



Board of Directors Business Meeting Meeting Minutes

Live Streaming Open Meeting
Attend at www.tacomaschools.tv, www.facebook.com/tacomaschools,
Click Channel 25 and Comcast Channel 26

Tacoma Public Schools acknowledges that we are on the traditional ancestral and historical lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Puyallup Tribe. This acknowledgement serves as a first step in honoring our nearest tribal neighbors and partners, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and give thanks for allowing us passage to their lands who have inhabited this region since time immemorial. We will make intentional efforts to create inclusive and respectful partnerships that honor Indigenous cultures, histories, identities, and sociopolitical realities.

Thursday, January 28, 2021 06:00 PM

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors met for an Executive Session with Legal Counsel at 5:00PM for approximately 1-hour on the above date in a virtual setting, pursuant to the Proclamation by the Governor, amending Proclamation 20-05, 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss with legal counsel, district litigation or potential litigation, to which the district is, or is likely to become, a party. Executive sessions are closed to the public. No action was taken.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 28, 2021 via a live stream open meeting pursuant to the Proclamation by the governor amending Proclamation 20-25, 20-28 Open Public Meeting and Public Records Act. Pursuant to the Governor's COVID19 Emergency Orders, the Governor's Proclamation 20-28, Tacoma School Board Resolution 2074 and by order of the Superintendent, the Tacoma Public Schools Central Administration Building is closed to the public. Board President Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

3. ROLL CALL

Directors Cobb, Keating, Strozier, Leon, and Bonbright were present. Student representatives Pearson and Essman were present, as well as alternate student representatives Hill and Ye.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Director Bonbright moved that the Board of Directors adopt the agenda as presented. Director Leon seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 yeas.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Spoken public comments:

- o Jim King addressed the Board regarding the Renaming of Wilson High School
- o Brent Chantler addressed the Board to give Feedback Regarding the Name Change of Wilson High School

6. RECOGNITION OF STAFF, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

The Board of Directors recognized the schools that were nominated as this year's Whole Child Schools. Laura Allen, Whole Child director, gave a presentation highlighting each of them:

- o Fawcett Elementary
- o Gray Middle School
- o Lister Elementary
- o Manitou Park Elementary
- o Reed Elementary
- o Roosevelt Elementary
- o SaMI (Science and Math Institute)
- o SoTA (Tacoma School of the Arts)
- o Stafford Elementary
- o Stewart Middle School

- o Washington Elementary
- o Whitman Elementary

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

7.1 COVID-19 UPDATES

Michelle Rahl-Lewis, Early Learning Assistant Director, introduced a video showcasing the first day of [Hybrid Preschool at Stafford Elementary](#).

For further information about COVID-19 updates in the district, see the [January 21, 2021 School Board Special Session](#), which addressed the issues in-depth.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Director Keating moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Strozier seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

8.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8.1.a APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 14, 2021 SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

8.2 AUTHORIZATION OF CERTIFICATE TO PIERCE COUNTY TREASURER

8.3 APPROVAL OF THE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

9. POLICY MATTERS

There were no policy matters.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

Presentations on the financial health of the district will be made during regular board meetings on a quarterly basis. The next quarterly report is planned for February 2021. Monthly financial statements can be found on the district website at <https://tacomashools.org/departments/businessandfinance/financial-reporting>.

11. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

There were no Curriculum and Instruction reports.

12. BUSINESS MATTERS

12.1 APPROVAL OF HEAD START NON-FEDERAL SHARE WAIVER

Director Bonbright moved that the board approve the district's request for a waiver of the Office of Head Start non-federal share requirement. Director Keating seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

12.2 APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES, REVISED 12-15-20

Director Strozier moved that the board approve the Budget Development Guiding Principles revised December 15, 2020. Director Keating seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR WILSON HIGH SCHOOL RENAMING PURSUANT TO POLICY 6970

A presentation on the background, process followed, and recommendations made by the Woodrow Wilson High School Renaming Committee was given. Superintendent Santorno recommended the Board rename the school to Dolores Silas High School. If the Board votes to approve the name change, there will be a minimum 18-month transition. The school's mascot and colors would remain the same.

14. REPORT TO THE BOARD

Toni Pace, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Support, and Marie Verhaar, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, gave an Annual Benchmark Report on Graduation rates from the 2019-2020 academic year, as well as a five-year trend overview.

15. BOARD COMMENTS/REPORTS

Updates/Comments:

- o Director Leon thanked the staff who've helped bring young learners back and and shared the positive feedback he's received from his constituents. He urges people to continue being safe, as being able to keep/bring students back into schools is good for their mental wellbeing.
- o Director Strozier expressed appreciation for being able to participate in Gray Middle School's Wake-Up Wednesday as a guest speaker and the enthusiasm the students and staff had.
- o Director Keating sat in on an English class at Wilson High School recently and expressed her appreciation to all the

teachers and staff working in this virtual environment and for the emotional labor that goes into teaching this way, and also to the students for the work they're doing. She reported about new guidance from WSSDA on performing arts that has been recently released. Also, Governor Inslee is shifting our region into Phase 2 beginning Monday, February 1, 2021.

- o Director Bonbright echoed the appreciation for teachers, staff, and students. She expressed that school reopenings are being done as safe as they possibly can, but reminded the community, not just the schools, of the importance of doing their part to keep everyone safe.
- o Director Cobb exhorted the Board to think forward about what ways we can best tell the Tacoma story and the needs of our students as we work with our local legislature, as well as with a new federal administration, as we work on our strategic plan goals in the years ahead. She shared how the Board receives email, both pro and con, for the various issues facing the district and reminded us all to give each other grace in how we listen and respond to each other. She also reminded that the Board has constraints about what actions they can legally make.
- o Student representatives shared frustrations with new school schedules and other challenges that creates, the timing in how some changes are communicated, and concerns about the new strains of COVID that have been found in the county. Appreciation was expressed for students being able to return to sports and sports conditioning, for being able to take the PSAT in a school building, and excitement for the possibility of going to a hybrid schedule. They also shared their thoughts on renaming Wilson High School.
 - Deputy Superintendent Garcia clarified how feedback has to be gathered from many different stakeholders and how there are many variables to be considered as transitions to in-person learning are planned.

16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Thursday February 11, 2021
6:00PM Business Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2021
6:00PM Study Session

Tuesday, February 23, 2021
6:00PM Board Retreat

Thursday, February 25, 2021
6:00PM Business Meeting

17. ADJOURNMENT

President Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:37PM.