

West Valley School District No. 208
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 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, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar ID# 839 8916 2171.

Board of Directors present: President Mark Strong, Michael Thorner, Dave Jaeger, Mike Meyer, Melissa Robertson, and Student Representatives Madisyn Ross and Anna Grange.

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Mike Brophy, Assistant Superintendent Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Angela Von Essen, Futures and Innovations Director Chris Nesmith, Communications Director Nick Sybouts, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

The meeting attendees are as follows: The list of attendees and the Q&A report is attached to the minutes.

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

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

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

Communications: Dr. Brophy stated the District is planning for the High School to return to in-person learning on January 25, 2021. We are currently working with our insurance company and the West Valley Education Association (WVEA) to safely get our students back in school.

High School Student Report: Madisyn Ross shared that the seniors are frustrated with the possibility of the return to in-person learning start date getting pushed back further.

Anna Grange stated finals are next week, and students are nervous about the process of online finals. She thanked the teachers for all their support and the counselors for having second-semester schedules available to students already.

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

At 7:05 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

Trisha Hull, a District parent, shared her frustrations with the High School's possible delay in returning to in-person learning. Ten months have been more than adequate to get a plan in place and approved. She encouraged the Board to follow other school districts' plans and return to in-person learning.

Ben McMurry, High School Principal, stated the High School's plan for in-person learning had been submitted and approved by the Health Department. However, we are following the Health Department guidelines and waiting for the COVID-19 numbers to decrease in Yakima County.

With no further comments, President Strong closed the public forum at 7:10 p.m.

Cottonwood Elementary Host School Presentation/Program:

Principal Stacey Drake provided an overview of the work at Cottonwood Elementary, including the following goals and expectations:

1. Every student must have one or more years' academic growth each year regardless of where they start.
2. Staff continue personalized learning initiative through competency-based grading and badge book for grades K-2
3. Improve student discourse: ensure students are doing the "cognitive lifting" by explaining, making connections, and addressing questions rather than the teacher doing most of the talking.

Ms. Drake shared a YouTube video created by the staff as a tribute to in-person learning. She thanked the School Board for working hard to get our students back in the classroom.

Highly Capable Program Review:

Highly Capable Program Coordinator Wendy Clark and Highly Capable Advisory Committee member Kim Seal gave a PowerPoint presentation providing a program overview and recommendations from their Committee and the 2020-21 Highly Capable Program Handbook. Both presentations were included in the board packet.

Ms. Clark addressed questions and concerns from Board members.

Discussion Items:

- A. **Financial/Budget Updates** - Angela Von Essen provided the Board with an updated enrollment and revenue report, which was included in the Board packet. She explained that as of January 2021, the District estimates an enrollment revenue loss of \$2.9M. The District's fund balance is \$13M, and \$10M of that amount is unreserved, including the Board's minimum fund balance amount. Ms. Von Essen addressed comments and questions from the Board.
- B. **WVSD Election & Levy Presentation** - Angela Von Essen gave an overview of the Election Trends and Tax History Rate report prepared by D.A. Davidson, which was included in the Board packet. She addressed questions and comments from the Board.
- C. **Boundary Changes Overview** - Angela Von Essen and Boundary Change Committee Members: Heidi Mochel, Jeremy Cox, Jaimi Schmidt, and Chris Nesmith provided a PowerPoint presentation, including the timeline, process, and maps showing the changes. Board questions and comments were addressed.

Dr. Brophy stated the District would not "grandfather" students to a particular school. The changes will go into effect at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. If parents want to request a District Attendance Area Transfer, the information is provided on the District website. The District office will accept the requests starting March 1, 2021.

Michael Thorner reminded attendees that the public comment time is not a time for back and forth dialog.

Dr. Brophy asked that anyone will questions or concerns regarding the Boundary Change to please contact him or Angela Von Essen.

Mark Strong asked, what is the life expectancy of this boundary change, and how long do we expect these changes to hold for? Angela Von Essen stated the last boundary change was ten years ago. It's hard to determine based on the significant building and growth rate in West Valley. However, it could last for five to seven years.

Public Comment of Discussion Items:

At 9:13 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment.

A patron asked if the grandfathering process isn't being allowed, then why fill out a transfer request?

With no further requests to comment, President Strong closed the public forum at 9:16 p.m.

Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes - December 22, 2020 Regular Meeting

Michael Thorner made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented. MC 4-0. Dave Jaeger's connection was lost; therefore, his vote was not heard nor recorded.

B. Approval of Security Camera Bid - Angela Von Essen provided a brief explanation of the bid process and recommendation. She also thanked Michelle Gaberman and Jeremy Cox for overseeing the security bid proposal.

Mike Meyer made the motion to approve the Security Camera Bid, as presented. MC 4-0. Dave Jaeger's connection was lost; therefore, his vote was not heard nor recorded.

Items Arising:

Mark Strong thanked Nick Sybouts for making the COVID Dashboard information available on the District website and emailing parents informing them of the positive cases. He noticed that sometimes the information states that the employee or student was not on campus during their infectious period and asked how that is determined. Dr. Brophy deferred the question to the District nurse, Alyssa Kidder.

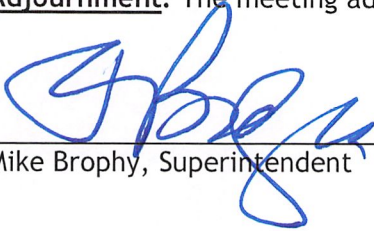
Melissa Robertson asked when it will be decided that the high school students may return to school on January 25, 2021. Dr. Brophy will continue to update the Board as new information becomes available.

Dave Jaeger asked if we could bypass the Health District's recommendation and bring students back to school now. Dr. Brophy stated in addition to the Health District; we must follow our Memorandum of Understanding with the WVEA. Michael Thorner explained we must also follow the advisement of our insurance company, Clear Risk Solutions. Melissa Robertson requested that the PAL program be added as a future Board discussion topic.


Superintendent's Report: Dr. Brophy's report was included in the Board packet. The report had important dates, School Board meetings, and Study Session topics.

Board Reports/Board Development: None reported.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.



Mike Brophy, Superintendent



Mark Strong, President