

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 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, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the library of Cottonwood Elementary School, 1041 S. 96th Ave, Yakima, WA 98908.

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

Administrative Staff present: Superintendent Mike Brophy, Assistant Superintendent Peter Finch, Futures and Innovations Director Chris Nesmith, Communications Director Anjerie Nemrow, Stacey Drake 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 during the Study Session.

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

Communications: Mike Brophy reminded Board members of Agenda Prep, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. in his office.

Dr. Brophy shared with the Board about his opportunity to take the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Assessment. He explained that the Admin team would be taking the assessment individually to accumulate a team score, and then the Admin team will meet to discuss the results. Dr. Brophy stated that the IDI is a tool used to discover opportunities and growth in understanding of other cultures.

Staff Recognition: Mike Brophy and Board President Mike Meyer presented the following staff members with a recognition pin for their work done during the AIR/AASA visit. Joelle McMurry, Cathy Warren, Lisa Pleake Petre, Richard Pryor and Stacey Drake.

Grade Configuration: Peter Finch stated that the committee continues to meet every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the High School library and everyone is welcome to bring their ideas to these meetings. The committee is currently working on ideas to share with the Board and the community on a grade configuration proposal and the potential use of the Freshman Campus. Peter also addressed the rumor of band and choir being cut from 5th and 6th grade, Peter reassured everyone that this is not the case. Band and Choir are not being cut in the Grade Configuration process. Peter discussed how the feedback from the committee, parents, and the community members are creating the proposal, and the proposal will be shared at the upcoming Community Forums on February 4 and 11, 2020. The Community Forums will provide the community an additional opportunity to provide feedback for the Board to discuss and potentially make a decision at their regular meeting on February 25, 2020.

High School Student Report: Grant Pickett and Madisyn Ross updated the Board on several activities at the High School, including selling bracelets in honor of Gavin Gill and opening events for students after High School games.

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

Visitors present were: Jessica Hunter, Ambria Boss, Rob Gross, Jill Armstrong, Brian Shay, Anna Shay, Ryan Mathews, Jamie Mathews, Brooke Scott, Heidi Sutton, Susan Olden, Chris Abeyta, Mindy Berreman, Maegen Otterstein, Yolanda Guzman, Peter Marinace, Cathy Warren, Abbie Ferguson, Heidi Mochel, Lisa Pleake Petre, Amie French, Danielle Crawford, Kelly Johnson, Gavin Crawford, Krista Doll, Tressa Shockley, Laurie Barber, Dusty Hanchett, Mary Cummins, Eva Lust, Steven Winmill, and Kory Woldman.

President Mike Meyer reminded the audience that per Board Policy 1400, the School Board determines the total time allotted for public comment. President Meyer explained that the Board is not obligated to provide additional public comment time to accommodate everyone in attendance who wishes to speak. He suggested to the audience that if someone has already addressed the topic they are wanting to address, to hold off allowing someone else to comment on a different topic. He explained that at the end of the given time (20 minutes), public comment will be closed.

At 7:19 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions and/or concerns from the audience.

Heidi Sutton, District parent and Principal of Apple Valley Elementary School expressed her appreciation to a variety of high school students engaged with the Summitview and Apple Valley students. Heidi stated that high school students have always been a part of our six elementary schools, but as neighbors and sharing a building for the academic classes and extracurricular programs, her kids are experiencing much more. Heidi pointed out that in the past few weeks information has been distributed out to families with the implications that these students will only bring harm and danger in our buildings. Heidi stated as a parent and educator, she wants the Board to know that this is hurtful and offensive to our students and families, and the high school student's presence and interactions with her elementary students have only been positive.

Jamie Mathews, District parent and current Middle School PTSA President expressed her concerns to the Board about student safety at the Freshman Campus now used as Apple Valley and Summitview Elementary. She requested that the District not allow High School athletes and the JROTC students to practice in the gym during elementary school hours or use the same restrooms as the elementary students. She also requested that the front door to the Freshman Campus remain locked throughout the entire school day. Jamie stated that she was under the impression that no crossover would happen between high school and elementary students and that parents have not been notified of any changes. Jamie also expressed that high school and elementary students should have their own designated restrooms as she feels that the sharing of restrooms opens the door to the possibility of an elementary student being molested. Jamie presented the following solutions: 1) the JROTC Program practice at the Fire Station, 2) move basketball practices to 3:30 p.m. or have the PE teachers switch gyms with the basketball players, and 3) hire proctors to monitor the restrooms to ensure no crossover occurs. Jamie also stated to the Board that she was available after the meeting if they would like to discuss these concerns any further.

