

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Administration Building  
March 12, 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; Mike Connors, Board Member; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

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, Executive Director of Information Technology.

Excused: Dr. Josh Miller, Board Member  
Annie Maltos, Student Representative to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

President Gabe Galbraith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 54 online and in-person staff and guests.

RECOGNITION

National Board-Certified Teachers

Dr. Thomas Brillhart, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, recognized newly certified National Board-Certified teachers, highlighting the rigorous process and the benefits to teachers and students. The following teachers were recognized: Jessica Bydalek, Amy Payson, and Christi Young, Ashley Jansons, Danielle Merriman, Lacey Vidaurri, and Lt. Col. Curtis Wichers.

Education Support Professionals Week

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce played a video celebrating KSD Education Support Professionals and read Governor Ferguson's proclamation declaring March 10-14, 2025, as Education Support Professionals Week.

Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) Assistant Principal of the Year

Dr. Pierce Congratulated Dr. James West, Assistant Principal at Canyon View Elementary, as AWSP's Assistant Principal of the Year.

Micah Valentine made a motion to excuse Board member Dr. Josh Miller and Student Representative to the Board, Annie Maltos.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Thomas Galioto commented against males in female locker rooms, female bathrooms, and on female sports teams.

Annette Barnes commented on funding for National Board-Certified teacher stipends.

Sylvia Loosveldt commented against males in female locker rooms, female bathrooms, and on female sports teams.

Paul Irymesicu commented on the positive outcome of armed guards in schools and against males in female locker rooms, female bathrooms, and on female sports teams.

Tina Gregory commented on how thankful she is for the Board standing up against males in female locker rooms, female bathrooms, and on female sports teams.

Rama Devagupta commented on funding for National Board-Certified teacher stipends.

David Comstock commented on Title IX. He stated that whenever there is a conflict between State and Federal Laws, Federal Law always wins. He encouraged the Board to take a firm stand.

Kymerly Price commented that students' PE credit should be waived if they participate in a high school sport.

Benson Behen gave each Board member information on the Nutrition Cooperative – Farm to School food program.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mike Connors to approve the consent items as presented.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of School Board Study Session February 26, 2025
- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting February 26, 2025
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Budget Status Report Ending December 31, 2024
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending December 31, 2024
- Removal and Authorization of Account Signers

#### COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOW-UP

None

#### SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported on the Superintendent Student Advisory Meeting that occurred earlier in the day. She shared that she visited Amon Creek and Lincoln Elementary Schools and participated in the 52nd Annual Regional High School Art Show at Columbia Basin College. Dr. Pierce stated that while she could not attend Vista's Kids at Hope Time Travel Night this year, she has attended in the past and commented on the value of the event in helping students begin to think about their future.

Dr. Pierce shared that Gerry Ringwood, who served as the Director of Tri-Tech for many years and as a consultant for Tri-Tech Capital Projects, passed away on February 26. She also shared that former Benton County Sheriff's Captain John Hodge, who served on the KSD Board for six years beginning in 1995, passed away on March 6. On behalf of the district, she wanted to express our sympathy to the families and recognize their service to our district.

Board Member Mike Connors shared how Gerry Ringwood impacted his family in such a positive way. He reported that he was able to watch some of the legislative sessions and saw how the legislators are working hard to try and mitigate some of the issues concerning the district.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill shared that she attended the Destination Imagination competition, visited Sage Crest Elementary, and logged into Future Ready State Board of Education session. She reported on legislative updates and thanked everyone who had commented earlier.

Board Member Micah Valentine shared that he met with community members and participated in public meetings. He also stated that he reviewed the K-5 literacy materials being recommended for adoption and spoke with multiple people about the materials. Mr. Valentine shared that he was one of the judges at the Future Chef Competition and shared one of the thank-you notes he received from a Delta High School student for participating in the mock interviews at Delta High School.



President Gabe Galbraith recognized the Board for making 34 visits to schools and school facilities since the beginning of this school year and stated that he hopes the Board can visit every school before the end of this school year. He thanked the school staff and the Board members for prioritizing the visits. He gave a shout-out to the FFA, DECA, and Knowledge Bowl students for their exceptional results this year and stated that he asked for feedback from teachers who had participated in the K-5 literacy materials pilot.

President Galbraith stated that, during public comment period, a gentleman mentioned a letter written by the Mead School District Board of Directors. Mr. Galbraith indicated that this letter was sent to the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General requesting urgent clarification of the legal standings of the state and federal laws regarding Title IX and males participating in female sports. Mr. Galbraith shared that he will be writing a similar letter, and that other Board members are welcome to sign on to the letter.

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Preliminary Budget 2025 - 2026

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Dr. Thomas Brillhart discussed potential funding/budget impacts in the current legislative session. He reviewed the 2024-25 budget and the anticipated revenue and expenditure changes in the 2025-26 budget. Dr. Brillhart presented a budget timeline showing June 18 as the date for the Board's adoption of the 2025 – 2026 budget.

### Academic Progress Update

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire presented data from academic assessments administered in the fall and winter. The presentation shared bright spots and actions that schools are taking to increase student achievement.

### Preliminary Recommendation: K-5 English Language Arts Materials

Alyssa St. Hilaire, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, presented a preliminary recommendation detailing the evaluation and selection process, the committee's recommendation, pilot and review data, and costs. The final recommendation will be presented for Board approval on March 26.

### Legislative Update

Superintendent Dr. Pierce shared that the legislation session is in week nine, and she highlighted key funding items connected to the Board's legislative positions. She also provided an update on funding bills being considered and noted that the updated revenue forecast will be released on March 18.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

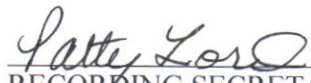
- A. Preliminary Budget 2025 – 2026
- B. Asset Preservation/Capital Projects Update
- C. Recommendation: K-5 English Language Arts Materials
- D. Recommendation: K-12 physical Education materials

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

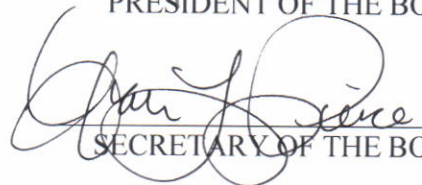
President Gabe Galbraith announced an end to the business portion of the meeting at 7:48 p.m. He moved the Board into executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss a legal issue for approximately 30 minutes. Mr. Galbraith noted that no further formal action would be taken.

## OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Mr. Galbraith reconvened the regular session of the Board at 8:18 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

  
RECORDING SECRETARY

  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

  
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: March 26, 2025