



**Board Work Session Minutes  
Monday, November 4, 2024**

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The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, November 4, 2024. The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was held at District Office. Directors Cannon, Gray, Burchard, Nolan and Killman were present. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley.

**I. Approval of the Agenda**

Director Gray made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended (*Safety & Security Report* was moved up in the agenda order to take place prior to *Calendar Discussion* and following *Bond Refunding Discussion*). Director Nolan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. Bond Refunding Discussion**

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson introduced Cory Plager of D.A. Davidson & Co. who presented information to the board on the possibility of refunding 2015 bonds that will, in 2025, be eligible for refunding/refinancing. Refunding of these bonds has the potential of saving taxpayers approximately \$4.2 million (net projected savings).

Information shared included:

- A review of election history for the Mead School District (levies & bonds).
- Notation that refunding reduces taxes paid by local taxpayers. It does not create new money.
- Bonds issued by the Mead School District in 2015 are callable 90 days before the June 1, 2025 *Call Date*.
- The bond amount eligible for refunding is \$40,280,000. This equates to a projected refunding savings percentage of 9.79%.
- The current bond coupon interest rate is 4.79%. The projected new bond tax rate would be slightly below 4% (10-year term).

Mr. Plager explained that, by law, a refunding must provide savings to taxpayers in each year and cannot extend the term of the current bond. A bond rating review is customary to increase investor demand. The district's current bond rating is A1. While it is hoped the A1 rating would not change upon review, even if it were lowered to A2 or A3 it would still make financial sense to consider refunding.

Regarding timeline, the board will revisit this topic in the near future.

**III. Safety & Security Report**

Business & Operations Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley briefly reviewed the following safety and security measures that are in place throughout the district:

- Single Point of Entry
- Visitor Management - Volunteers
- Visitor Management - Hall Pass Program
- Power of Hello
- Homeland Security Partnership
- District and School Building Safety Meetings
- School Safety Drills
- Standard Response Protocol
- Student Threat Assessment

- Anonymous Reporting and if you *See Something, Say Something*
- AED and *Stop the Bleed* Kits
- Cyber Protections – Filters and Protocols
- Two-Factor Authentication
- Student ID Cards and Bus Tracking
- Spokane Sheriff Deputies as School Resource Deputies (SRDs)
- Communication

Regarding the start-up of a new community *Safety Task Force*, Dr. Hoadley shared the district will be soliciting volunteers via the upcoming *Mead Matters* newsletter. Discussion included the importance of providing opportunities for the larger community to have opportunities to share input/concerns with the task force. Board members were invited to send Dr. Hoadley suggested priority areas for task force consideration. It is anticipated task force recommendations will be presented to the board in April. The recently passed levy includes \$1 million annually for safety and security upgrades/expenditures.

Regarding *Stop the Bleed* kits, Dr. Hoadley noted there is currently a kit in the same cabinet that houses AED devices at each district school/site. The district is working toward the goal of having a kit in each classroom.

#### **IV. Calendar Discussion**

Public Information Officer Todd Zeidler shared two calendar options for the upcoming school year (25/26). The district has a long-standing practice of providing two calendar options for staff to vote on each year. This is followed by board action/approval of the option that receives the most staff votes.

The two presented options are very similar. In both options school starts the day after Labor Day (September 2<sup>nd</sup>), Thanksgiving Break includes the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a non-student day and Winter Break is two weeks. Option A has January 26<sup>th</sup> as a snow make-up day with the last day of school being June 17<sup>th</sup>. In Option B January 26<sup>th</sup> is a regular school day, the last day of school is June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> is designated as a snow make-up day.

Superintendent Hanson shared that in the 2025/2026 school year Mead and Spokane will be the only school districts starting after Labor Day. Many school districts in the region have moved to, or in 2026/27 have plans to move to, a more balanced calendar. Knowing that, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens, in December, will convene a calendar committee to explore alternative calendar options for the Mead School District. A part of this process will be reporting to the board in early spring and soliciting feedback from stakeholder groups in-person and via a community survey.

Discussion included the importance of making sure there is early and transparent communication with stakeholders when it comes to any substantive changes to the traditional school year calendar.

#### **V. October 21, 2024 First Reading Policy/Procedure Discussion**

At the October 21, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting the following five policies/procedures were presented for first reading, non-action, revision or adoption:

- **Policy & Procedure 2162** (Adoption)  
Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- **Policy 2411** (Adoption)  
High School Equivalency Certificate
- **Policy 2230** (Adoption)  
Transition to Kindergarten Program

- **Policy 2108** (Adoption)  
Learning Assistance Program
- **Procedure 2190** (Revision)  
Highly Capable Program

Following discussion that was centered primarily on the proposed revision to Procedure 2190, President Cannon confirmed all five policies/procedures can be brought forward for second reading action via Consent Agenda on November 25, 2024.

## **VI. Superintendent Update**

Superintendent Hanson updated the board on the following topics:

**Outdoor School** - Ned Wendle, Director of Facilities & Planning, is exploring other location options for the district's *Outdoor School*. The district currently rents the Camp Dart-Lo facility on the Little Spokane River. There is the potential that new Spokane Regional Health District requirements may necessitate upgrades to Camp Dart-Lo in order for the *Outdoor School* to remain on the site. Knowing upgrades at Dart-Lo are probable, and from a program sustainability standpoint, the district is being proactive/prudent in looking to see if another location option makes more sense long-term.

**Security Bid** - The security bid, that the board via resolution on October 21, 2024, authorized to be reopened, has received multiple bids. Board approval of the security bid will be on the December business meeting agenda.

**Classroom Display/Décor Policy** - Superintendent Hanson shared school administrators, regarding input on an official classroom display/décor policy, for a variety of reasons, have opted to defer to the school board when it comes to the subject matter to be included in such a policy.

Following discussion, that included acknowledgement that a classroom display/décor policy could generate a lot of "what if" conversations and may result in some pushback, Superintendent Hanson noted he would forward to board members WSSDA's sample policy on *Staff Expression*. Reference was also made to a sample policy drafted by attorney Paul Clay and Director Killman shared she would forward some sample policy language.

**Other Topics** - Superintendent Hanson provided an update on a recent Title IX investigation and shared that feedback from a recent *Inside the 354* staff communication was very positive. Folks were particularly interested in the location of the recent future school site property purchase made by the district. There was also discussion on the topic of how maintenance projects are prioritized.

Director Killman referenced a recent *Peach Jar* notification she received regarding the CHAS Clinic that is housed at Shiloh Hills. The flyer referenced access to the clinic being available to "all" students. Discussion included notation that it was the board's understanding that the clinic would serve only children 12 years of age and younger. The board has concerns with children 13 years and older being seen at the clinic because of legal restrictions on information that can be shared with parents. Superintendent Hanson will check into the matter.

The board briefly discussed a letter received by the district from OSPI regarding the Title IX resolution adopted by the board on October 21, 2024.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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**President**

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**Secretary**