

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

After being advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Innovation Center Library, 9206 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via YouTube Livestream:
<https://youtube.com/live/mhW2G3PH7SY?feature=share>.

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

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Michael Thorner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda: An Executive Session-Performance of a Public Employee was added as Agenda Item #13. Adjournment was moved to Item #14.

Communications:

- A. Response to Public Comment - There was no response to public comment.
- B. Staff Retirement Recognition - Beth Poston, third grade teacher at Mountainview was not able to attend tonight's meeting, Dr. Finch shared that he presented her plaque to her with her students at Mountainview.
- C. WASA Student Leadership Award - Andrew Modine from the Innovation Center was recognized for his assistance with other students in his cohort. Andrew received a certificate from WASA. During the past school year, Andrew was a ninth-grade student in the Computer Science cohort that served students in Grades 7, 8, and 9. When superintendents and other educational leaders from the region visited the Innovation Center in February, there was a student panel. The younger students on the panel said that the multi-age cohort was an asset because the older students helped the younger students.
- D. WASA Community Leadership Award - PEXCO Aerospace - Representatives from Pexco Aerospace attended the Board meeting and received a plaque from WASA. Since 2017, the West Valley School District has partnered with Pexco Aerospace to provide Registered Apprenticeship placements. West Valley students earn high school credits, college credits, and an hourly wage for on-the-job training. Pexco is located near the Yakima Airport and is a contractor for many large aerospace companies including Boeing. Pexco has been a great partner and is always

willing to assist our students. Students from West Valley are able to make almost \$30,000 their senior year through on-the-job training at Pexco Aerospace.

- E. Audit Report - The report from the Auditor's Office for the annual audit was included in the Board packet and is available to the public to review. There were no findings and no weaknesses. The audit included over \$3 million in federal funds for Emergency Relief (ESSER funds).

School Presentation: Innovation Center - Russ Tuman, Director of Student Experience, shared information about the Innovation Center. Students Connor Mansfield and Justin Wasley shared how the English Language Arts standards and the standards from other content areas are integrated into project-based learning at the Innovation Center. Students in attendance, Cody Floren and Andrew Modine, assisted the presentation.

Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items: At 7:22 p.m., President Michael Thorner opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. Staff and community members requested that the Dr. Finch withdraw the non-renewal letters, presented as Agenda Item 8c #1 and 2.

With no further requests, President Thorner closed the public forum at 8:02 p.m.

Approval Items:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. May 23, 2023 Study Session
2. May 23, 2023 Board Meeting
3. May 31, 2023 Special School Board Meeting

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

B. Approval of Travel Requests

1. Melaina Cook, Katherine Reinhart - UCA Summer Cheer Camp, Tacoma, WA- July 24-27, 2023.
2. Jeff Weeks - Boys Golf District Tournament, Wenatchee, WA- May 15-16, 2023.
3. Tina Martinez, Amy Osborn - Northwest Yearbook Workshop, Tacoma, WA- July 11-14, 2023.
4. Jenna Leaverton - Girls Golf State Tournament, Spokane, WA- May 22-24, 2023.
5. Jillian Berg / Jen Rosie / Jenna Leaverton / Amber Johnson / Amy Mills 2023 Sheridan/Welch Crossover Classic Invitation, Spokane, WA- September 28-30, 2023.

Mike Meyer motioned to approve the travel requests, as presented. MC 5-0.

C. Approval of Resignation(s)/Retirement(s)/Separation(s)

1. Olden, Crystal 5th Grade Teacher @ Summitview Elementary
2. Ortiz, Mellissa 5th Grade Teacher @ Summitview Elementary

Dave Jaeger motioned to approve the non-renewals as presented. Mike Meyer abstained from voting. MC 4-0.

Action Items:

A. Adoption of Social Studies Instructional Materials

Mark Mochel motioned to approve the adoption of Social Studies Instructional Materials, 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: Mark Strong reported that he and Dr. Finch met with City Manager, Bob Harrison to discuss the need for a sidewalk on Zier Road.

Mr. Thorner reminded everyone of the upcoming Special Board meeting on June 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School library, to discuss the remaining bond funds.

Executive Session: At 8:16 p.m., the Board moved into an Executive Session to discuss the Performance of a Public Employee, expected to last thirty (30) minutes with no action to follow. At 8:48 p.m., the Board reconvened into regular session.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.



Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent



Michael Thorner, President