



**Board Work Session Minutes
Monday, September 8, 2025**

The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, September 8, 2025. The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was held at District Office. Directors Cannon, Gray, Burchard, Nolan and Killman were present. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson and Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan.

I. Executive Session

At 6 pm President Cannon called for an Executive Session of approximately 30 minutes for the purpose of discussion with legal counsel regarding litigation and pending litigation.

At 6:40 pm President Cannon returned the meeting to open session.

II. Policy & Procedure 2020 (Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials) Continued Discussion

At the August 11, 2025 Work Session, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan presented proposed revisions to Policy & Procedure 2020. Using feedback from that meeting Dr. Jordan revised the draft documents and at this Work Session presented them to the board for further discussion. It was noted that Senate Bill 5462 includes an October 1st deadline to amend current policies and procedures governing curriculum adoption and the selection of instructional materials, followed by providing notification of the completion of said actions to OSPI within 10 days of completing the policy and procedure updates.

In response to board questions, Dr. Jordan shared that *Alternative Core Materials* come into play primarily at Mead Learning Options. Regarding *Supplemental Materials*, the selection of these materials resides with the teacher (for example, in planning for the next day a teacher may look for and utilize a supplemental source), however, principals are responsible to talk about *Supplemental Materials* with their staff. Regarding *Supplemental Materials* the need for guardrails/accountability was discussed. Director Nolan, who at the August 11th Work Session presented enhanced accountability language for consideration, suggested that language (two paragraphs) be incorporated into the procedure.

Whether or not to include a reference to RCW 28A.405.030 in the policy or, instead, include the reference in a separate policy, was discussed. This RCW requires the teaching of morality and patriotism. It states teachers have a duty to “endeavor to impress on the minds of their pupils the principles of morality, truth, justice, temperance, humanity and patriotism; to teach them to avoid idleness, profanity and falsehood; to instruct them in the principles of free government, and to train them up to the true comprehension of the rights, duty and dignity of American citizenship.” Superintendent Hanson noted, by way of caution, that what is truth for one may not be truth for another citing climate change as one example. It was the consensus of the board to not include the RCW reference in this curriculum adoption policy/procedure but, instead, consider including it in a staff expression policy.

III. Policy & Procedure 4010 Council for Learning Improvement Discussion

Noting a revision to Policy and Procedure 4010 (Learning Improvement) will be presented for board consideration at an upcoming board meeting, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan provided each board member with a copy of proposed revisions. The policy and procedure were adopted on January 27, 2003, with no revisions since that date. The primary change to both the policy and procedure is replacing the term *Council for Learning*

Improvement with Building Leadership Team. This change updates the policy to comply with current practice.

Discussion, that centered on *School Improvement Plans*, included the need for clear, measurable goals and accountability/a plan of action when goals are not attained. Regarding timelines, the importance of coming into the school year with a solid plan was emphasized. Using the feedback provided, Dr. Jordan will modify the policy/procedure drafts and present the updated versions for first reading consideration at the upcoming September 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

IV. Data Dashboards (Growth & Achievement Data)

Continuing the *School Improvement Plan* discussion, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan shared the various ways the district's School Support Team, that meets weekly, supports the work of meeting goals identified in *School Improvement Plans*. This includes a mid-year review of plans in January and an end-of-year progress review in May where data is one of the things used to measure progress.

When analyzing data, Dr. Jordan noted the importance of identifying comparable (size & demographics) school districts like Spokane, Central Valley and Cheney, as well as some outlier districts like Bellevue.

To illustrate the use of data, information on the five graduation risk factors (GPA <2.0, <90% attendance, out of school suspension, failing grade in English & failing grade in Math) in middle grades was shared for all three middle schools. This same information will be shared with middle school principals so that proactive intervention steps can be initiated. In discussion regarding the significant number of students whose attendance is <90% it was noted that many middle school families plan trips during the school year before their children start high school. The board asked to see more in-depth, multi-year attendance data.

Additional discussion on the topic of data included the request for more uniformity in how information is shared to help avoid discrepancies with what OSPI reports out, the importance of proactive/early interventions, access to more "real time" information, up front identification of data that is going to be consistently used/relied upon and the various tools available to track a cohort of students. Regarding accountability, Dr. Jordan referenced the critical leadership moves/conversations that need to take place, as well as the supports that will be added, when things are not going well and a teacher is not performing as expected.

V. Policy 5281 Disciplinary Action & Discharge Discussion

Noting a revision to Policy 5281 (Disciplinary Action & Discharge) will be presented for board consideration at an upcoming board meeting, Superintendent Hanson noted district legal counsel recommends the district adopt the most current WSSDA version of this policy and, at the same time, suspend the current procedure (WSSDA no longer recommends having the procedure). The current policy was adopted on October 8, 2012 with no revisions since that date. Language in the current WSSDA version is almost entirely new when compared to the district's current policy.

VI. 2025/26 Board Goals Continued Discussion

President Cannon, in conjunction with Director Nolan, shared a draft of potential board goals for the 2025/26 school year. Four goal areas were discussed: (1) Curriculum & Technology, (2) Governance & Fiscal Stewardship, (3) District & School Culture and (4) Safety & Security. Using the feedback provided President Cannon will make revisions with final adoption/approval of 2025/26 goals scheduled to take place at the upcoming September 22, 2025 board meeting.

VII. Superintendent Update

After securing a date for a HIB board appeal, Superintendent Hanson noted the board could, like with athletic appeals, authorize a *Disciplinary Review Council* to hear HIB appeals. Membership on this council could include one or two board members.

Other topics covered included balanced calendar and the work of the district's committee on this topic. Spokane is moving to a more balanced calendar in the 26/27 school year. Research shows that only 15% of schools start after September 1st. Both the *Safety & Security Committee* and *Technology Committee* will continue meeting throughout the 2025/26 school year. In the next year or two it will be recommended that the board authorize/convene a *Facilities Planning Committee*.

Regarding communication, the district is in the process of looking for a uniform, consistent tool that can be used to communicate with parents. It is hoped this tool will also include the option for teacher to teacher communication.

On the topic of School Resource Officers, President Cannon reported that in recent conversations with Spokane County he has learned there is now the option/opportunity to add a third officer. (In the past the district wanted to add another officer but there were none available.) From his standpoint adding a third School Resource Officer makes sense. Both he and Director Gray shared they would like the district to move quickly and take advantage of this opportunity.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

President

Secretary