

## West Valley School District No. 208

### Regular School Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Valley High School Library, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908, and Via YouTube Livestream:  
<https://youtube.com/live/48CWxInoQv0?feature=share>

**Board of Directors present:** President Michael Thorner, Dave Jaeger, Mike Meyer, Mark Mochel, and Mark Strong.

**Administrative Staff present:** Superintendent Dr. Peter Finch, Principal Ben McMurry, Jeff Jamieson Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Assistant Principal Klayton Wyckoff, Communications Director Amy Forrest, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Smith.

**Call to Order:** At 7:01 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.

#### **Communications:**

A. Response to Public Comment - There was no response to public comment.

#### B. Staff Retirement Recognition

The Board recognized Mark Burns, Anne Montoya, and Tom Robinson for their years of service to the West Valley School District. Mr. Burns shared a poem that he wrote.

#### C. Student Recognition - High School Boys Basketball Team

The Board recognized the High School Boys Basketball team and coaches for receiving the WIAA Academic State Champion Award.

#### **School Presentation/Program:** West Valley High School

Principal Ben McMurry led a presentation by high school staff regarding the importance of Professional Learning Community time. Teachers shared that time has been used for Common Learning Targets, Common Assessments, Best Practices for Instruction, such as vocabulary instruction, Universal Design for Learning, and Curriculum Development. Mr. McMurry said there is interest by teachers to meet more frequently for PLC time. The following teacher-leaders presented:

Mike Cabbage, Science

Jaime Nordstrom, Math

Shawn John, Special Education

Jeannie Martin, Career and Technical Education

Jana Whitfield, Fine Arts

Antonio Padilla, World Languages  
Ryan Scott, Health and Fitness  
Jeremiah Crandall, English Language Arts  
Amy Osborn, Social Studies

**Public Comment of Non-Discussion Agenda Items:** At 7:38 p.m., President Michael Thorner opened the meeting to visitors for public comment, and with none, Mr. Thorner closed the public forum at 7:39 p.m.

**Approval Items**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. April 25, 2023 Study Session
  - 2. April 25, 2023 Board Meeting

*Dave Jaeger motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. MC 5-0.*

- B. Approval of Travel Requests
  - 1. Jeff Weeks, Monico DeLeon, Carly Davis - Gonzaga Basketball Tournament and Team Camp, Spokane, WA- June 16-22, 2023.
  - 2. Jeff Weeks, Monico DeLeon, Carly Davis - Oregon State University Women's Basketball Camp, Corvallis, OR- June 27-30, 2023.

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

**Discussion Items:**

- A. Use of Remaining Bond Funds and State Matching Funds  
Board members reviewed the information that was shared during the study session, by Jim McNeil from Foster Garvey. If the School Board decides to use funds for defeasance or to purchase property, Mr. McNeill recommended using state matching funds for those purposes. Next steps will be for the administration to work with Mr. McNeill to develop a resolution. This is a three-meeting process...

Meeting 1: The School Board will set the date of the Public Hearing.

Meeting 2: The School Board will conduct the Public Hearing.

Meeting 3: The School Board will vote on the Resolution.

The administration will work with Mr. McNeill to move forward with this process.

- B. Transfer of Territory - Dr. Finch shared that in June of 2021, the West Valley School Board approved a request from a homeowner in the Englewood Heights West area to move from the Yakima School District to the West Valley School District. The Yakima School District also approved this change. In a Petition dated 01/22/2023, two homeowners in the same area made the same request. In this case, the Yakima School District has indicated they will not approve the request. With two districts at an impasse, the next step, as per state law, will be that ESD 105 will create a citizen group that will review the request and make a decision regarding the request.

**Public Comment of Discussion Items:** At 8:04 p.m., President Michael Thorner opened the meeting to visitors for public comment. One community member stated that he is unclear what the selection criteria for the proposed projects list was based on and how the list is being prioritized. He also shared his concern about investing in facilities, questioning if this aligns with the Long-Range Facility Plan.

With no further requests, President Thorner closed the public forum at 8:10 p.m.

**Action Items:**

- A. Approval of Resolution(s)  
    #23-05-754 Transfer of Territory

*Mike Meyer motioned to approve Resolution #23-05-754, as presented. MC 5-0.*

**Items Arising:**

Mark Strong shared that the City of Yakima is interested in investigating ways to tap into state funding for road improvement to improve portions of Zier Road that are located within the City limits.

Michael Thorner shared that the Exit Interview for the state audit is this Thursday. Mark Strong and Mike Meyer said they will attend the Exit Interview.

Mark Mochel said “Thank you” to all of our staff for all that they do to educate students and keep our schools running.

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Dr. Finch’s report was included in the Board packet. The report included the schedule for various upcoming events. Baccalaureate is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and Graduation is Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Reports/Board Development:**

- A. WSSDA Educational Equity Trainings  
All School Board members must take two classes (2.5 hours per class - 5 hours total) by the completion of their term of office. When a School Board member is re-elected, they must complete one class (2.5 hours) during their term of office.

Michael Thorner shared his positive experience with the training provided by WSSDA regarding equity, inclusion, and belonging.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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Dr. Peter Finch, Superintendent

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Michael Thorner, President