



**Board Work Session Minutes
Monday, August 11, 2025**

The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, August 11, 2025. The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was held at District Office. Directors Cannon, Burchard, Gray, Nolan and Killman were present. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Jay Jordan and Jared Hoadley.

I. Executive Session

At 6 pm President Cannon called for an Executive Session of approximately one hour to discuss litigation and pending litigation with legal counsel. At 7 pm President Cannon returned the meeting to Open Session.

II. 2025/2026 Facility Use Fees Presentation/Discussion

Ned Wendle, Director of Facilities & Planning, as a precursor to board approval of Facility Use Fees for 2025/26 on August 25, 2025, noted fees have not been raised in three years. He recommended, based on increased/increasing operating costs, that the board consider a 10% across the board increase. While this proposed increase will not cover the entirety of rising inflationary costs, such as utilities and insurance, the additional revenue will help. The district hosts 8,000+ events in buildings annually, with 4,000+ events taking place on outdoor fields. Facility use income for the past year was \$271,426.

Following discussion, the board directed Mr. Wendle to raise fees so that the increased dollar amount collected equates to approximately 10%. The board requested fees not be increased for school groups and youth sports teams (Levels 1 & 2) and that the increase necessary to reach the 10% threshold be applied instead to community non-profit organizations (Level 3) and commercial for-profit organizations (Level 4).

III. Policy & Procedure 2020 (Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials) Revision Presentation/Discussion

Noting a first reading, non-action, revision to Policy and Procedure 2020 (Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials) will be presented at an upcoming board meeting, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan provided each board member with a copy of the proposed revisions along with a copy of current Policy and Procedure 2020. The most recent revision to Policy/Procedure 2020 was in February of 2015.

WSSDA Sample Policy 2020 and Sample Procedure 2020 were used as the templates for the presented revisions. Proposed district edits to the WSSDA documents were highlighted on presented drafts. In particular, Dr. Jordan referenced the proposed change to move from two committees being involved in the selection and adoption process (Instructional Materials Review Committee & Curriculum Development Coordinating Council) to one committee (Instructional Materials Committee). This proposed change will help streamline the process.

Discussion included Director Nolan sharing with Dr. Jordan revisions he had proposed when changes to this policy/procedure were brought forward last fall. Director Nolan asked Dr. Jordan to review/consider whether anything in his proposal should be incorporated into the new documents. The role of principals and Supplemental Materials used by teachers was also discussed including notation that it is important principals are not surprised by the use of Supplemental Materials particularly in "hot topic" areas.

In response to a question regarding Social Studies materials and tribal references, Superintendent Hanson noted this requirement only comes into play when new curriculum is adopted. It does not apply to current curriculum which was adopted prior to this new requirement becoming law.

The importance of teaching morality and patriotism was referenced.

Prior to bringing the policy/procedure revision forward for official first reading consideration (end of September), Dr. Jordan will incorporate initial board suggestions and present updated drafts at the next Work Session to allow for further discussion on this topic.

IV. Board Goals Discussion

A copy of the 2024-25 goals adopted by the board was shared. In reviewing the four goals/target objectives from last year discussion included, for the upcoming school year, the idea of establishing two main goal areas: (1) Student Growth & Achievement and (2) Budget Health & Prioritization.

Discussion included the idea of adding Resource Officers and/or internal district staff to enhance safety and security, and the importance of School Improvement Plans being carefully reviewed and monitored throughout the year. In discussing the importance of quantitative, measurable goals, Director Nolan shared an OSPI graph showing district scores have declined 8% from 2017/18 to 2023/24. He noted the district needs to figure out how to reverse this trend, stressing the importance of goal wording and clarity around the mechanics that will be used to achieve goals. Discussion additionally included having schools regularly present to the board and the importance of accountability for outcomes.

Regarding outcomes, Superintendent Hanson noted the role socioeconomics plays in achievement and stressed the importance of not just looking at achievement gains but also growth gains. Director Burchard commented on the socioeconomic changes that have occurred in the district in the past ten years sharing he expects there will be even greater changes in the next ten years.

Also, on the topic of the impact of socioeconomics on student learning, and noting there are lower socioeconomic schools throughout the nation who defy the odds and reach high levels of achievement, Superintendent Hanson shared that at recent school administrator meetings discussion centered on the work involved to develop better strategies in response to the question, "What are you going to do to be an outlier school?" Superintendent Hanson noted the importance of district Professional Learning Communities in this work.

Reference was made to Spokane Public School's *Engage In Real Life* initiative and Director Killman recommended keeping the cell phone initiative from last year as a continuing, maintenance level, area of emphasis.

President Cannon will work on drafting goals for 2025/26 in preparation for further discussion at the next Work Session.

V. Superintendent Update and Q & A/Planning for 2025/26

The following topics were discussed:

- **Classroom Décor** -Director Killman brought up a concern with a flag on display at Dart-Lo where the Outdoor School holds classes. Considering the district is renting the Dart-Lo facility, discussion centered on the risks associated with making an issue of this and having Camp Fire say they won't rent to the district. It was the consensus of the board to not, at this time, pursue contacting Camp Fire about this matter. On this topic President Cannon noted the board has yet to adopt an official classroom décor policy. This was on

the board's radar last November but given other pressing matters moving forward with policy adoption has been in abeyance.

- **Pronouns** - With the start of school approaching, the topic of staff proactively asking students their preferred pronouns was discussed. Various ways to communicate with stakeholders was considered. It was the consensus of the board to wait and see if issues arise and only make a formal statement if warranted.
- **Student Information Systems** - On the topic of board member log-in/access to student information systems, Superintendent Hanson, in sharing his reservations, noted he has never been in a place where board members have had this type of access. He communicated the importance of district staff being able to provide context/expertise associated with information/data and noted all information requested by the board has been, and will continue to be, provided. The topic of the liability associated with providing direct access was additionally noted.

Director Nolan referenced the board's oversight responsibilities, the importance of, when asked for, receiving unfiltered information, and the fact that there is no RCW preventing board members from having direct access. As an outsider (not part of the education culture), the ability to look at raw data allows him to see things from a different angle.

On the topic of "trust" it was shared that, prior to Superintendent Hanson being hired, the board, on more than one occasion, has felt they did not receive truthful information. Moving forward, the importance of open truthful conversations was emphasized.

Regarding board responsibilities, Director Burchard reminded it is not the job of the board to run the school district. They provide oversight and their focus should be on big issues like the budget.

It was the consensus of the board to not, for now, provide student information systems log-in credentials to board members.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

President

Secretary