

**West Valley School District No. 208**

**Regular School Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 12, 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, October 12, 2021, in the West Valley High School Auditorium, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via Zoom Webinar ID# 898 4409 4494.

**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, Principal Nick Hartman, Principal Michelle Siguenza, Student Family and Community Engagement Coordinator Minerva Pardo, Michelle Gaberman, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

**Meeting attendees:** Nicole Gonzalez, Kelley Lattimer, Keri Button, Cathy Jameson, Matt Brown, Chris Cory, John Borton, Alexandria Voelker, Jocelyn Tipton, Sarah Doane, Tim Doane, Jill Armstrong, Brenda McCarl, Richard Hassett, Becky Ross, Carrie Copple, Tracy Johnson, Katie Birley, Vanessa Bradshaw, Mallena Ricks, Emily Bolles, Stacy Diaz, Michelle Sevigny, Tara Cobia, David Cobia, Anna Jackson, Kristin Johnson, Kate Loeb, Emerson Loeb, Tia Kinloch, Jason Kinloch, Cori Hammermeister, Jon Hammermeister, Megan Mauch, Ryan Mathews, Michael Moore, Amanda Rodriguez, Jolene Wells, Peter Marinace, Kristen Livingston, Adam Eckert, John Nichols, Tiffany Williams, Jennifer Amos, Karly Almon, Bailey Parsons, Alisha Copeland, Angelita Rodriguez, Rebecca Flynn, Amy Brandon and Alicia Urwin. A list of the virtual attendees is attached to the minutes.

**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.

**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 September 28, 2021, School Board meeting. These responses were included in the Board packet and provided to attendees.

**Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items:** At 7:08 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

The public commented on various topics such as: mask mandate for students, vaccination/exemption mandate for staff. Concerns were expressed regarding students at the high school who are uncomfortable using public restrooms/locker rooms, requesting that gender-neutral restrooms/changing areas be available to students.

At 8:03 p.m., President Mark Strong announced that the Board would take one more comment before closing the public comment session. He thanked everyone for their questions, comments, concerns and asked that if their concern hadn't already been heard tonight, to please come to the next Board meeting.

President Strong closed the public forum at 8:07 p.m.

Several meeting attendees expressed their disapproval of the Board closing the public comment section, continuing to make comments and disrupting the Board meeting. The Board called a (10) ten-minute recess.

**Host School Presentation - Ahtanum Valley Elementary:** Principal Nick Hartman and the following staff shared information:

Jocelyn Tipton, Counselor, shared the work that she does each day to meet the social-emotional needs of our students.

Kelley Lattimer and Nicole Gonzales shared their perspective as fifth grade teachers and the change from serving fifth grade students on a secondary schedule to serving them on an elementary schedule. They said that they believe that they are able to build relationships more effectively with students as a result of the elementary schedule.

Samantha DiAntonio, Alexandria Voelker, and Becky Ross shared the work that is being done to provide first grade students "ownership for learning" through the Reading Menu, which was provided to Board members. They further explained that they have worked together to develop differentiation of the menus so that students are challenged to learn at their appropriate level of challenge.

Nick Hartman closed the presentation with kind words about the work of all of our staff in the West Valley School District, encouraging Board members to visit Ahtanum Valley to see the great work being done in the classrooms.

#### **Action Items**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

- A. Approval of Travel Requests
  - 1. J. Nordstrom / T. Swanson / C. Nell, High School Boys/Girls Cross Country State Meet, Pasco, WA- November 5-6, 2021.
  - 2. Jake Kessler, High School Girls State Swim Meet, Federal Way, WA- November 12-13, 2021.
  - 3. J. O'Brien / J. Rosie / J. Martin / J. Jamieson, High School State Volleyball Tournament, Lacey, WA- November 1-20, 2021.
  - 4. Tom Robinson, High School DECA Fall Leadership Conference, Bellevue, WA November 7-9, 2021.

Mark Mochel motioned to approve the travel requests, as presented. MC 5-0.

**Items Arising:** Dr. Finch shared that Mid-Level Athletic Director, Rob O'Brien would like to start a girl wrestling team. This would be just like the current high school - girls wrestling team, girls will wrestle girls. Dr. Finch said he would give Mr. O'Brien approval to add the team for winter sports season one.

**High School ASB Report:** The High School ASB Report was included in the Board Packet.

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

**Board Reports/Board Development:** Mark Mochel shared that he was asked to do the radio broadcast for the Homecoming Football Game, commenting on the exciting events students, staff and alumni took part in.

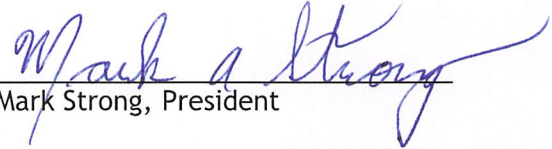
Michael Thorner thanked attendees for sharing their concerns tonight, expressing that the Board wants to hear from the community. He reminded everyone the Board won't always make decisions you agree with, but we do have the best interests of all students in mind when making these decisions.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.



---

Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent



---

Mark Strong, President