

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Work Session
May 11, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman Nick Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 A.M.

Declaration of Quorum: Board members Roger Perleberg, Aaron Lowers, Aaron Bessonette and Sara Pipkin were present. There were seven others present, including Superintendent Johnson.

- 1.0 Flag Salute – Chairman Nick Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda – On a motion by Aaron Bessonette, the Board approved the agenda as presented.
- 3.0 Reports, Correspondence and Program
 - 3.1. Board Report – Board members shared highlights from recent student activities and events. Board member Roger Perleberg commented that Saturday's baseball game was a close one, but the team came away with a win and the students are looking strong. Board member Aaron Lowers noted that the parade in Manson on Saturday was also a good event and well attended. Lastly, board member Sara Pipkin shared that she attended the track meet on Saturday and described it as a great and very enjoyable event.
 - 3.2. Superintendent's Report
 - 3.2.1. High School Student Travel – Craig MacKenzie and Staff – Superintendent Johnson presented two potential student travel opportunities for future consideration: a Spanish language trip to Spain and a jazz band trip to New Orleans. He noted both are in the early planning stages and no board action is currently required, as further information related to insurance, safety, supervision, cost, and fundraising will be brought back at a future meeting.

High school principal Craig MacKenzie expressed support for both opportunities, noting the value of providing students with expanded learning experiences beyond the local community while emphasizing student safety as a top priority. Spanish teachers Tyler Theiss and Annie Yousey shared details of the proposed Spain trip, explaining that planning began approximately two years ago in partnership with WorldStrides, a long-standing travel company that provides 24/7 tour guide support and safe, reliable educational travel experiences for students and teachers. The proposed itinerary includes multiple cultural and educational experiences across Spain, with travel currently being considered for June of 2028. The opportunity would be open to all interested students. It was also noted that this would not be a school-sponsored trip, and all participating students and families would be responsible for covering associated travel costs and fees, which organizers hope to offset in part through fundraising efforts.

Band teacher Kent Chalmers and Choral Director Adam Ream presented information about a proposed trip to New Orleans, also coordinated through WorldStrides, which would include participation in a musical festival along with a variety of cultural and educational experiences. The trip is planned for next year's spring break and would be considered a school-sponsored trip, as both musical groups would be representing Cashmere High School. Mr. Ream shared that approximately 40 students are anticipated to participate and noted that the trip would replace participation in several other festivals, helping to offset some related expenses. The majority of the trip costs are expected to be covered through student fundraising efforts, including students working the concessions stand during the summer music theatre program. It was also noted that, as a school-sponsored trip, all requirements and expectations established by the district's risk management carrier, Clear Risk, would need to be fully met.

Superintendent Johnson reiterated the importance of evaluating financial sustainability and community impact related to fundraising requests, and noted adequate insurance coverage will be required before moving forward. Board members expressed general support, and staff were directed to continue planning and return with additional information for future board action.

- 3.2.2. Fiscal/Enrollment Update – Business Manager Bo Charlton presented the district's enrollment figures as of May and reported that development of the 2026–2027 budget is currently in progress.
- 3.2.3. 2026-27 Budget Adoption Process/Timeline – Superintendent Johnson and Business Manager Bo Charlton reviewed the preliminary timeline and process for development of the 2026-27 district budget, with the goal of presenting the budget to the Board in early June and adopting a final budget at the June 29 board meeting ahead of the July 10 submission deadline to the North Central Educational Service District (NCESD).

Mr. Charlton explained that district revenue is primarily driven by enrollment and state funding, and reviewed comparisons data between the current year budget and projected figures for next year. He also reviewed the district's internal budget development and reconciliation process, which includes independent budget preparation by both himself and the district's Payroll Officer Kelly Thies. Both use separate systems before reconciling line by line to ensure accuracy. Additional review processes include year-to-year Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) comparisons and a third-party review through the NCESD.

Discussion also included anticipated capital and facility projects, including roofing projects at Vale Elementary and the middle school, tennis courts, safety and security upgrades, and districtwide technology needs. Mr. Charlton reiterated the remaining budget timeline, including finalizing staffing and enrollment projections, completing fund and program documents,

reconciling budget details, and meeting with board members in June prior to the final budget adoption.

Lastly, Mr. Charlton also shared how artificial intelligence (AI) tools are being incorporated into the budgeting process to improve efficiency, reduce data entry time, and minimize the potential for human error.

- 4.0 Adjournment – On a motion by Aaron Lowers and there being no further business to discuss, Chairman Nick Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:21 A.M.

Secretary

Chairman