

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 14, 2020

After having been advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar ID# 991 6757 6649.

Board of Directors present: President Mike Meyer, Dave Jaeger, Melissa Robertson, and Michael Thorner.

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Mike Brophy, Assistant Superintendent Angela Von Essen, Futures and Innovations Director Chris Nesmith, Communications Director Anjerie Nemrow, Finance Director Sheilah Wood Human Resources Director Randy Souers, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark Strong's absence was excused during the Study Session portion of the evening.

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

Communications:

Angela Von Essen reviewed the results of the District's Accountability Audit Report and the exit recommendations, which were included in the Board packet. She provided an overview of the report, outlining the focus areas, process, and levels of reporting. She was pleased with the results and contributed it to work by the Human Resource and Finance Departments.

Introduction of Visitors/Public Comment Non-Discussion/Agenda Items:

Attendees present for the webinar were: Jeremy Cox, Richard Pryor, Michelle McKimmy, Jill Armstrong, Tara P., Brook Jolley, Susan Olden, Tanya Hoff, Tiffany Williams, Bob Balderston, Minerva Pardo, Blake, Ryan Mathews, Jennifer Bailey, Joan Coomer, Brad Liebrecht, Lucas Jaeger, Hasan Tahat, Michelle Siguenza, Jerilyn Ashbaugh, Karen Riomondo, Melissa French, Adam Eldridge, Kristin Johnson, Bern Kent, Jenneifer Komstadius, Katie Rutger, Jeff Jamieson, Jerry Prescott, Meghan Alderson, Fawcett, Cathy Warren, Ruth Veselka, Stacey Drake, mv custodians, Lynda Wall.

At 7:05 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions, and concerns from the audience.

Bern Kent asked, what is the time frame for reopening our schools? Dr. Brophy stated that the reopening school's plan would be addressed in the meeting.

With no further comments, Michael Meyer closed the public forum at 7:07 p.m.

Discussion Items:

A. Financial/Budget Updates

Sheilah Wood gave an overview of the 2020-21 Budget, which was included in the Board packet. Dave Jaeger asked why two SPED Psych's positions were added when 20 Sped Para positions had been cut. Angela Von Essen clarified that the SPED Psychs were replacement positions. Dave Jaeger also asked if the Special Ed program pays indirect costs. Angela Von Essen stated yes, and indirects are applied to all state and federal programs. Dave asked if the 17% indirect rate is standard for other districts and how it is calculated. Angela stated each district is different, and it is based on each district's financial reports determined in the prior years.

Dr. Brophy suggested that Dave and other Board members meet with Angela to gain a better understanding of the indirect costs.

B. Fines and Fees

Angela Von Essen reviewed the 2020-21 Fee Schedule that was included in the Board packet, explaining that she is working with the High School staff to determine if we should be charging fees for next year based on the status of COVID-19. The Fee Schedule will be presented at the next board meeting.

West Valley School District Re-Opening Plan:

The Board asked Mike Brophy to present his Reopening schools plan before the Public Comment so that the community can comment. Therefore, the agenda item was moved.

Dr. Brophy explained that all Washington school districts are required to adopt a reopening plan by local board resolution, and they will need to be on file with OSPI and the State Board of Education within two weeks of a district's fall start date.

The District's plan has been approved by Yakima County Health officer, Ryan Ibach, and Teresa Everson, MD, MPH, Health Officer, Yakima Health District. Their approval letter was attached to the plan and included in the board packet. It is essential to know that we are dependent on OSPI and the Department of Health to determine what scenario we will be utilizing. We may have to switch scenarios within 24 to 48 hours.

The West Valley School District's Reopening Plan for the 2020-21 school year includes the following general rules that must be followed in any Return to School Scenario:

- Do not allow students, staff, vendors, parents, and guardians, or guests on-site if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Ensure staff is trained in health and safety protocols.
- All students, staff, volunteers, and guests must wear a face covering.
- Create a drop-off and pick up system that keeps families at least 6 feet apart from each other.
- The district will monitor student and employee attendance and absences.
- Check for signs of illness of all staff and students upon entry each day. Protocols can include home screening and the signing of attestations.
- Practice social distancing (six feet) as much as possible.
- Limit gatherings and potential mixing of classes or groups in cafeterias, gyms, or other communal spaces.
- Emphasize and model good hygiene practices, including washing hands with soap and water.
- COVID prevention protocols for school transportation must be followed.
- To prepare for the potential of student or staff showing symptoms while at school, schools should have a response and communication plan in place that includes communication with staff, families, and the local health jurisdiction.
- If a student or staff member within a cohort or classroom tests positive for COVID-19, the local health jurisdiction will advise, but will likely require them to quarantine for 14 days.
- Use disinfectants in a ventilated space. The heavy use of disinfectant products should be done when children are not present, and the facility should air out before children return.
- If possible, vacuum carpets daily (when children are not present) with HEPA efficiency filters.
- Provide proper ventilation and good indoor air quality. Offer more outside time and open windows when possible.

The plan also includes the following scenarios:

- **Scenario #1 - Normal Schedule for all schools/Face-to-Face Instruction**
- **Scenario #2**
 - **K - 6th Grade Return to Schools/Face-to-Face Instruction**

Due to the size of classrooms and class sizes, all K - 6th Grade students can be reasonably accommodated with restrictions in place.

o **7th - 12th Grade Hybrid Plan**

Students will be divided into two groups:

- Group A attends school on Mondays and Thursdays with a virtual expectation on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and serves the students in the Ahtanum, Cottonwood, and Mountainview attendance boundaries.
- Group B attends school on Tuesdays and Fridays with a virtual expectation on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and serves the students in the Apple Valley, Summitview, and Wide Hollow attendance boundaries.
- ELL and Special Education students requiring remediation will meet on Wednesday's face-to-face.
- DLC students will attend school every day.

