

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 14, 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, June 14, 2022, in the West Valley High School Auditorium, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via Zoom Webinar ID# 852 4890 7136.

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

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, Director of Transportation Jaimi Schmidt, Student/Family/Community Engagement Coordinator Minerva Pardo, Communications Director Amy Forrest, and Recording Secretary Lori Jones.

Call to Order: At 7:04 p.m., President Mark Strong called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was held at the Study Session.

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

Communications:

- A. Response to Public Comment - Dr. Peter Finch provided a response to public comments, questions and concerns that were raised by the public during the May 24, 2022, School Board meeting. The responses were included in the Board packet and provided to attendees.
- B. Staff Retirement Recognition - The School Board recognized the following staff members for their years of service in West Valley: Tim Critchlow, Mary Ellis, Cheryl Franks, and Heidi Taylor.

School Presentation/Program: Russ Tuman, Director of Student Experience provided information about the Innovation Center. Students Andrew Modine and Evelin Severino presented information from a student perspective. The Innovation Center had three pathways this year: Health Science, Computer Science, and STEM Engineering. Next school year Robotics/Agri Science will be added as a fourth pathway. Teachers are called “Designers” because they work with students to design projects that meet learning standards. Audeen Smart is endorsed in Special Education and serves as the case-manager for students with IEPs. Russ has worked to develop partnerships with business and higher ed representatives in our region. Jed Watters has secured additional grant funding to support the implementation of the new Robotics/Agri Science pathway.

Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items: At 7:39 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. Community members commented regarding Gender-Inclusive Schools, the Instructional Materials Committee, and Mid-Level Campus Yearbook.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 8:09 p.m.

Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. May 24, 2022 Board Meeting

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. MC 5-0.

B. Approval of Travel Requests

1. Tiffany Williams / Gregory Bynum / Kristin Johnson - Jostens Renaissance Global Conference, Orlando, FL - July 17-20, 2022.

Dave Jaeger motioned to approve the travel requests, as presented. Michael Thorner abstained from voting. MC 4-0.

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

1. 3211 Gender Inclusive Schools (NEW POLICY)
2. 4129 Parent Involvement
3. 5015 Civility (NEW POLICY)

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the Second Reading of Policies 3211, 4129, and 5015, as presented. MC 5-0.

D. Adoption of Science Instructional Materials

Mike Meyer motioned to approve the adoption of science instructional materials, as presented. MC 5-0

E. Approval of Comprehensive School Counseling Plan

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the Comprehensive School Counseling Plan, as presented. MC 5-0.

F. Approval of Bus Bids

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

Discussion Items: Budget Development

A. 2022/23 Staffing - Asst. Supt. Joe Connolly shared the plan for staffing in the upcoming school year to shift funding for early learning to Transitional Kindergarten which will free-up funding for additional staff for special education to support inclusive practices. Additional staff will be located at Ahtanum Valley, Wide Hollow, and Summitview which are three of the District's high-poverty schools. In addition, the District plans to add another Board Certified Behavior Analyst to assist staff with problem-solving and behavior plans for students who need additional assistance with their executive function and self-management skills.

B. Capital Projects - Joe provided information about Capital Projects as a follow-up to a previous presentation to the School Board. Safety items that will be addressed this summer including trip hazards from concrete throughout the District that has settled over the years.

Public Comment of Discussion Items: At 9:06 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. A community member asked if the district contact for Gender-Inclusive Schools would be a full-time position. Dr. Finch said a current staff member will have the duties added to their responsibilities.

A community member requested that the summer projects be listed on the District website. Mr. Connolly said he would get the information posted.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 9:08 p.m.

Items Arising: Dr. Finch acknowledged our outstanding West Valley High School student athletes for spring sports that were listed in the Yakima Herald Republic. He also acknowledged our board member, Michael Thorner was recognized with the Swede Lindquist "Official of the Year", the only sports official recognized for the entire Yakima Valley. The Yakima Herald Republic also profiled our West Valley graduate Samantha Garcia-Martinez who will be a first-generation college student next year at Central Washington University. Dr. Finch also received notification from the City of Yakima that the District's Request for Modification of the playfield at Apple Valley was approved. The work will be done over the summer to make modifications to the playfield which will reduce the slope from the edge of the playfield to the walking path.

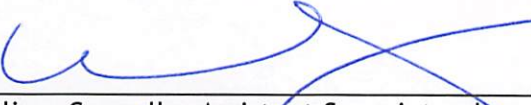
Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Finch's report was included in the Board packet. Dr. Finch highlighted the work that Lorenzo Juarez has done at West Valley High School in his position as Graduation Success Specialist.

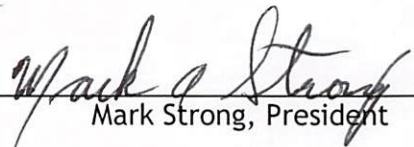
Board Reports/Board Development: Michael Thorner thanked Family Engagement Coordinator, Minerva Pardo for inviting him to assist with the Citizenship Class she leads in the evening. Mr. Thorner also recognized the work of Devina Khan who leads evening classes for parents and community member to learn computer skill. Dave Jaeger recognized the Mid-Level Campus staff for having 5th grade orientation in June. He received a comment from a parent stating it was very meaningful to their student and reduced their student's anxiety. Mr. Jaeger complimented the staff for a great spring orientation for our 5th grade class.

Closed Session: At 9:14 p.m., the Board moved into a Closed Session to discuss Planning/adopting strategy/position for collective bargaining, professional negotiations, grievance, or mediation proceedings, expected to last thirty (30) minutes 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.



William Connolly, Assistant Superintendent



Mark Strong, President