Board Work Session Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2026

The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, November 9, 2026. The meeting began at 6:00pm and was held at the District Office. Directors Gray, Nolan, Cannon, Killman, and Woodworth were present. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson and Assistant Superintendents Jay Jordan and Jared Hoadley.

I. Learning & Teaching – New Course Proposals for Consideration

Northwood Science Teacher/CTE Coordinator Dave Gamon gave a brief introduction of himself including his tenure and role in the Mead School District over many years. Note: Mr. Gamon leads the district's very popular Summer Stem Camp Program. Mr. Gamon and Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan jointly presented two CTE courses to be considered for core academic equivalency credit, the first being an existing course, Principles of Engineering, and the second being a new course, Financial Algebra. Dr. Jordan referenced Mead Policy 2413 which outlines that the board is responsible for adopting core academic course equivalencies for high school career and technical courses, provided that the career and technical course has been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a district team appointed by the Superintendent, or designee. The review criteria includes academic alignment with Washington State learning standards, alignment with current industry standards, and whether the course demonstrates scope, depth, and rigor comparable to the equivalent academic course.

A. Principles of Engineering

The first course is Principles of Engineering, a CTE course that currently exists in Mead's course catalog. The proposal is for this full-year CTE course, designed for 10th graders, with a prerequisite of Introduction to Engineering, to become a lab science credit. The Learning & Teaching District Equivalency Committee has reviewed and approved this course for equivalency, and it was noted that many other districts have already approved this course for equivalency. Director Woodworth inquired about the robotics piece of this and whether the district has the equipment necessary. Director of Schools, Jeff Naslund, confirmed that the district has the equipment and stated this is a curriculum the district has implemented for a number of years and is a popular track for a number of students at both high schools. This course is more application-based and does not take away from the science, with which the district's science teachers are in agreement.

B. Financial Algebra

The second course is Financial Algebra. The proposal is for this *new*, full-year CTE course, designed for 11th and 12th graders, with prerequisites of Algebra I and Geometry, to be a 3rd year math credit. The Learning & Teaching District Equivalency Committee is in the process of reviewing this proposal. Mr. Gamon reviewed the mathematical concepts and stated that it applies all of the concepts to real-world financial applications and it was noted that other districts have already adopted this course for equivalency. There was some discussion around the high school math requirements for graduation as well as the typical math requirements for entrance to 4-year universities, and who the target students would be for this course. While this is a rigorous math course, it is not at the level of Algebra II. Director Killman inquired if approved, would it be taught at both high schools? If approved, it would become part of Mead's

course catalog and will be taught based on the number of students who register for it. The district has very capable staff who can teach this course and who are excited to do so.

Dr. Jordan plans to bring both of these CTE courses forward for core academic course equivalency at the January Regular Board Meeting for action.

II. Student Travel Proposal Discussion – Vancouver BC

Dr. Jordan shared that he will be presenting a student travel proposal at the next Regular Board Meeting on behalf of Mead High School's Band Program, for a trip to Vancouver, BC, May 27-30, 2027. Because this is an international trip, he wanted to give extra notice to the board and he shared that Mead High School's Band is one of the district's most experienced travel groups. Dr. Jordan and Mr. Naslund have been working with Mead High School on this trip and praised their preparation. Director Cannon stated that this is a trip he went on 8 years ago with his son and felt it was worthwhile.

III. 2027 Educational Programs & Operations Levy Discussion

Chief Financial Officer, Heather Ellingson, shared that, as the board is aware, it is time to prepare the next EP&O levy to be on the February 2027 ballot for the 2028-2030 calendar years. Ms. Ellingson shared that the district's goal is to retain current staffing, continue investing in safety and security, and continue investing in new curriculum and in order to do so she recommends asking voters to keep the levy rate the same as what they approved in 2024. Additionally, the district is currently slated to see a significant reduction in LEA funding so keeping the levy rate the same is paramount to not being in a place where programs have to be cut.

Superintendent Hanson discussed the historical context of where the district has been and recognized that the district asked for more in 2024. While there has been an increased tax burden with taxes having increased steadily over the last 7-8 years, home values have stabilized and valuations are projected to stay nearly flat through 2030. In keeping the current levy rate the same for this next cycle, it allows for a far more stable, if not flat, tax burden going forward in the years to come. Projections point to an increase of approximately $60.00 for a property owner over the course of a 5-year span from 2028-2032. While there are many variables that are hard to predict, which include future assessed valuations, this is the district's best educated prediction based on a variety of resources and discussions with Cory Plager, Managing Director, Public Finance at D.A. Davidson & Co.

There was good dialogue amongst the board about the increase to property taxes over the last 8 years, alongside the confluence of financial challenges the district has faced. The board appreciated the transparency of district leadership and agreed that openness about the property tax increases is important, as is information about the importance of the jobs and programs tied directly to the local levy. It was noted that leaving the EP&O rate at $2.50 means that the total school tax rate in the Mead School District is still lower than four other districts in the Spokane area. The recommendation is to proceed with the same levy rate.

Superintendent Hanson reviewed for the board that the district is legally required to solicit interested parties who would like to write the "For (Yes)" and "Against (No)" levy statements for the local voters' pamphlet in order to ensure a fair, balanced, and transparent voting process. The board will need to take action on who is chosen for each at the next Regular Board Meeting.

IV. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hanson shared that the State Board of Education has approved proposed changes to high school graduation requirements and Dr. Jordan and Mr. Naslund will soon be

meeting with the district's high school principals to review and discuss. He stated that the Board of Education's proposal, part of their FutureReady initiative, will be submitted to the state legislature for consideration during the 2027 legislative session. Superintendent Hanson informed the board that the district will be discussing and preparing to inform the legislature about how the proposed changes will impact the district.

Superintendent Hanson updated the board regarding revisions to Policy and Procedure 6801/6801P, Capital Assets. In meeting with department leaders whose departments have capital assets that are being tracked, he learned they are being tracked in slightly different ways. Each department lead is reviewing their current system and Superintendent Hanson will update the board in December or January about the feasibility of having a singular system for tracking, as well as if the WSSDA model procedure for 6801P is a good fit for the district's system.

Lastly, Superintendent Hanson shared a quick update on the district's current litigation.

Director Killman inquired if the repairs were complete at Mt. Spokane High School from the flood last May. Ms. Ellingson stated that to the best of her knowledge it is very close to complete, if not complete, and that all areas that were affected are back in use.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

President **Secretary**