

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Administration Building
March 26, 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, Executive Director of Information Technology.

Other Guest(s): Ryan Jones, Capital Projects Manager

CALL TO ORDER

President Gabe Galbraith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 53 online and in-person staff members and guests.

RECOGNITION

National Music in Our Schools Month

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce thanked the Fuerza Elementary Guitar Ensemble, led by Ruby Perez, Music Teacher, for performing before the Board meeting and expressed gratitude to the Board for its support of the district's music programs.

Winter Sports and Activities

Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education Matt Scott recognized and introduced the high school athletic directors from Kennewick, Kamiakin, and Southridge. Athletic directors introduced coaches, who recognized student participants from the following athletics and activities: Kennewick High School wrestling and bowling; Kamiakin High School for bowling and wrestling; and Southridge High School wrestling.

School Retirees Appreciation Week

Superintendent Dr. Pierce recognized President Dottie Stevens of the Benton-Franklin Retirees' Association, along with President Victoria Russell. Dr. Pierce read Governor Ferguson's proclamation declaring March 17-23, 2025, School Retirees Appreciation Week. Ms. Stevens and Ms. Russell shared a few words with the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Ben Anderson commented on Title IX and thanked the board for their willingness to discuss the issue. He encouraged the Board to remain strong and courageous in their efforts to protect girls in schools.

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 Meeting March 12, 2025
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified, and Extracurricular
- Budget Status Report Ending January 31, 2025
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending January 31, 2025
- Tri-Tech Skills Center Core Modernization Construction Bid
- Recommendation of Instructional Materials

COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOW-UP

Superintendent Dr. Pierce followed up on the public comment shared during the last Board meeting regarding PE credit. She shared that the topic would be discussed later tonight in the PE presentation.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reported speaking at the Desert Hills Middle School 8th-grade Honors Breakfast. She also shared that she participated in a Learning Walk at Kennewick High and highlighted that the bond refinance was completed. Dr. Pierce stated that she was honored to emcee both nights of the Elementary Music Festival. Finally, she shared that she attended the Crystal Apple Awards, where Nathan Allington, Tri-Tech Skills Center Fire Fighter Instructor and a former Marine, was celebrated as the 2025 Kennewick School District Crystal Apple Award Winner.

Board Member Dr. Josh Miller congratulated the bowling teams and their coaches for their consistent success. He reported visiting Endeavor, Legacy, and Phoenix high schools and stated that he is continuing work on organizing a foundation for Kennewick schools. Dr. Miller encouraged everyone to volunteer in our community and schools.

Board Member Brittany Gledhill reported attending track meets, visiting Edison and Vista Elementaries, and attending Phoenix High School's Expo Day. She also shared that she participated in a Just-Serve volunteer fair and encouraged others to volunteer. Mrs. Gledhill provided a legislative update, reporting that Senate bills for MSOC special education remain in discussion. Additionally, she highlighted the fact that Senate Bill 5797 is being marketed as proceeds going directly and solely to public education, but in reality, the bill states that the funds would be allocated to the state's general fund.

Board Member Micah Valentine reported on a project that he is working on focused on food and nutrition for students. He stated that he believes the better food students receive, the better they will perform. He also commented on Title IX and parental rights.

President Gabe Galbraith reported attending the Ridge View Elementary School PBIS awards assembly.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Preliminary Budget 2025 - 2026

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Dr. Tom Brillhart presented information on the Transportation Vehicle Fund and the Debt Service Fund. He reported on the recent 2015 bond refinance, noting the sale date of March 18 and closure date of April 3, 2025. Dr. Brillhart provided a budget timeline showing June 18 as the date for Board adoption of the 2025 – 2026 budget.

Asset Preservation and Capital Projects Update

Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dr. Tom Brillhart, and Capital Projects Manager Ryan Jones presented the district's Asset Preservation Program, demonstrating the district's commitment to maintaining its buildings through upgrades to building infrastructure. Mr. Jones reviewed the building condition scores and explained the scoring evaluation process. He then provided a brief update on the \$45M Tri-Tech Core Modernization project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recommendation: K-5 English Language Arts Materials

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire reviewed the adoption policy and procedure, as well as the evaluation and selection process, and recommended the adoption of the Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) core materials for grades K-5.

Dr. Josh Miller made a motion to approve the Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts core materials for grades K-5.

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

Recommendation: K-12 Physical Education Materials

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Alyssa St. Hilaire recommended renewing the current materials of Focus Fitness: Five for Life for adoption by the Board for K-12 physical education. She also shared policy and procedures outlining options for earning the physical education credit required for graduation.

Micah Valentine made a motion to approve the renewal of Focus Fitness: Five for Life core Physical Education materials for grades K-12.

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.

Title IX Complaint Review

President Galbraith presented a formal complaint letter addressed to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, regarding a Title IX Complaint against Washington State, State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The Board discussed submitting the letter and voted on whether to do so.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed items for the next meeting agenda:

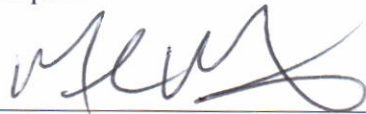
- A. Preliminary Budget 2025 – 2026
- B. Annual Staff/Human Resources Update

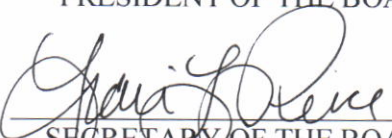
OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



RECORDING SECRETARY



PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD


SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: April 9, 2025