

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 8, 2020

After being advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar ID# 881 8065 9955.

Board of Directors present: President Mike Meyer, Mark Strong, Dave Jaeger, Melissa Robertson, Michael Thorner, and Student Representative Madisyn Ross.

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Mike Brophy, Assistant Superintendent Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Angela Von Essen, Futures and Innovations Director Chris Nesmith, Human Resource Director Randy Souers, Kevin VanDeBrake, Crystal McDonald, Nick Clark, Ben McMurry, Debbie Cameron, Eva Lust, Heidi Sutton, Jeff Jamieson, Communications Director Nick Sybouts, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

The meeting attendees are as follows: The meeting attendees included: Brad Liebrecht, Robert Gross, Esmerai Lujan, Kyland Hausner, Tiffany Williams, David Beaudine, Ryan Mathews, Jerry Prescott, Millea McMurry, Jedediah Watters, Tricia Ewing, Hasan Tahat, Jill Armstrong, Pete Marinace, Heather Clark, Michael Moore, Kristin Johnson, Michelle Gaberman, Brenda McClain, Adam Eldridge, Kari Cospers, Chris Caprile, Bob Balderston, Karen Riomondo, Amy Osborn, Heidi Mochel, Stephen Robertson, Charity Caprile, Jillian Williams, Susan Olden, Meghan Alderson, Robert Fawcett, Michelle Siguenza, Ruth Veselka, Cathy Warren, Cory Kingsbury, Mindy Berreman, Minerva Pardo, and Brian Van Dyke. The list of attendees and the Q&A report is attached to the minutes.

Call to Order: At 7:05 p.m., President Mike Meyer called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers

- A. President - President Meyer nominated Mark Strong for President. MC 5-0
- B. Vice President - Mr. Meyer nominated Michael Thorner for Vice President. MC 5-0
- C. WSSDA Legislative Representative - Mr. Meyer nominated Dave Jaeger to retain his current position as the Legislative Representative. MC 4-0. Due to Michael Thorner's phone call losing reception, his vote was not heard and counted.

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

Communications: Dr. Brophy informed the Board that a Special Board Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is the discuss and seek Board approval in moving forward with the Innovation School.

High School Student Report: Madisyn Ross reported the leadership class is developing ideas to get students involved in some fun holiday activities through social media platforms. Teachers are making sure students are getting their declarations submitted for next semester.

Introduction of Visitors for Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items:

At 7:15 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

Bob Balderston thanked the High School admin team for their leadership in ensuring the safety of staff and students is a priority.

With no further comments, President Strong closed the public forum at 7:18 p.m.

Host School Presentation/Program: Middle-Level Campus

Russ Tuman commented that the Middle-Level Campus had numerous challenges in providing a safe and functional in-person learning environment. They have had to design a hybrid learning model, create various class schedules to accommodate the new structure, develop a remote learning model, implement building procedures and protocols, and support staff with ongoing professional development for the new and various teaching models. Some of the challenges are a loss of instructional coaches, asynchronous learning in a hybrid teaching and learning model, additional students wanting to change between hybrid and remote, extended student absences for illness or quarantine, planning for 2nd semester with the uncertainty of state and local mandates, remote learning, and the ongoing ability to sustain social distancing for our students.

Nick Clark, Debbie Cameron, Crystal McDonald, and Kevin VanDeBrake provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Middle-Level Campus programs.

Tiffany Williams introduced student leaders Millea McMurry, Esmerai Lujan, and Kyland Hausner. They shared their perspective on the hybrid learning model.

Discussion Items:

A. Long-Range Facilities Committee Report and Recommendation

Board members continued their discussion from the Study Session held before the meeting regarding the Long-Range Facilities Plan. As a majority, Board members asked Dr. Brophy to clarify what needs to be approved. Dr. Brophy asked the Board to support the plan by starting with the short-term (1-3 year plan) now, and then later continue with the mid-and long-term plan. After a lengthy discussion, Board members felt that the financial funding aspect of the plan was not clear. The Board decided not to proceed with the projects listed in the plan at this time, but they accept the plan and its recommendations. Board members thanked the Committee for their work on this project.

B. Financial/Budget Updates

Angela Von Essen provided the Board with an updated enrollment and revenue report and explained that as of December 2020, the District is estimating an enrollment revenue loss of \$3M. The District's fund balance is \$12.9M, and \$6M of that amount is unreserved. She also explained that the fund balance might not decline due to the enrollment decline and the additional hires because of the lack of spending. Ms. Von Essen addressed comments and questions from the Board.

C. Return to In-Person Learning/Remote Option Update

Dr. Brophy reported we are now six to eight weeks into in-person learning grades K through 8, with 24 COVID cases reported. Thirteen of those cases were staff, and eleven were students.

We are in the process of planning for the second semester. Declarations were sent to parents last week, and they must be returned by December 9. The District will continue to offer three different learning options: in-person learning, remote learning, or West Valley Virtual Academy.

Public Comment of Discussion Items: At 8:36 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting for public comment.

Susan Olden and Peter Marinace both stated that any leftover bond money should not be used for the Long-Range Facilities Plan projects.

Communications Director Nick Sybouts read the following comments from the webinar meeting Q&A as requested by the Board:

Kristin Johnson wrote, “Respectfully, I think we should acknowledge that the excitement for an Innovative school was BEFORE we got so innovative across the District thanks to COVID. If enrollment is as down as we are being told, maybe that isn’t so urgent in crowding at the HS. I am not saying drop it forever, but less urgency.”

Jill Armstrong wrote, “I would love to see the innovation school concept to move forward and heavily considered in the near future.”

With no further comments, President Strong closed the public forum at 8:46 p.m.

Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes - November 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mike Meyer made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. MC 5-0

B. Approval of Long-Range Facilities Plan and Recommendation

Michael Thorner made a motion to accept the Long-Range Facilities Plan, but not to approve it. The Board acknowledges the wonderful work by the Committee in putting together a detailed plan. MC 5-0

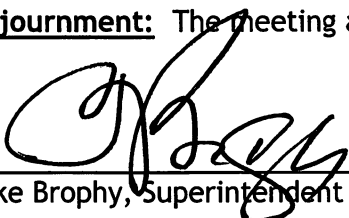
Items Arising: No items were reported.

Superintendent’s Report: Dr. Brophy’s report was included in the Board packet. The report included important dates, School Board meetings, and Study Session topics.

Board Reports/Board Development: None reported.

Executive Session: At 8:50 p.m., the Board moved into an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation to last (30) thirty minutes with no action to follow. At 9:15 p.m., the Board reconvened to the regular session.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.



Mike Brophy, Superintendent



Mark Strong, President