

West Valley School District #208

Community Forum Minutes Wednesday, April 12, 2017

After having been advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 held a Community Forum, on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the High School library, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908.

Board of Directors present: President Michael Thorner, Mike Carey, Dave Jaeger, Mike Meyer, Jeffrey Smith, and Student Representative Chloe Williams.

Administrative Staff present: Mike Brophy, Angela Watts, and Recording Secretary Debbie Chronister.

Community and Staff Members Present: Ryan Mathews, April Holt, Diana Haquet, Peter Marinace, Vivian Loudon, Lucas Jaeger, Ben McMurry, Stephen Robertson, Maegen Otterstein, Jen Pitter, Sam Briggs, James Yan, Stephanie Morehouse, Michael Morehouse, Eva Lust, Jaime Whittum, Michael Moore, Helen Faringer, Ann Sherman, Heather Ince, Chris Moore, Heidi Taylor, Kristin Williams, Steve Lockwood, Linh Tran, Tera Kneisler, Jenny Lindner, Dawn Perez, Leon Leandro, Anne Rojan, Stephanie Campbell, Alice Campbell, Abby Stuck, Cheri Grange, Amber Caffrey, Tim Goff, Kristin Johnson, Megan Brown, Kati Elder, Nick Hartman, Russ Tuman, Tiffany Williams, Cheryn Zimmer, Susan Olden, Laurie Barber, Brandi VanDeBrake, Chad Whittum, Libby Hodge, William Hancock, Jamon Rivera, Tara Prescott, Claire Carpenter, Kellie Leon, Ian Garriques, Margaret Miller, Amy Stephens, Jaxton Caffrey, Doris Strong, Kelly Johnson, Amie French, Amber Tupy, Jason Tupy, Jolene Wells, Jamie Mathews, Janet Rouleau, Danielle Kurtz, Jennifer Young, Keri Button, Rebekah Olden, Sriprina Chellopan, Lauren Speer, Adam Speer, Nicole Olden, Brooke Goodrich, Beth Kalombo, Kira Palmer, Gretchen Thorner, Mary Ellis Madeline McDonald, Matt Lindner, Danielle Crawford, Zhefeng Gu, Amy Knautz, Jett Hut, Megan Summers, Emily Cromwell, Ryan Vicente, Melisa Vicente, Lisa Mueller, Lynda Wall, Sam Maqhes, Amy Walker, Lisa Mansfield, K. Rutger, Laura Deyo, Steve Campbell, Natasha Kalombo, Marissa Durham, Heidi Mochel, Malachy Caffrey, Marissa Durham, Scott Holt, and Trevor Ince.

Call to Order: At 6:00 p.m., President Michael Thorner called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: Michael Thorner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Introduction to Public Forum

Michael Thorner thanked community members for their attendance and noted the meeting was for them to address the Board in regards to the proposed attendance boundary revisions and program changes.

Presentation on Space Concerns Elementary Attendance Area Recommendation

Superintendent Michael Brophy provided an overview of the administration's recommendation to change elementary boundaries. He explained that the administration met to develop a plan to meet the growing needs in West Valley. Letters were mailed to families of potential boundary revisions. The Board will ultimately make the decision.

President Thorner told the audience that Dr. Brophy or the Board would address their questions. However, if we they did not have the answer, they would get back to them with information as soon as possible.

Several community members shared their thoughts, expressed their frustrations, asked questions, gave suggestions, and requested more information on the proposed attendance area boundary

revisions. Board members listened and Dr. Brophy explained the goal was to impact the least number of families as possible. Other parents shared their personal stories and how this boundary change would impact their children.

It was requested to place the proposed maps on the District website.

President Thorner invited Board members to speak. It was reiterated that board members are listening and that a decision has not yet been made.

At 7:45 p.m. Michael Thorner announced a five-minute recess.

At 7:50 p.m., President Thorner reconvened the meeting. He stated that each program would be addressed on an individual basis.

Space Concerns Programs

Dr. Brophy provided an overview of the possible changes with the TLC Program, Special Needs Preschool, EPIC, and Head Start. These would be moved if the boundary changes are approved to have space available for students. Community members made several points to keep things the same because the programs have been successful.

Parents, teachers, and principals voiced their opinions on how to best serve the students. Some cited personal stories and needs while others used data to support their opinion. Testing all students with more communication was proposed for PAL with the change to opt-out vs. opt-in.

Public Forum Summary

President Michael Thorner gave a "heartfelt" thank you for supporting schools. The Board will work hard to make the best decision for the West Valley School District.

Adjournment followed at 9:53 p.m.



Michael Brophy, Superintendent



Michael Thorner, President