

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Administration Building
January 22, 2025

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 Representative-Elect: Diego Anguiano

Cabinet Members: Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education; Alyssa St. Hilaire, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning; Dr. Thomas Brillhart, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; Robyn Chastain, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations; and Eric Veach, Interim Executive Director of Information Technology.

Other Guest(s): Scott Bauer, Northwest Municipal Advisors
Lee Marchisio, Foster Garvey
Christine Benson, Sodexo Nutrition Services Director
Mollie Lutz, Safety & Loss Prevention Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

President Gabe Galbraith called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 41 online and in-person staff and guests.

RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce read Governor Ferguson's proclamation naming January School Board Recognition Month. Dr. Pierce expressed her appreciation for the Board by handing out a certificate from the Washington State School Directors' Association and a gift of gratitude from the Kennewick School District and Washington Elementary School.

Fall Sports and Activities

Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education Matt Scott introduced Rick Wells, Southridge High School Athletic Director, who introduced Esports Coach Jason Giancola. Coach Giancola shared that the Solar Flare Gaming Club placed second in the state.

Mr. Scott introduced Kennewick High School Principal Ron King, who introduced Swim Coach TL Tippet and Robotics Coach Joshua Eerkes. Coach Tippet recognized Eliana Urena-Arias, who placed second in the state in the 50-yard freestyle and 50-yard

backstroke adaptive races. Coach Eerkes recognized Jeffrey Noah, who won the 2024 Central Washington Congressional App Challenge with his innovative App concept, Canari.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Dottie Stevens commented that she is pleased that the Board wants more student recognition.

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 December 11, 2024
- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting December 11, 2024
- Minutes of School Board Retreat January 15, 2025
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Updated Minimum Wage Increase and classified Substitute Hourly Rates
- Budget Status Report Ending October 31, 2024
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending October 31, 2024
- Budget Status Report Ending November 30, 2024
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending November 30, 2024
- Resolution No. 8, 2024-2025: Authorize Sale of Surplus Property
- Foreign Exchange Agencies and Coordinators for the 2025-26 School Year
- Recommendation Instructional Material

COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOW UP

None

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Representative to the Board Annie Maltos reported attending the January 8 Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) meeting and visited Legacy High School.

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce recognized Southridge High School biology teacher Dr. Rama Devagupta for being awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She also recognized Ron Cone for 23 years of service to Kennewick

School District as IT Executive Director. Dr. Pierce shared that she presented at the Tri-Cities Chamber, focusing on the work Kennewick School District is doing to prepare students for the future, and provided remote testimony on school funding bills to the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee.

Board Member Mike Connors thanked Sodexo for serving the Board dinner tonight before the Board meeting.

Board Member Dr. Josh Miller recognized Sodexo and thanked them for dinner. He encouraged all the high school students during this stressful time of finals and shared that he hoped they all did well on their tests. Dr. Miller shared that he has been looking into different types of award dinners to highlight some of the academic excellence that is going on in our schools.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill shared that she attended the 2025 SEWASA Annual Board Workshop, joined a Zoom session with WSSDA that gave an overview of what is happening in the legislature, and stated that she signed on to listen to a legislation session on the Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee Meeting.

Board Member Micah Valentine stated that he met with legislative representatives, Senator Boehnke and Representative Connors. He also shared that he and President Gabe Galbraith met with Dr. Pierce, Vic Roberts, and Dr. Brillhart on the budget, and he visited Amistad Elementary School.

President Gabe Galbraith shared that he visited Southgate Elementary, Cascade Elementary, Kamiakin High, and Park Middle Schools. He stated that Park Middle School students interviewed him, and he and all the Board members reviewed applications for the superintendent search. President Galbraith also shared that he applied to be a part of the WSSDA Interscholastic Activities Committee.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Nutrition Services

Christine Benson, Sodexo Nutrition Services Director, provided an annual report that included information on meal count comparisons, summer school, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, and the upcoming Kennewick Future Chef competition. She also presented feedback from the student survey and shared revenue and expense information for the last five years.

Staff Safety

Mollie Lutz, Safety & Loss Prevention Specialist, presented an annual safety report focusing on Safe Schools training and Labor & Industries (L&I) claims.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy No. 2313 INSTRUCTION: Electronic Information System

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire, per the Board's request in November, shared the updates to Policy No. 2313 INSTRUCTION: Electronic Information System and noted updates to administrative procedure R 2313.

Motion by Micah Valentine to approve Policy No. 2313 INSTRUCTION: Electronic Information System for first and second reading, with the changes identified by the Board.

Advisory Vote:	Annie Maltos	Yes
Roll call vote:	Mr. Galbraith	Yes
	Mr. Valentine	Yes
	Ms. Gledhill	Yes
	Dr. Miller	Yes
	Mr. Connors	Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 6, 2024-25 Authorizing the Application to the State's Guarantee Program

Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dr. Tom Brillhart, along with representatives from Foster Garvey and Northwest Municipal Advisors, presented a plan to refinance existing district bonds and issue new ones at lower interest rates—ultimately reducing costs for taxpayers.

Motion by Dr. Miller to approve Resolution No. 6, 2024-2025: Authorizing the Application to the State's Guarantee Program.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution No. 7, 2024-25 Authorizing the Sale and Issuance of the 2025 Refunding Bonds

Motion by Dr. Miller to approve Resolution No. 7, 2024-2025: Authorizing the Sale and Issuance of the 2025 Refunding Bonds.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

- A. Capital Budget Update
- B. Special Education

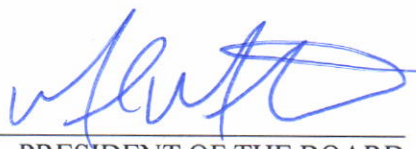

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Gabe Galbraith announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 6:50 p.m. He moved the Board into executive session at 7:00 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to discuss Superintendent and Cabinet Performance for approximately 45 minutes. Mr. Galbraith noted that no further formal action would be taken. At 7:45 p.m. Mr. Galbraith extended the executive session for an additional 30 minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Galbraith reconvened the regular session of the Board at 8:15 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


RECORDING SECRETARY


PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: February 12, 2025