



**Board Work Session Minutes
Monday, March 10, 2025**

The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, March 10, 2025. The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was held at District Office. Directors Gray, Burchard, Nolan and Killman were present. Director Cannon was excused. Also attending was Superintendent Travis Hanson.

I. 2025 WIAA Amendment Review

Joining the board to review/discuss the sixteen proposed 2025 WIAA Amendments were Chelsea Gallagher (Mt. Spokane High School Principal) and Kimberly Jensen (Mead High School Principal). A part of this review included making a determination on how Mead School District delegates will vote on each amendment. Moving forward the board and high school administration/athletic directors will engage in a similar process annually to determine how district delegates will vote on proposed WIAA amendments.

Following discussion, with the exception of Amendment #10 (Precontest practice requirements for middle level would be the same as the number for high school), the following *support* or *oppose* determinations were made. Regarding Amendment #10, to help inform the *support* or *oppose* determination, Superintendent Hanson will reach out to middle school athletic directors and coaches for their input.

- **Amendment #1 – Oppose** (Only the Representative Assembly could make editorial changes for typographical errors or changes in wording to reflect current interpretations)
- **Amendment #2 – Oppose** (Membership fees would increase by 25% in 2025-26 and in 2026-27).
- **Amendment #3 – Support** (Would add an honorary board member position from the Rural Educators Center)
- **Amendment #4 – Support** (Reduces the percentage of schools required to offer an activity/sport during the two-year trial)
- **Amendment #5 – Oppose** (Baseball/softball arm care: Throwing instructions/workouts may begin two weeks prior to the first practice date; workouts are limited to no more than four hours per week per team and per individual during this two-week period)
- **Amendment #6 – Oppose** (Adds an opportunity for students to transfer schools after initially establishing their athletic eligibility at the start of their ninth grade year)
- **Amendment #7 – Support** (Participation in girls' sports would be limited to biological females)
- **Amendment #8 – Support** (Athletic programs would be offered separately for boys, girls, and an open division for all students interested)
- **Amendment #9 – Support** (Suspension following an ejection must be fulfilled at the same level as the contest in which the ejection occurred unless the final contest of that season)
- **Amendment #11 – Oppose** (Would increase the regular season contest limit from 20 to 22 games in baseball, slowpitch and fastpitch softball)
- **Amendment #12 – Support** (Violations of the baseball pitch count rule will cause the head coach to be suspended until after the next school contest at the same level of competition)
- **Amendment #13 – Oppose** (Would sanction girls flag football as a high school sport)
- **Amendment #14 – Oppose** (Would increase the regular season contest limit from 16 to 18 matches in soccer)
- **Amendment #15 – Support** (If at any point after 60 minutes of play in high school and 45 minutes at the middle level, the soccer match would be terminated if one team is ahead by eight goals)

- **Amendment #16 – Support** (Middle level soccer players could participate in three contests per week)

Regarding who will serve as voting delegates for the district (principals/athletic directors or school board members), and concerns with repercussions to certificated staff, particularly on Amendment #7 and Amendment #8, if they are the ones who cast what are board directed votes, Superintendent Hanson shared he has reached out to WIAA for additional guidance. He additionally noted he has shared these repercussion concerns with Chris Reykdal, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction.

II. OSPI Civil Rights Review Initial Determination Continued Discussion

Superintendent Hanson briefly reviewed the five areas of non-compliance identified by OSPI in their recent Civil Rights Review. As was shared at the February 24th Board Meeting, of the five non-compliance items only one, language in Procedure 3211 (Gender Inclusive Schools), requires board action. The district has reached out to OSPI and has been granted an extension from 30 days to 60 days to comply with that item, thereby allowing for Public Comment on a first reading revision to Procedure 3211 on March 24, 2025, followed by a second reading on April 28, 2025.

Following discussion, the determination was made for the board to propose their own revisions to the district's current procedure, while also providing a copy of the WSSDA sample procedure OSPI has indicated should be adopted to bring the district into compliance. Problematic portions of the WSSDA sample procedure (i.e. parental rights concerns) will be highlighted so that members of the community have an understanding of what OSPI is asking for and can compare that, side-by-side, to what the board will be proposing in their revision to the current procedure.

Superintendent Hanson noted Mead is not the only school district experiencing these same non-compliance issues.

Reference was also made to a forthcoming board *Press Release* on the concerns associated with the OSPI non-compliance finding and the contradictions that exist between state requirements and recent federal Executive Orders. The *Press Release* also sets forth steps the board will initiate with various governmental departments/agencies and elected officials regarding the contradictions.

III. Legislative Session Update

Regarding the current state legislative session, Superintendent Hanson highlighted the following:

- While revenue projections are higher than first reported, the state still projects a deficit that must be addressed.
- The legislature is considering placing a limit on the number of students who can be enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten and Preschool. Both are programs currently offered in the Mead School District.
- Support from a small number of Republican Senators is needed to pass legislation that would allow voters to consider moving from a super majority (60%) to a simple majority (50%) passage percentage on bond ballot measures.

IV. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hanson, along with Director Cannon, attended a recent combined Mt. Spokane High School and Mountainside Middle School Jazz Band concert. The concert was outstanding and also included selections played by Whitworth University's Jazz Ensemble. Many members of this ensemble instruct student musicians who attend either Mt. Spokane or Mountainside.

Mt. Spokane High School recently hosted a *Math is Cool* competition. Mt. Spokane math teacher Pam Tschuchida was the event organizer. Superintendent Hanson shared that when he arrived to announce competition winners at the conclusion of the event he was surprised to see more than 1,000 people in the gym for the awards ceremony.

The district's bond refunding sale takes place on March 11th. At current interest rates the savings to Mead taxpayers will be approximately \$4 million.

In the latest edition of *Inside Mead* 354, Superintendent Hanson shared information with staff that provides additional context regarding a recent contempt finding associated with litigation the district is currently involved in. This included the fact that the district has provided hundreds of thousands of requested documents to its attorney who, before releasing them to the plaintiff's attorney, must, to comply with FERPA regulations, look at each document individually and redact personal student/family information. Considering the large volume of requested documents this has been an arduous, time consuming process.

Regarding this same litigation, Superintendent Hanson briefly reviewed next steps based on the contempt finding and the judge's ruling that, with a Protective Order already in place, unredacted documents can be/should be handed over to plaintiff's attorney by the end of March.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

President

Secretary