

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 8, 2020

After having been advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar ID# 996 2855 8750.

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

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Mike Brophy, Assistant Superintendent Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Angela Von Essen, Futures and Innovations Director Chris Nesmith, Communications Director Anjerie Nemrow, Human Resource Director Randy Souers, Jeff Jamieson, Lucas Jaeger, Eva Lust-Wright, Heidi Sutton, Ben McMurry, Traci Cox, Sheilah Wood, Stacey Drake, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

Call to Order: At 7:01 p.m., President Mike Meyer called the meeting to order.

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

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

Communications: Dr. Brophy reviewed the Superintendent-Board Goals that were included in the Board packet. The Board agreed with the documents presented.

Dr. Brophy stated the Family Engagement conferences were a success. He received a lot of positive feedback from parents and teachers.

Introduction of the 2020-21 School Board of Directors High School Student Representatives: Anna Grange introduced herself, and she provided a brief overview of the first week of school.

Introduction of Visitors/Public Comment Non-Discussion/Agenda Items: Visitors present were: Joelle McMurry, Megan Swanson, Amy Osborn, Susan Olden, Robert Fawcett, Adam Eldridge, Tiffany Williams, Michael Moore, Danielle Polage, Maggie Thurlby, Heidi Mochel, Ruth Veselka, Kristen Kegley, Ryan Mathews, John Hardwick, Vanessa Eldridge, Mandye Kephart, Kristin Johnson, Meghan Alderson, Bob Balderston, Kira Baron, Danielle Crawford, Rebecca Valencia, Kristin Williams, Kelly Johnson, Michelle McKimmy, Matt Lewis, and Megan Jevne.

At 7:15 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions, and concerns from the audience. Bob Balderston, a math teacher at the High School, stated that during Family Engagement conferences, there were many questions from parents as to when we will return to school in a hybrid model. Bob asked when will the information be provided.

Ruth Veselka, a District teacher and parent, thanked the IT Department, Audeen Smart, and Elizabeth Chicken for their help and support during this transition.

Michael Meyer closed the public forum at 7:22 p.m.

Discussion Items:

- A. **Financial/Budget Updates** - Angela Von Essen provided the Board with updated enrollment reports, reflecting a \$3.3M negative revenue impact due to the decrease in student enrollment.

Dave Jaeger asked about potential legislative reductions during the 2020-21 school year. It is possible to have mid-year reductions, but we will see.

Michael Thorner asked how much money was currently in the fund balance and how much is unrestricted. Ms. Von Essen stated the current balance is \$12.5M and approximately \$5M is unrestricted.

- B. Enrollment Update/Opening Schools** - Dr. Brophy discussed the possibility of having our students return to school earlier than initially planned, which was based on the recent improvement in COVID-19 cases and the ability to move to the next Phase. Each Board member shared their concerns about the safety of our staff and students, but also expressed their desire to get students back to our school buildings.

After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons, the Board directed Dr. Brophy to develop a plan by October 5, 2020, for further conversations and consideration.

Dr. Brophy reminded the Board that the West Valley Education Association's (WVEA) COVID-19 Memorandum of Understanding requires the District administration to provide our teachers with a two weeks' notice before opening schools.

Public Comments Re: Discussion Items: At 8:17 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions, and concerns from the audience.

Heidi Mochel, President of the WVEA, shared that she is disheartened by the fact the people making the decisions on when we return to school are the ones still holding meetings via Zoom because they know it's not safe to meet in person. She also shared that the WVEA has significant concerns by knowing what the bargaining team went through this summer and the lack of having a safety plan in place. She doesn't see how teams will be able to return to school earlier than the planned date of October 31, 2020.

Megan Jevne, a District parent, thanked the teachers, staff, and IT Department for their part in getting the first week of school going. She read a letter expressing her concerns about not having students back in the classroom. She feels this is not what is best for the students or parents.

Bob Balderson, a District teacher, addressed Angela Von Essen, asking why the decision was made to restrict funds this summer, and what were the restrictions. He also shared his concerns for the safety of students and staff by opening the schools too soon.

Michael Meyer closed the public forum at 8:25 p.m.

Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. August 25, 2020 Study Session
2. August 25, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

B. Approval of the WVEA Bargaining Agreement

Dave Jaeger made the motion to approve the WVEA Bargaining Agreement, as presented. MC 5-0

Items Arising:

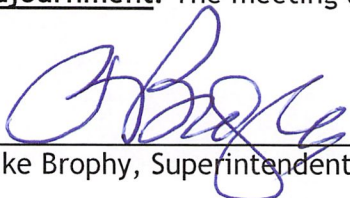
Melissa Robertson asked if the Board would consider reviewing the District's mission statement at a future study session.

Dr. Brophy invited Board members to take the Washington State School Directors' Association's (WSSDA) School Board Self-Assessment. An email link to the Assessment will follow.

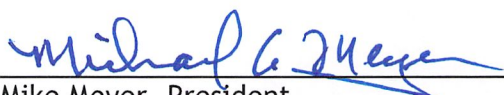
Superintendent's Report: Dr. Brophy's report was included in the Board packet. The report had important dates, School Board meetings, and Study Session topics. The following reports were also included in the Board packet: HVAC Inspection Letter, Clear Risk Letter of Notice, WVEA COVID-19 MOA 2020-2021, WVESA COVID-19 MOA 2020-21.

Board Reports/Board Development: Michael Thorner stated he would like to conduct Board meetings in person and by following the social distancing guidelines as soon as the Yakima Health Department allows. All Board members agreed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Mike Brophy, Superintendent



Mike Meyer, President