

West Valley School District No. 208

**Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

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 14, 2021, in the West Valley High School Auditorium, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via Zoom Webinar ID# 863 8800 2970.

Board of Directors present: President Mark Strong, Michael Thorner, and Dave Jaeger. Mark Mochel attended via Zoom.

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Dr. Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Joe Connolly, Assistant Superintendent Stacey Drake, Executive Director of Innovation Jed Watters, Director of Student and Family Support Lucas Jaeger, Principal Eva Lust, Communications Director Amy Forrest, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

Call to Order: At 7:00 p.m., President Mark Strong called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mark Strong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Thorner motioned to excuse Mike Meyer from attending the meeting. MC 4-0.

Changes to the Agenda: Dr. Finch added, Safe and Orderly Learning Environment as Communications Item 5C.

Communications:

A. Oath of Office -

1. Dr. Peter Finch Secretary to the Board
2. Mark Strong - District Area #3
3. Michael Thorner - District Area #2

Board President Mark Strong administered the Oath of Office to Superintendent Peter Finch, as the Secretary to the Board.

Superintendent Peter Finch administered the Oath of Office to re-elect Board members, Mark Strong and Michael Thorner. Both were elected in November, 2021 for a 4-year term.

- B. Response to Public Comment -** Dr. Peter Finch provided a response to public comments, questions and concerns that were raised by the public during the November 9, 2021, School Board meeting. As requested, the HS Athletic Director reviewed the requirements for COVID testing for our student-athletes. The District's current practice follows the requirements of the Department of Health and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association. Students who are unvaccinated must take a rapid test one day before their event or competition. Students who are vaccinated are not required to test. The District will continue with current practice. The responses were included in the Board packet and provided to attendees.

- C. Safe and Orderly Learning Environment - High School Assistant Principal, Chance Dolezal reported disruptive behavior where students are wearing different flags as capes. This is not allowed at school as it has been disruptive. Dr. Finch shared that the Mid-Level Campus and the Innovation Center is enforcing this same dress code as the High School.
- D. Equity and Inclusion - Lucas Jaeger, Director of Student and Family Support, provided an update on the Equity and Inclusion Work Group. Meetings in November and December focused on "Data and Dialogue." The data showed that different groups of students have different levels of academic achievement in our school district. Our goal is to have high achievement for all students. Mr. Jaeger shared that he participated in site visits of exemplary schools for inclusion. He will be organizing a district team to follow-up with another visit to these schools. The next meeting of the Work Group is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022. All are invited to join this work. Zoom links will be posted to the district calendar via the district website.
- E. 2nd Grade Badge Book - Stacey Drake, Assistant Superintendent, share the progress being made on the development of the Second Grade Badge Book. A team of second grade teachers has been working to develop the Badge Book and will pilot the Badge Book with their students after Winter Break. The timeline is to complete the pilot this spring, adjusting as needed, in preparation for full implementation in all second-grade classrooms in the 2022/23 school year. Ms. Drake will work with teacher-leaders to develop a plan for professional development for second grade teachers prior to implementation.
- F. School Safety Operations and Coordination Center (SSOCC) - Chris Weedon from the SSOCC provided an update on the training and support that is provided to all schools in West Valley. In addition, Chris provided a review of the response to the social media threats that were made recently to the Mid-Level Campus. Chris shared how the school administration worked closely with the Yakima Police Department, the SSOCC, and Phoenix Security to respond to the threats, stating that the communication among these agencies provided a safe and secure response to the threats.

School Presentation/Program: Eva Lust, Summitview Elementary Principal and Jessica Hunter, Health and Fitness Teacher, shared a PowerPoint presentation of the Bike Safety unit taught to all students at Summitview. This project was initially supported by a grant from the West Valley Schools Foundation. The presentation showed the number of students at each grade level who were not able to ride a bike prior to the unit and the number of students who were able to ride a bike after completing the unit. There was an increase at each grade level. Ms. Hunter explained there is not enough bikes for every student, some students bring their bikes from home and others take turns with the bikes.

Michael Thorner asked how someone could go about donating a bike if they wanted. Dr. Finch stated: If you have a child's bike to donate, please contact Jessica Hunter. If you would like to donate money for the purchase of a bike, please contact Eva Lust and she will work with the Summitview PTSA to receive the funds and purchase bikes.

Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items: At 7:28 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. Megan Mauch and Kim Scacco-Morton expressed concern about the volunteer policy and communication with staff regarding COVID protocols.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 7:34 p.m.

Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. November 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dave Jaeger motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. MC 4-0.

B. Approval of Travel Requests

1. Dave Stai / Bob Altshuler / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Girls Wrestling Districts, location TBD, February 4-5, 2022.
2. Dave Stai / Bob Altshuler / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Boys Wrestling Districts, location TBD, February 4-5, 2022.
3. Dave Stai / Bob Altshuler / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Girls Wrestling Regionals, location TBD, February 11-12, 2022.
4. Dave Stai / Bob Altshuler / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Boys Wrestling Regionals, location TBD, February 11-12, 2022.
5. Dave Stai / Bob Altshuler / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Girls Wrestling State, Tacoma, February 18-19, 2022.
6. Dave Stai / Bob Altshuler / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Boys Wrestling State, Tacoma, February 18-19, 2022.
7. Jeff Weeks / Carly Davis / Monico DeLeon / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Girls Basketball State, Tacoma, March 2-5, 2022.
8. Tyson Whitfield / Zo Juarez / Felix DeLeon / Dale Curfman / Jeff Jamieson / Jeannie Martin, Boys Basketball State, Tacoma, March 2-5, 2022.
9. Peter Finch / Ben McMurry / Richard Pryor / Stacey Drake / Russ Tuman / Jed Watters / Debbie Cameron, AASA National Summit, Washington D.C., June 27-30, 2022.

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the travel requests, as presented. MC 4-0.

C. Approval of Resolution(s)

1. Resolution #21-12-735 Appointment of Investment Officer, Auditing Officer, and Signatory of Warrant Registers.

Michael Thorner motioned to approve Resolution #21-12-735, as presented. MC 4-0.

Items Arising: No items were reported.

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

Board Reports/Board Development: Michael Thorner expressed appreciation for Jerry Prescott, retired West Valley teacher, for his dedication to the school district as a volunteer with the West Valley Citizens for Better Schools. Recently, Jerry attended a staff meeting at every school in West Valley to share information about the upcoming levy.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent



Mark Strong, President