



**Board Work Session Minutes  
Monday, May 11, 2026**

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The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, May 11, 2026. The meeting began at 6:00pm and was held at District Office. Directors Gray, Cannon, Killman, Nolan and Woodworth were present. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson and Assistant Superintendents Jay Jordan and Jared Hoadley.

**I. IMC Presentation on Middle School Curriculum Adoption – Social Studies & Science**

Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent, Jay Jordan, along with Director of Curriculum, Robin Placzek, and representatives from the Curriculum Adoption Team, shared curriculum adoption recommendations for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science, and for 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies. The Curriculum Adoption Team's role is to present curriculum to the IMC (Instructional Materials Committee) for approval based on set criteria from the district's Procedure 2020 (Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials). The IMC is made up of 17 voting members which includes teachers, administrators, and parents. Dr. Jordan and Ms. Placzek are non-voting members of the IMC. Representatives from the Curriculum Adoption Team who were present and spoke about the process and recommendations included Kathleen Olson, Emily Conroy, and Ryan Miciak.

It was shared that the reason for new curriculum is that the current textbooks being used by the district are over 15 years old. Both social studies and science textbooks are out of print and the science textbooks are not up to standards. When staff were surveyed regarding new curriculum, it was social studies and science that rose to the top of what is needed most. The timeline and work involved regarding the process for new curriculum adoption was shared including the fact that once the curriculum selection was narrowed down to two options, both options were piloted by teachers at all 3 middle schools for several weeks.

The recommendation for science for 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades is OpenSciEd, a curriculum published by Activate Learning. The curriculum can be printed or used digitally, and comes with a lab kit to allow students to engage in experiments. The district's priority standards are covered and it is aligned to WA State science standards and CTE standards. Ms. Conroy shared that when piloting the curriculum, she found that students were engaged and challenged and the topics were real world to them. Additionally, there are multiple methods of differentiation to help teachers meet their students at varying levels, and instruction materials are balanced and maintain a neutral approach.

The recommendation for social studies for 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades (not 7<sup>th</sup> grade at this time) is McGraw Hill. Sixth grade content is World History and 8<sup>th</sup> grade content is US History. The instructional materials are high quality and while social studies is not a tested content area, McGraw Hill does align with WA State standards and the district's priority standards. McGraw Hill was the strongest in differentiation and the materials are fair and inclusive to multiple groups. Ms. Olson explained the various teacher tools, showed examples out of the textbook, and showed an inquiry activity. Mr. Miciak stated that his students preferred McGraw Hill over the other curriculum piloted (Savaas) and that his students had different interpretations showing that the curriculum isn't telling them what to think, rather how to think.

Director Nolan inquired about the length of the process for the IMC and how many meetings were held, he commented it seemed quick, maybe too quick. Dr. Jordan said there were two meetings for the IMC, one for training and then another for discussion/questions and the

materials were made available to all members for review. He stated there were a few reasons for a bit of a time crunch and it shouldn't be that way moving forward, and that the IMC recommended approval. Ms. Placzek spoke about the scope and sequence of the curriculum and that this planning is done after a curriculum is adopted. Director Nolan commented that doing the scope and sequencing after adoption seems backward. The discussion continued about the timeline, how much time the parents on the IMC committee had to review the curriculum, why the textbooks weren't sent home with the committee members, the information given to the committee regarding what would and wouldn't be taught from the textbook based on the scope and sequence determination, and specific comments parents made about the curriculum. Director Nolan expressed concern about approving a curriculum where there may be parts that are objectionable even though those parts will not be part of the scope and sequence that are taught in the classroom at this time.

It was determined that this curriculum adoption will be on the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting in May for continued discussion and in the meantime, the Board members can review the curriculum and engage with the Learning & Teaching staff with their questions. Dr. Jordan appreciated the feedback and assured the Board that he is continuing to engage with the IMC committee and would not have brought this forward as their recommendation if they weren't comfortable with it overall. The parents on the committee that had concerns did not suggest that the curriculum shouldn't be brought forward for recommendation.

## **II. Sexual Harassment of Students Report (Policy 3205)**

Director of Student & Family Services, Josh Westermann, shared an annual report as required for Policy 3205 (Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited). Mr. Westermann shared what the district is doing to address instances of sexual harassment, and how to continue to improve the process in order to keep our students safe. The district's current Policy and Procedure are up to date based on state and federal laws. He reported that district staff receive training each year and this year the training was expanded to include some of the student body to help create awareness of what sexual harassment looks like, and to ensure clear access to reporting any incidents. Last year it was recommended to implement an electronic reporting form and that has been implemented. The web page on the district's website is very clear on how to report, the form is readily available there, and forms are being properly routed to staff.