Krista Doll, District parent stated that her concern is with the JROTC students practicing at the elementary school. Krista offered the solution of having JROTC students wear identification so that students know who is appropriate to be in the building.

Eva Lust, Summitview Elementary Principal apologized for not properly communicating to students and parents that the JROTC students would be practicing drills in the gym during the winter and that they would be using fake guns.

Ryan Mathews, District parent expressed his concerns to the Board about student safety at Apple Valley/Summitview Elementary. He requested that the District not allow High School athletes and the JROTC students to practice in the gym during elementary school hours or that they do not use the same restrooms as the elementary students. Ryan stated his son has been in the bathroom at the same time as high school students. Ryan stated the District has failed to protect our students because we currently have students that are child molesters and they are attending our schools. Ryan stated that many parents agree with him, but they are too afraid to come forward due to repercussions from building administrators.

Michael Meyer closed the public comment at 7:39 p.m.

At this time, Ryan Mathews stated he would like to make a formal complaint that an administrator was allowed to talk during the public comment period, he feels that shouldn't have been counted as public comment time.

Host School Presentation/Program: Principal Stacey Drake and Instructional Coach, Karen Atterberry presented a Power Point on Cottonwood Elementary School's Initiatives/Goals: Increased Student Achievement, Data Driven Instruction and Interventions, Personalized Learning/Competency Based Grading and Social Emotional Learning. Stacey highlighted the area of "Coyotes are PROUD of" which included: PTSA/Parent Support, Student Driven Salmon Study, 4th Grade Music Composition, and National Collaboration Project with Head Start. In each category, Mrs. Drake gave examples of how staff are working with students, involving them with their data, creating ownership in their learning, and ultimately reaching personal goals of achievement. Teachers look for possible gaps where students need to focus for their continued learning experience. This year, Cottonwood is focusing on personalized learning in order to insure all students have the opportunity to make one year's growth in one year's time.

Karen Atterberry has started a staff book club. Teachers are reading *Teach Like a Champion 2.0* by Doug Lemov. The book club provides an opportunity for teachers to improve the instructional core of their classroom.

Discussion Items: None

Action Items

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. December 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Dave Jaeger made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. MC 5-0.

- B. Approval of Travel Requests
 - 1. Jon Kinlock / Ray Funk, STATE Boys Basketball, Tacoma, WA-March 3-5, 2020.
 - 2. Jeff Weeks / Ty Lindsey, STATE Girls Basketball, Tacoma, WA-March 3-5, 2020.
 - 3. Dave Stai, Regionals Wrestling, Issaquah, WA-February 14-15, 2020.
 - 4. Dave Stai, State Wrestling, Tacoma, WA-February 20-22, 2020.
 - 5. Jeff Weeks, National Association of Basketball Coaches Clinic, Las Vegas, NV-May 15-17, 2020.
 - 6. Jamie Zeller, 2020 Next Gen Personal Finance Changemaker Summit, San Francisco, CA. March 13-15, 2020.
 - 7. Magieline Benedicto, SNA National Conference, Nashville, TN-July 10-15, 2020.
 - 8. Brian James / Jeff Parks, USMC JROTC Drill Meet CML, Redmond, OR-February 21-23, 2020.
 - 9. Brian James / Jeff Parks, Rogers HS AF JROTC Drill Meet, Spokane, WA-March 13-15, 2020.
 - 10. Wendy Clark, NAGC 2020 Leadership & Advocacy Conference, Alexandria, VA-March 16-18, 2020.
 - 11. Angela Von Essen, 2020 Eagles Institute, Quebec, Canada- July 13-17, 2020.
 - 12. Audeen Smart / Elizabeth Chicken, 2020 Educational Elements Summit, Austin, TX-May 12-15, 2020.
 - 13. Michael Brophy, Blend Now-Christensen Institute Invitation to Develop Procedures for Personalized Learning, Austin, TX-February 26-28, 2020.
 - 14. Michael Brophy, Personalized Learning Spring Convening, Ithaca, NY-March 30 - April 1, 2020.

