

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 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, April 19, 2022, in the West Valley High School Auditorium, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via Zoom Webinar ID# 845 0723 3011.

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

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Dr. Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Joe Connolly, Assistant Superintendent Stacey Drake, Director of Innovation Jed Watters, Director of Student and Family Support Lucas Jaeger, Student/Family/Community Engagement Coordinator Minerva Pardo, Communications Director Amy Forrest, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

Mark Mochel motioned to excuse Dave Jaeger from tonight's meeting. MC 4-0.

Call to Order: At 7:02 p.m., President Mark Strong called the meeting to order.

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

Changes to the Agenda: Dr. Finch tabled Action Items 8D, 1-4, for a future meeting.

Communications:

- A. Response to Public Comment - Dr. Finch shared that when the administration was researching anti-discrimination policy for gender identity, we were informed that the district needs to adopt policies and procedures specifically for "Gender Inclusive Schools." He invited the district's legal counsel, Jason MacKay, to be available at tonight's School Board meeting for question/answer with the School Board members.
- B. Staff Recognition - The School Board recognized Megan Goranson for her accomplishments as Choir Teacher for Grades 6-8 and for her recent recognition as "Teacher of the Year" by the Yakima Valley Music Educators Association.

School Presentation/Program: Apple Valley Elementary Principal Heidi Sutton and Fifth Grade Teacher, Megan McKinney, along with students: Daryn Elder, Paige Kegley and Braylon Slater provided information to the School Board about Outdoor School and the upcoming trip that the entire fifth grade at Apple Valley will complete this spring. Heidi was able to secure grant funds to pay for the trip. Heidi shared that recent legislation will provide funding in the future for other schools to participate in Outdoor School.

Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items: At 7:41 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

Community members commented about gender identity and the use of restrooms.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 7:57 p.m.

Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. March 22, 2022 Study Session
2. March 22, 2022 Board Meeting

Mike Meyer motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. MC 4-0.

B. Approval of Travel Requests

1. Stacey Drake AASA National Leadership Academy, San Diego, CA-June 22-25, 2022.
2. Nordstrom/Balderston/Killam/Nell/Boss/Barden State Track, Tacoma, WA- May 26-28, 2022.

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

C. Approval of Policy Addition(s)/Revision(s) SECOND Reading

1. Policy 4200 - Parent Access and Safe and Orderly Learning Environment (updated title)

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the SECOND reading of policy 4200, as presented. MC 4-0

~~D. Approval of Resolution(s)~~

- ~~1. #22-04-737 Acceptance of Summitview Elementary Commissioning Report~~
- ~~2. #22-04-738 Summitview Elementary Final Acceptance~~
- ~~3. #22-04-739 Acceptance of Apple Valley Elementary Commissioning Report~~
- ~~4. #22-04-740 Apple Valley Elementary Final Acceptance~~

During Changes to the Agenda, this Item was tabled for a future Board meeting.

Discussion Items:

A. Gender-Inclusive Schools Policy Development

Jason MacKay with STEVENS/CLAY PS. The District's legal counsel conducted a question/answer session with the School Board members. Mr. MacKay explained that the District must adopt policies and procedures for "Gender Inclusive Schools." The policies and procedures must be aligned with non-discrimination laws - the District cannot discriminate based on gender identity.

The timeline for adoption of policies and procedures will be:

- The District will provide a draft of the policy and procedures during the week of April 18.
- The Board will have discussion for first reading at their meeting on May 10, 2022.
- The Board will accept comments and feedback between the first reading and second reading.
- The Board will have discussion for second reading and adopt the policy and procedures on June 14, 2022.

Public Comment of Discussion Items: At 8:33 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

Community members shared their thoughts about gender inclusive schools.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum 8:50 p.m.

Items Arising: No items were reported.

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

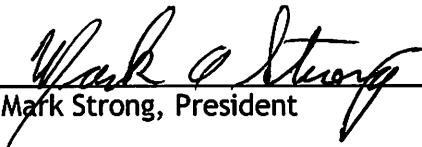
Board Reports/Board Development: None reported.

Executive Session: At 8:52 p.m., the Board moved into an Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation, expected to last thirty-eight (38) minutes, with no action to follow. At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Strong announced an additional fifteen (15) minutes was needed with no action to follow. At 9:44 p.m., the Board reconvened into regular session.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.



Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent



Mark Strong, President