Mr. Westermann discussed the number of formal and informal complaints that have been filed this year and that one met the additional requirements under Title IX. When that occurs, there is more of a prescribed process and Superintendent Hanson reviews and makes the determination. Mr. Westermann reported on the number of school discipline incidents involving sexually inappropriate conduct, all of which resulted in some level of student discipline. He continued that in nearly all of these cases, he reached out to the family, provided them with the district's policy, answered any questions, and let them know how to get in touch with him.

Recommendations moving forward are to (1) provide additional training to school staff to ensure they take appropriate action when incidents of alleged sexual harassment occur, (2) to strengthen school procedures for analyzing discipline reports and incidents to identify trends in the types of HIB that are reported, and (3) to implement age-appropriate education for students about sexual harassment. Both Directors Killman and Nolan expressed interest in receiving information in the next annual report associated with Mr. Westermann's second recommendation related to the analysis of discipline reports and trends.

### **Proposed revision to Sexual Harassment of Students Procedure (Procedure 3205)**

Mr. Westermann presented a revision to the district's existing Procedure for Policy 3205 (policy to remain unchanged). The revision models the WSSDA procedure which clearly identifies the state process and how the district responds, and then makes a clear distinction of what needs to occur when the federal threshold is met. It also outlines that there is an informal complaint process. The district's current procedure is tough to follow when working through it with a

parent because it is not linear or very clear. The WSSDA model procedure being presented as the revision is clear, and outlines how one files, staff responsibility, the informal process, and again, what happens when Title IX requirements are met. Mr. Westermann thinks this will be helpful for parents in leading them through the process. He stated there is no urgency as everything that needs to be done in these cases is being done. However, he noted it would be helpful to adopt and have in place by fall to be used in the training provided to staff. It was agreed to bring this to the May Regular Board meeting for first reading.

### **III. Fixed Assets Report (Policy 6801)**

Director of Maintenance and Operations, Travis Bown, provided an annual audit report as required for Policy 6801 (Fixed Assets). Mr. Bown shared that he reached out to various departments/schools to take inventory of anything that's been lost, stolen or damaged that crosses the \$5,000.00 threshold as outlined in the policy. His search for these items including furniture, instruments, machines etc. (highly attractive and susceptible to loss) has expanded, he has captured more items and continued to improve processes for inventory but there is nothing to report in the lost, stolen or damaged category. Director Nolan inquired about the \$5,000 threshold and if perhaps that should be increased (Note: Policy 6801 was adopted back in 2007 and prices have increased). Mr. Bown agreed that it is a good question and he can reach out to the district's insurance provider to inquire. The Board can make a decision to change the threshold if deemed necessary.

### **OSPI Indoor Air Quality Grant RFP Report**

Mr. Bown also reported that the district received a grant in the amount of \$598,184.00 from OSPI for an indoor air quality assessment. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was done and the district received 3 bids. The top two for consideration were McKinstry and Custom Energy and Mr. Bown conferred with OSPI directly to identify if both vendors could satisfy OSPI's requirements and OSPI confirmed that both could. Mr. Bown recommended that the Board approve the RFP for McKinstry at the next Regular Board Meeting in May. McKinstry can provide a much higher level of services with a cost not to exceed the grant amount and will provide valuable cost estimates on current HVAC systems. Additionally, the district received a grant for approximately \$174,000.00 for ASHRAE Level 2 audits. These audits will provide the district with an energy audit that allow our remaining schools to become "Clean Building Performance Standard" compliant, and identify energy efficiency measures along with cost estimates to provide the district with guidance in prioritization on future EEM projects.

### **IV. WIAA Enrollment for 26-27 (Policy 2151) - Letter**

President Gray shared that at the next Regular Board Meeting in May, the Board plans to approve WIAA enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year but with continued reluctance due to the Board's concern over WIAA's policies in governing participation in girls' sports. President Gray has drafted a letter sharing the Board's concerns/position for the Board's review to be included with the WIAA Enrollment form.