- o **Scenario #3 - 100% Virtual** - the Health Department mandates stay-at-home order, and all schools will provide virtual instruction by the school's schedule. Each class will be graded with an expectation of a 15 minuted introduction and assignment or activity.

The West Valley Virtual Academy is another option available for parents who would prefer that their child participate online only.

High school students who have demonstrated an ability to handle the rigor of college-level work, they will have an option to attend an online university through the District, which provides high school and university credits at the same time.

Mike addressed questions and comments from the Board.

Public Comments - Discussion Items:

At 8:06 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions, and concerns from the audience.

A parent stated, she had concerns regarding the masks and believed that students should be able to see their teacher's face. Dr. Brophy asked the parent and anyone else who has questions about the plan to contact him directly.

Hasan Tahat, a District parent, asked about the ability to allow for social-distancing and classroom sizes at the Freshman Campus.

Ruth Veselka, a District teacher, asked if the teachers could meet with their students the first few days of school if the District is in Scenario 3. Dr. Brophy stated yes, even if it's virtual. He also said that we would proceed with late starts one Wednesday per month as previously approved.

Bob Balderston, a District parent and high school teacher, asked if the administration has reached out to other business leaders that are working in similar situations. If so, what are they doing to ensure employee safety? He also stated the Health Department would continue to let teachers work with 5% of the students infected. What is being done to keep the staff safe and to ensure the air exchanges and ventilation are being monitored appropriately?

Bern Kent, a District parent and employee, encouraged the District to choose Scenario 1. Dr. Brophy stated he prefers Scenario 1, so students can return to the classroom, but the Health Department makes that decision.

Ryan Mathews, a District parent, asked if equipment and monitors will be provided for teachers to teach from home. Dr. Brophy stated, we haven't addressed it at this time.

Dave Jaeger asked if teachers were sick with the COVID virus, would they receive additional sick leave. Dr. Brophy replied it is a question for the Human Resources Department to answer.

Dave Jaeger reminded everyone that we are doing the best we can, and we are at the mercy of the Health Department.

With no further questions or comments from the public, Michael Meyer closed the public forum at 8:31 p.m.

2020-21 Public Budget Development - 1st Hearing

Director of Finance, Sheilah Wood, and Assistant Superintendent, Angela Von Essen, provided a summary of the 2020-21 Budget and addressed questions and comments from the Board. A handout was provided and included in the Board packet, covering each of the following funds: General, Capital Projects, Debt Service, ASB, and Transportation Vehicle.

At 8:31 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions, and concerns from the audience. With none, Mike Meyer closed the public forum at 8:33 p.m.

Action Items

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. June 23, 2020 Special Board Meeting
 - 2. June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

Michael Thorner asked that June 23, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes indicate the purpose of the meeting was for Collective Bargaining.

Dave Jaeger made the motion to approve the minutes, with the revision to the June 23, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes. MC 3-0 President Meyer sustained, due to being absent from the June 23, 2020 meetings.

- B. Approval of Policy Revision-1st Reading
 - 1. Policy 6022-Minimum Fund Balance

Michael Thorner made the motion to approve the 1st Reading of Policy 6022 - Minimum Fund Balance, as presented. MC 4-0

- C. Approval of Resolution(s)
 - 1. Approval of Resolution #20-07-707 Transfer of Funds
 - 2. Approval of Resolution #20-07-708 Surplus Property
 - 3. Approval of Resolution #20-07-709 West Valley School District Re-Opening Plan

Dave Jaeger made the motion to approve Resolution #20-07-707 Transfer of Funds, as presented. MC 4-0

Dave Jaeger made the motion to approve Resolution #20-07-708 Surplus Property, as presented. MC 4-0

Michael Thorner made the motion to approve Resolution #20-07-709 West Valley School District Re-Opening Plan, as presented. MC 4-0

Items Arising: No items were reported.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Brophy's report was included in the Board packet.

Angela Von Essen informed the Board that today she received notification about an issue with the septic system at Mountainview, needing to be replaced before school starts. Ms. Von Essen explained the situation is a safety and an emergency issue, and the administration would like to exercise Policy 6220, allowing emergency waivers of bid requirements. She asked the Board for their initial approval to move forward, and

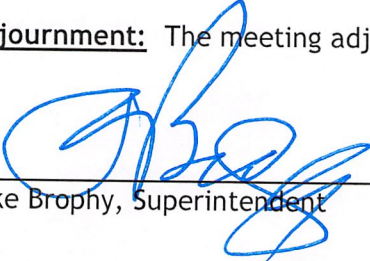
formal approval will be addressed at the next school board meeting. In the meanwhile, the administration is in the process of getting a quote and seeking county approval to proceed.

Board Reports/Board Development: There were none reported.

Closed Session: At 8:56 p.m., the Board moved into a Closed Session to discuss Collective Bargaining for a duration of fifteen (15) minutes, with no action to follow. At 9:07 p.m., the Board reconvened into regular session.

Executive Session: At 9:08 p.m., the Board moved into an Executive Session to discuss Potential Land Acquisition to last ten (10) minutes, with no action to follow. At 9:18 p.m., the Board exited the Executive Session and reconvened back into open session.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.



Mike Brophy, Superintendent



Mike Meyer, President