Representative. She loves that her aunt, who is at BMS and about to retire has been learning new technology...for the kids! She got to see the Black Lake Elementary parade. Everyone was happy and smiling!

With no further business coming before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Recorded by:
Tami L. Collins

Signed this 14th day of May, 2020.

Board Member

Board Secretary