

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 10, 2022

After being advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, in the West Valley High School Auditorium, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via Zoom Webinar ID# 865 8134 2107.

Board of Directors present: President Mark Strong, Michael Thorner, Mike Meyer, and Mark Mochel. Dave Jaeger participated in the meeting via Zoom.

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Dr. Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent Stacey Drake, Director of Student and Family Support Lucas Jaeger, Student/Family/Community Engagement Coordinator Minerva Pardo, Communications Director Amy Forrest, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The JROTC Color Guard presented the flags for 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 April 26, 2022, School Board meeting. The responses were included in the Board packet. Dr. Finch explained that sexual health education in West Valley begins at Grade 5 with the "Growing Up Awareness" unit. Dr. Finch invited the district's legal counsel, Jason MacKay, to be available at tonight's School Board meeting for question/answer with the School Board members regarding policy 3211 Gender-Inclusive Schools.

In response to public comment, the administration recommended to the School Board that the underlined addition should be incorporated into a revision of District Policy 4129 for Family Involvement: "It is the policy of the Board of Directors to encourage and support family involvement in education at home, in our schools and communities, and in school governance. The Board recognizes the diversity of family structures, circumstances, and cultural backgrounds and respects families as important decision-makers and primary stakeholders for their children's education." The administration recommended the policy revision rather than a proclamation because District policy will be accessible to future administrators and Board members.

- B. Staff Retirement Recognition - The School Board recognized the following staff members for their years of service in West Valley: Laurie Alderman, John Beck, Gail Buchanan and Cynthia Lacey.

School Presentation/Program: High School - Ben McMurry, Principal, began the presentation by sharing the core beliefs at the high school: "We Do What's Best for Kids." He shared the following acronym for RAMS: Relationships, Accountability, Mindfulness, and Service. Mr. McMurry then introduced Colonel Brian James who leads the JROTC program. Colonel James introduced two student leaders who presented to the School Board. Bailey DeLozier and Madison O'Shea shared information about the leadership and service that is developed through JROTC. They shared that JROTC students from West Valley are able to secure scholarships for post-secondary education. Over the past seven years, West Valley graduates have been awarded \$3.1 million in scholarships.

Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items: At 7:26 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. Comments by community members were focused primarily on the first reading of Policy 3211 Gender-Inclusive Schools.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 8:04 p.m.

Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. April 26, 2022 Study Session
2. April 26, 2022 Board Meeting

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

B. Approval of Travel Requests

1. Cramer / Lacy / Jamieson/ Martin, State Softball Tournament, Spokane, WA-May 26-28, 2022.
2. Rob O'Brien, Golf Tournament, Wenatchee, WA- May 2-3, 2022.
3. Amy Osborn, Yearbook Camp, Tacoma, WA-July 12-15, 2022.
4. Jeff Weeks, Gonzaga Women's Basketball Camp, Spokane, WA-June 17-19, 2022.

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

C. Approval of WIAA Membership Renewal

Mark Mochel motioned to approve the WIAA Membership Renewal, as presented. MC 5-0.

D. Approval of Resolution(s)

1. #22-05-741 Delegating Authority to WIAA

Mark Mochel motioned to approve Resolution #22-05-741, as presented. MC 5-0.

E. Approval of Policy Addition(s)/Revision(s) First Reading

1. 3211 Gender Inclusive Schools
2. 4129 Family Involvement
3. 5015 Civility Policy

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the FIRST Reading of Policy 3211 Gender-Inclusive Schools, as presented. MC 5-0.

Mike Meyer motioned to approve the FIRST Reading of Policy 4129 Family Involvement, as presented. MC 5-0.

Michael Thorner motioned to approve the FIRST Reading of Policy 5015 Civility, as presented. MC 5-0.

Discussion Items:

A. Budget Development

1. Projected Revenue - Dr. Finch shared the following information: Previously, administration shared the projected enrollment for 2022/23 to be: 4,932 FTE., explaining that enrollment drives our projected revenue.

