

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Administration Building
September 25, 2024

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: Gabe Galbraith, President of the Board; Micah Valentine, Vice President of the Board; Brittany Gledhill, Legislative Representative of the Board; Dr. Josh Miller, Board Member; Mike Connors, Board Member; Annie Maltos, Student Representative to the Board; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Student Board Member-Elect: Diego Anguiano

Cabinet Members: Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education; Alyssa St. Hilaire, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations; Dr. Thomas Brillhart, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; and Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations.

Excused: Ron Cone, Executive Director of Information Technology

Other Guest(s): Bronson Brown, District Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

President Gabe Galbraith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 166 online and in-person staff and guests.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Linda Johnson spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Blair Johnson spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Tawna Newland spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Alexander Newland spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Michelle Holmes spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Joey Rivera spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Nikki Wood spoke in favor of Communities in schools.

Michele Larrabee spoke in favor of Communities in schools.

Kelci Davey spoke in favor of Communities in schools.

Mallia Holmes spoke on behalf of her sister in favor of Communities in Schools.

Anita McDaniel spoke regarding an allergic reaction her friend is having and expressed concerns about environmental/air quality at Keewaydin Discovery Center.

Noemi Simental spoke in favor of Communities in schools.

Judy Fredrickson spoke on behalf of Bruce Cannard, in favor of Communities in Schools.

Elida Alvarez spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Makayla Surgeon spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Sharon Williams spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Logan Misuraca spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Aranzazu Castellano spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Heather Henrikson spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Allie Register spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Michael Clark spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

Rachel LaBelle spoke in favor of Communities in Schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Micah Valentine to approve the consent items as presented.

Roll call vote:	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes
	Mr. Connors	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of School Board Study Session September 11, 2024
- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting September 11, 2024

- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Kennewick Association of Education Support Professionals Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Interagency Contracts for Special Education Services 2024-25

COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOW UP

Superintendent Dr. Pierce followed up regarding the superintendent search timeline and process. She shared that Bill Jordan from Northwest Leadership Associates suggested the following timeline: post the position in October, open it through the calendar year's end, and close it in early January. She stated that this would enable the Board to review applications in January and conduct first-round interviews in early February. Then, finalist interviews, including the full-day sessions that include candidate interviews with staff, families/community, and students, would be held in late February, and the goal would be to complete and finalize the hiring process in March, as she will retire on June 30, and the new superintendent will start on July 1. Dr. Pierce stated that Bill Jordan, President Galbraith, and she will work on updating the posting and share it with the entire Board for review prior to posting in early October. Dr. Pierce also stated that Robyn Chastain will update the superintendent search webpage on the district website with the timeline, information, and position posting.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported that the “Focus on Learning” Professional Development Day was held on Friday, September 20, and the keynote speaker was Isaac Butts. She shared that Isaac offers Culture Boost and Connect the Dots social-emotional learning training for teachers. Dr. Pierce also shared that district legal counsel, Bronson Brown, will be leaving the district on November 30, after 21 years of service providing both in-house and contracted legal services.

Board Member Mike Connors thanked everyone for coming out to share their public comments.

Board Member Dr. Josh Miller shared that he has been researching Community in Schools and student test taking. He thanked everyone for speaking and sharing their concerns.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing their comments regarding Communities in Schools. She reported attending the WSSDA General Assembly virtually and shared that the Board has an opportunity to submit their position priorities.

Board Member Micah Valentine shared about the Focus on Learning Keynote speaker Isaac Butts. He also stated that he is grateful that everyone showed up to share their comments about Communities in Schools.

President Gabe Galbraith thanked all those who shared t during the public comment period. He reported attending the Focus on Learning Professional Day and meeting with Bill Jordan, Bronson Brown, and Dr. Pierce regarding the superintendent and legal counsel positions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Family Navigator Program and Communities in Schools

President Galbraith opened the floor for the Board's discussion. The discussion resulted in no change; the district will continue the partnership with Communities in Schools.

President Galbraith announced a five-minute break at 7:40 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Family/Parent Involvement and Engagement Efforts

Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations Robyn Chastain, provided an overview of the Spring 2024 results of the district's annual family survey by highlighting the strengths and opportunities identified in the survey results. She also shared actions taken to get results and highlighted ParentSquare implementation. Ms. Chastain also provided an overview of the communications department's efforts for 2024-25, including the formation of a communications advisory.

NEW BUSINESS

Lobbyist Discussion

Superintendent Dr. Pierce shared information that she had gathered regarding the services that lobbyists provide to districts and the costs of such services. She also stated that there are other positions in which the Board has expressed interest, such as a grant writer, and that the district will need to find new legal counsel. The Board expressed interest in exploring a potential partnership with Richland and Pasco and asked Dr. Pierce to discuss this possibility with her superintendent colleagues.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. Capital Projects Update
- B. Capital Budget
- C. Student Safety Efforts

EXECUTIVE SESSION

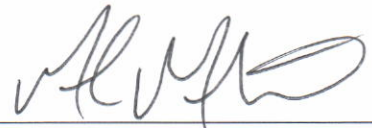
President Gabe Galbraith announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 8:33 p.m. He moved the Board into executive session at 8:40 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue and RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to discuss a personnel issue for approximately 40 minutes. Mr. Galbraith noted that no further formal action would be taken. At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Galbraith extended the executive session for an additional 20 minutes.

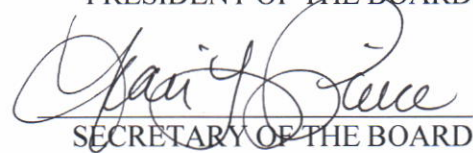
OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Galbraith reconvened the regular session of the Board at approximately 9:30 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



RECORDING SECRETARY



PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD


SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: October 9, 2024