



Board Work Session Minutes Monday, January 13, 2025

The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, January 13, 2025. The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was held at District Office. Directors Gray, Nolan and Killman were present. Directors Cannon and Burchard were excused. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens, along with several members of the Learning & Teaching administrative team.

I. Bond Refunding Continued Discussion

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson briefly reviewed bond refunding information shared at previous board meetings. Bonds issued in 2015 are eligible for refunding/refinancing in 2025. Refunding will reduce taxes paid by local taxpayers. It does not create new money for the district.

Drafts of three separate resolutions associated with the bond refunding were reviewed. These resolutions were prepared by the district's bond counsel. Resolution 25-01 takes care of several housekeeping items associated with the refunding process including updates to registration provisions. Resolution 25-02 authorizes the district to obtain the State Guarantee. The state has a AAA bond rating. The district's current bond rating is A1. Resolution 25-03 sets minimum and maximum terms of the sale and delegates decision making authority to Ms. Ellingson and Superintendent Hanson through 12/31/25. The resolution additionally sets a minimum savings percentage of 4.5%. Based on current rates, the savings percentage would be 8.2%.

All three resolutions will be brought forward for board approval on January 27, 2025. Board members were encouraged to reach out to Ms. Ellingson with any additional questions.

II. New CTE Course (*Project Management*) Discussion

CTE Director Moleena Harris presented for discussion *Project Management* as a potential new CTE course to be offered, initially, at Mead High School beginning in the 2025/26 school year. Ms. Harris shared that the course has received OSPI approval.

Ms. Harris reviewed the course outline along with course scope and sequence. A copy of a sample lesson was included in the packet of information provided to board members. CTE courses typically fall into one of two categories -*Exploratory* or *Preparatory*. *Project Management* would, initially, be an *Exploratory* CTE course but could in the future, with an amendment, also be *Preparatory*. The identified instructor currently holds the necessary CTE endorsements to teach this course.

Following discussion, Vice-President Gray confirmed approval of the course can be brought forward as an action item at the upcoming January 27, 2025 board meeting. Regarding the *Sustainability* CTE course presented at the December 9th board meeting, Ms. Harris shared the district is taking a step back from that course at this time.

III. Special Services Update/Report

Kellie Timberlake (Special Services Director) and Andrea Staton (Special Services Assistant Director), shared high-level, overview information on the following:

- Enrollment - Current special education enrollment (headcount), including Preschool which has seen a significant uptick in student numbers, is 1832.
- Staffing - There are currently 104 certificated teachers, 195 classified support staff, along with 13 School Psychologists, 23 SLPs, 12 OTs, 9 PTs, one Teacher of Visually Impaired,

one Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, four office support staff, two Assessment Technicians, one Special Services Trainer, one Preschool Coordinator and two administrators serving Special Education students.

- Initiatives - For the 24/25 school year there is/will be particular focus on the district's Preschool Program (3 yrs - 5 yrs) and Transition Programming (18 yrs -22 yrs).
- Community Impact - Within the Mead School District attendance boundary there are currently five group homes, four private schools and one 90-day placement home. The Mead School District is the only school district in the Spokane area where a 90-day placement home is located.
- Contracts - The various local agencies the district contracts with were reviewed.
- Legal - Based on new legislation, districts now have the burden of proof in nearly all circumstances. Mead currently has one active Citizen Complaint.

Ms. Staton, in compliance with Policy 3246, additionally shared isolation/restraint information for the past four school years and information, to date, for the current school year. Isolation and restraint are used as a last resort. Mandt safety training is provided/required on an annual basis for all staff who work with this population of students.

Other discussion topics included Mandt training for substitutes and how the effectiveness of district SLP services is assessed/determined.

IV. Procedure 2190 (*Highly Capable Program*) Continued Discussion

Noting a revision to Procedure 2190, *Highly Capable Program*, has been presented for both a first reading and second reading, and that questions regarding the proposed revision have been brought forward by Patrick Sheehy (parent/community member), Robin Placzek, Director of Elementary Education, who also oversees the district's Highly Capable Program, noting her goal is to always be as transparent as possible, first addressed the allegations regarding professionalism and integrity raised by Mr. Sheehy.

This was followed by a review of the following:

- Purpose of the district's Highly Capable Program.
- Definitions and differences between the Highly Capable Designation and the district's Full-Time Gifted Magnet Program.
- Definition, purpose and administration of assessment tools that included information on the role of *local norming*.
- How assessment data is used.

Following discussion, Director Nolan proposed revisions to the multi-disciplinary selection committee section of the procedure. With those revisions incorporated, Vice-President Gray confirmed the procedure revision can be brought forward for third reading action at the upcoming January 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

V. November 25, 2024 1st Reading Policy/Procedure Discussion

At the November 25, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting the following policies/procedures were presented for first reading, non-action, revision or adoption:

- Policy/Procedure 2020 Revision - *Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials*
- Policy 2105 Adoption - *Program Compliance*
- Policy/Procedure 2024 Revision - *Online Learning*

Following discussion, centered primarily on Policy/Procedure 2020 and possible revisions put forward by Director Nolan to that policy/procedure, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens requested additional time to look over the new language put forth by Director Nolan. Policy/Procedure 2020 will be a discussion item again at the upcoming

February 10th board Work Session. Vice-President Gray confirmed Policy 2105 and Policy/Procedure 2024 can be brought forward for second reading action via Consent Agenda on January 27, 2025.

VI. Legislative Priorities Discussion

Superintendent Hanson referenced a couple of emails he recently sent to the board regarding the upcoming legislative session. Identified priorities for K-12 education are Special Education, Transportation and MSOC (Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs) funding. Superintendent Hanson will provide regular updates to the board throughout the legislative session.

VII. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hanson provided a brief update on the following:

Heating Issues at PLC - The issues were resolved over the weekend (January 11-12) making it possible for Mead Learning Options students to attend school today (January 13th) as planned.

Principal Assistants at High Schools - Per an agreement between the Principals' Association and former Superintendent Shawn Woodward, a Principal Assistant will be added at each high school starting in the 2025/26 school year. The pros and cons of going with another Assistant Principal at each school versus a PA are under consideration. More details will follow.

PowerSchool Data Breach - Referencing a recent breach of not just Mead student data, but data from a number of school districts hosted on the PowerSchool site, Superintendent Hanson shared PowerSchool paid the ransom. He additionally complimented district technology staff on how they handled the situation internally.

Carney, Badley, Spellman Investigation - The district has provided thousands of documents to Carney, Badley, Spellman in reference to the Mead High School football investigation. Superintendent Hanson has offered to answer questions related to the information provided but, to date, the firm has not reached out to him.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

President

Secretary