

## West Valley School District No. 208

### Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 11, 2022

After being advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, in the West Valley High School Auditorium, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via Zoom Webinar ID# 841 1765 6851.

**Board of Directors present:** President Mark Strong, Michael Thorner, Dave Jaeger, Mike Meyer, and Mark Mochel.

**Administrative Staff present:** Superintendent Dr. Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Joe Connolly, Assistant Superintendent Stacey Drake, Director of Student Experience Russ Tuman, Communications Director Amy Forrest, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

**Call to Order:** At 7:04 p.m., President Mark Strong called the meeting to order.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was held at the study session.

**Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.

#### **Communications:**

##### A. Staff Retirement Recognition

The School Board recognized Launa Olney from Ahtanum Valley. Launa has served as a paraprofessional at Ahtanum Valley for 17 years and she has served students in the District for a total of 20 years.

##### B. Innovation Center Update (Robotics/Agri Science)

Russ Tuman provided an update regarding plans for the 2022/23 school year. Currently, there are three pathways for students at the Innovation Center using a cohort model. The three pathways are Health Science, Computer Science, and STEM Engineering. Next school year, the Innovation Center will add a fourth pathway: Robotics/Agri Science.

Russ shared information about economic development in our region. Agri Science has increased in importance over the past 10 years. YVC is adding a Bachelor's Degree program for Agri Science. Wages have increased from \$0.5 billion annually to over \$1.0 billion annually for Agri Science in Yakima County.

#### **School Presentation/Program:** Cottonwood Elementary

Principal Michelle Siguenza introduced fine arts teacher, Krista Strother, and students. The students performed a drumming piece and an excerpt from an upcoming play. Krista expressed appreciation for students, parents, staff members, and the West Valley Schools Foundation who assisted with the purchase of percussion instruments.

**Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items:** At 7:23 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

Community member, Peter Marinace, requested that the School Board provide individuals more time for public comment.

Community member, Ryan Mathews, shared comments to emphasize that the upcoming levy is a replacement levy. The targeted tax rate (\$1.50 per thousand) is the same rate that was approved by voters in 2018. The levy approved in 2018 will expire in 2022. The replacement levy will keep the targeted rate the same for the next four years (\$1.50 per thousand).

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 7:27 p.m.

**Action Items**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. December 22, 2021 Regular Minutes

*Dave Jaeger motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. MC 5-0.*

**B. Approval of Travel Requests**

1. Bob Altshuler, Girls Wrestling Tournament, Othello WA - January 21-22, 2022.
2. David Stai, Boys Wrestling Tournament, Tacoma, WA - January 21-22, 2022.

*Dave Jaeger motioned to approve the travel requests, as presented. MC 5-0.*

**Items Arising:** No items were reported.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Finch's report was included in the Board packet.

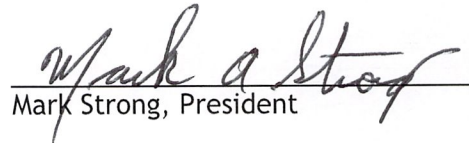
**Board Reports/Board Development:** None reported.

**Executive Session:** At 7:30 p.m., the Board moved into an Executive Session to discuss a Complaint Against a Public Employee to last thirty (30) minutes with no action to follow. At 8:01 p.m., the Board reconvened into regular session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



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Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent

  
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Mark Strong, President