Our Finance Department receives revenue projections from OSPI, they have not received projections for all programs at this time. We are still waiting on projections for federal funding, such as Title I and McKinney-Vento. We are anticipating an increase in federal funding, specifically an increase in McKinney-Vento funds which are used to serve students who are experiencing homelessness.

Our Finance Department has received projections for Basic Ed, Career and Technical Education, and state funds for Special Education. Basic Ed and CTE are combined in the projection. OSPI is projecting that we will have an increase in funds for Basic Ed and CTE for the 2022/23 school year. OSPI is projecting that we will receive about \$500,000 additional funds for state Special Education. Two years ago, Special Education expenditures exceeded our revenue by over \$1 million. Last year, Special Education expenditures exceeded our revenue by about \$700,000. We won't know the final numbers on this year's budget until we close the books in October. The fiscal year for the school district runs Sept. 1 through Aug. 31. The Finance Department works on closing the books in September and then we have an accurate description of the past school year in October.

We will continue to work on getting a projection for all revenue. For expenditures, we know that our labor costs will increase. We are able to plan for this since we have multi-year contracts with each of our employee groups. When the Finance Department is able to calculate a projection for the increase in labor costs, then we will know how much funds we will have for discretionary expenditures, such as additional staffing.

During this spring, Assistant Superintendents Joe Connolly and Stacey Drake have been meeting with principals to identify staffing needs. At the next board meeting on Tuesday, May 24, Joe Connolly will share information regarding expenditures, specifically additional staffing that is planned for the 2022/23 school year.

2. Use of ESSER Funds - Dr. Finch shared the following information:

ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funds. These are federal funds that the District receives through a reimbursement process. They are intended to be used due to the impact of COVID.

During the past school year, emergency relief funds were used for the following activities: summer school, paraeducator staff to assist with academic interventions at the elementary level, targeted assistance before school at the elementary level, certificated staff to assist with academic interventions at the secondary level, costs associated with COVID, such as personal protective equipment, and COVID testing, supplies, and staff. For the upcoming school year, we hope that we will not have to have expenditures directly for COVID but that we can use the funds for academic assistance and academic intervention.

Our plan for 2022/23 is to continue with the academic interventions that we have used during the past year, namely: summer school, paraeducator staff to assist with academic interventions at the elementary level, targeted assistance before school at the elementary level, certificated staff to assist with academic interventions at the secondary level.

In addition, we know that students have been negatively impacted by COVID with their social and emotional support and we know that this social-emotional foundation is essential for learning. We are considering using ESSER funds to provide additional support at the elementary level. Joe Connolly will share more information about this at the next School Board meeting.

Public Comment of Discussion Items: At 9:26 p.m., President Mark Strong opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. Comments were regarding Policy 3211 Gender-Inclusive Schools. Two community members were interested to know if ESSER funds could be used for capital projects, such as remodeling restrooms to be single-use restrooms.

With no further requests, President Strong closed the public forum at 9:59 p.m.

Items Arising: Board members discussed the remaining bond funds from the construction of Apple Valley and Summitview Elementary.

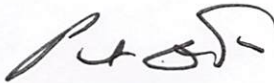
Michael Thorner stated that remaining bond funds need to be returned to tax payers. Mark Strong said he agreed.

Dave Jaeger, Mike Meyer and Mark Mochel stated that remaining bond funds should be used for the kids and District projects. Dave Jaeger suggested asking community members for their opinion on what the District should do with the remaining funds.

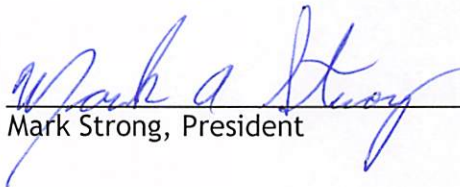
Superintendent's Report: Dr. Finch highlighted the work that the West Valley "Dollars for Scholars" organization has done for students throughout the years. At the recent fundraiser, there were 144 participants plus all of the volunteers who assisted with the fundraiser. The evening event where scholarships are awarded will be held on Tuesday, May 24.

Board Reports/Board Development: Board members thanked the public for their participation and for modeling the principles that are included in the Civility policy.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.



Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent



Mark Strong, President