### **V. Facilities and Long-Range Planning Committee**

Superintendent Hanson shared a document with the Board regarding a "Facilities and Long-Range Planning Committee" which is needed for long range planning and facilities evaluation in the district. The document is informative about what decisions the district faces and provides a digestible detailed plan. The district has 2 policies (Policy 6920 and Policy 6915) that make a case for the Board to commission a committee for this work. Policy 6920 points out planning considerations and the general reasons why the district engages in this process and Policy 6915 outlines long-term data driven planning, shared use, prioritization of renovations etc. These are all things that need to be addressed especially with the continued growth of the district's ALE program, Mead Learning Options. The committee commitment is 18-24 months with the hope for it to begin in September of 2026. This is a long process; the work takes time and significant thought must be put into it. There was some discussion around a bond related to the upcoming needs and the suggestion that the committee also consider a plan for the upcoming needs

without a bond. The Board agreed to commission a committee at the Regular Board Meeting in May.

#### **VI. 2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates**

As required by state law and district policy, the Mead School District Board of Directors holds one business/regular meeting each month throughout the year. Additionally, one work session is scheduled each month with the exception of the months of July and December. The draft calendar for 2026-2027 follows this format and was distributed to the Board members for review. It was agreed to bring this calendar to the Regular Board Meeting in May for approval.

#### **VII. Update on BoardBook Transition**

Superintendent Hanson shared that the BoardBook transition is forthcoming. The transition to BoardBook software will simplify the board meeting preparation process and allow access to meeting agendas/documents by board members electronically. The plan is to provide a “hybrid” experience at the June Regular Board Meeting, meaning a regular hard copy of the board packet will be provided as well as an electronic packet in BoardBook. Director Killman inquired if notes could be taken on the electronic documents in BoardBook and yes, that opportunity is provided.

#### **VIII. Superintendent’s Update**

Superintendent Hanson informed the Board of several Mead schools that were recognized by The Washington Board of Education as part of their Washington School Recognition Program. The Washington Board of Education annually recognizes schools for their work in three categories: closing gaps, growth, and achievement. He noted that only around 15% of schools statewide earned the recognition in 2026 and four of them are Mead schools which include Mt. Spokane HS, Farwell Elementary, Skyline Elementary and Prairie View Elementary. Excellent work!

Secondly, Superintendent Hanson notified the Board that Director of Human Resources, Keri Hutchins, wanted them to be aware at the next few Regular Board Meetings, there will be a large number of coaches listed on the Consent Agenda for their approval. Ms. Hutchins recently learned that WIAA policies require all coaches (whether paid or volunteer) to be approved by the school board. This has not been the district’s practice as it is not part of the Mead School District policy, but in order to be in compliance with WIAA, it will be the district’s practice moving forward.

Superintendent Hanson and Dr. Jordan jointly addressed the current status of the dual language program at Midway, and the letter that was sent home to parents of those students currently in the program. After much effort to hire a qualified candidate, which would have allowed for the program to welcome a new cohort of kindergarten and first grade for the coming year, it has been determined the district will be unable to do so. The unique skillset needed is hard to find and the district has not received many applications. The efforts now are to be sure to continue the program with the current students through 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Midway and that has been communicated with parents. The district is also committed to providing a Spanish Language class in middle school at Northwood if students and families are interested. Director Killman inquired how many students are currently in the program and there are approximately 40 students.

Director Nolan inquired if there could be some sort of study/information-gathering around the highly capable program. He would like to see data, if possible, comparing students who qualify and participate in the program to those who qualify and choose not to participate. It would be interesting and valuable information to see how much of an impact the program makes. He noted that perhaps SBA scores could be used to start as they are relatively universal and quantitative. Superintendent Hanson noted there may not be a record of students who qualify and choose not to participate. Dr. Jordan said he will check on this to see what information and data is available.

Superintendent Hanson expressed to the Board that there have been some exceptionally good and thoughtful meetings amongst district staff related to staffing for the 2026-2027 school year.

Due to continued low enrollment in kindergarten and this time of year where staffing decisions need to be made, Dr. Jordan has brought people together to have these important conversations. He stated he is feeling good about these deep, though hard conversations about making choices for the big picture. There has been work done with MEA to encourage those who are planning to retire to notify the district in a timely way in an effort to avoid any RIF notices which would have to be disbursed no later than May 15. Everyone is working hard to get to the right place.

Lastly, Superintendent Hanson mentioned that the district is currently dealing with several grievances brought by MEA.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

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**President**

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**Secretary**