Michael Thorner made the motion to approve travel requests as presented. MC 5-0.

- C. Approval/Ratification of the WVSEA Secretary Contract

Dave Jaeger made the motion to approve the West Valley Secretaries Education Association Contract for 2019-2021. MC 5-0.

Items Arising: There were no items arising.

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

Board Reports/Board Development: Dave Jaeger stated Peter Finch has done an excellent job on getting the Grade Configuration Committee going. Dave encouraged parents, staff and community members to attend the Committee meetings to express their opinions and/or concerns.

At this time, Dave Jaeger stated that he would like to give his four minutes to Ryan Mathews to continue expressing his concerns made during the public comment period

President Mike Meyer stated it wasn't appropriate to allow additional time since the time limit of 20 minutes for public comment had been reached and an additional comment period was not approved by the Board

Dave Jaeger said he feels it isn't fair and that Ryan should be able to continue expressing his concerns.

President Meyer stated that Dave could give his four minutes to public comment. However, those four minutes needed to be used to address a topic that has not already been heard by the Board.

At 7:43 p.m., Mike Meyer re-opened the meeting to comments, questions and/or concerns from the audience for a period of four (4) minutes.

Dusty Hanchett, District parent encouraged other parents to attend the Grade Configuration Committee meetings. She expressed her concern that parent/community input is not being heard. She requested more information be available to parents as to why the District feels a K-6 grade configuration is the way for us to move forward.

Mike Meyer closed the public comment at 7:47 p.m.

Michael Thorner stated that per Board Policy 1400, either the superintendent or a board member may request any additions or changes to the prepared agenda, and the board may adopt a revised agenda or order of business by a majority vote of the board members present. Mr. Thorner stated he would like to use this time to make a motion to extend the public comment time by five (5) minutes to allow Ryan Mathews to finish speaking about his concerns.

Michael Thorner made the motion to approve extending the public comment by five (5) minutes to allow Ryan Mathews to continue speaking about his concerns. MC 4-1 Voting Yeas: Michael Thorner, Mark Strong, Dave Jaeger and Melissa Robertson. Voting Nay: Mike Meyer.

At 8:21 p.m., Mike Meyer opened the meeting to comments, questions and/or concerns from the audience.

Ryan Mathews stated staff and students at the Freshman Campus are in a different/difficult situation. He requested the District evaluate and find a way to improve the situation and concerns for students and parents.

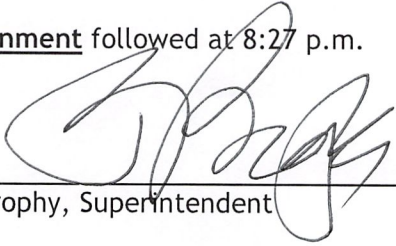
Anna Shay, District parent expressed her concerns about student safety at Apple Valley/Summitview Elementary. She requested that the District not allow High School athletes and the JROTC students to practice in the gym during elementary school hours. She also requested that the front door to the Freshman Campus remain locked throughout the entire school day. Anna stated she reached out to the District on October 31, 2019 and was told the front door would remain unlocked. She later received an email from Angela Von Essen, confirming the doors were in fact unlocked. Anna stated inappropriate conduct in restrooms is a big concern of hers and safety for all needs to be a priority.

Kelly Johnson, Apple Valley Teacher and District parent stated she has no concerns with student or staff safety at the Freshman Campus. She expressed her appreciation to Heidi Sutton and Eva Lust, thanking them

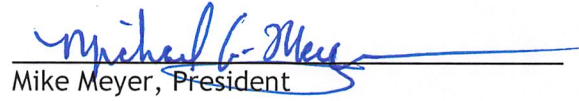
for doing an outstanding job in supporting their students and staff. Kelly did acknowledge that Colonel James could have done a better job to address the JROTC student presence in the building, but feels the students have adjusted well.

Mike Meyer closed the public comment at 8:26 p.m.

Adjournment followed at 8:27 p.m.



Mike Brophy, Superintendent



Mike Meyer, President