

KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
FEBRUARY 28, 2018

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Kintzley, Vice President of the Board; Brian Brooks, Board Member; Ron Mabry, Board Member; Ben Messinger, Board Member; and Dave Bond, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Cabinet Members: Chuck Lybeck, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum Services; Doug Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Greg Fancher, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations and Robyn Chastain, Director of Communication and Public Relations.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dawn Adams, excused
Brianna Lynch, excused
Ron Williamson, excused (ESD 123 Regional High School Art Show)

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Heather Kintzley called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 40 staff and guests in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

None

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Brian Brooks to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Ben Messinger.

Roll call vote:	Messinger	Yes
	Mabry	Yes
	Brooks	Yes
	Kintzley	Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of School Board Meeting February 14, 2018
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified and Extracurricular
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending January 31, 2018
- Budget Status Report Ending January 31, 2018
- Curriculum Adoption:
 - ***Hidden Figures***, Author, Margot Lee Shetterly; Published by Harper Collins. This material will be used in grade 8 classes at Desert Hills Middle School.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent

Superintendent Dave Bond noted that the thank you treats in front of the Board members were from the KSD Librarians. Friday, March 2nd, marks the observance of Dr. Seuss Day and Read Across America. The librarians wanted to thank the School Board for their support of libraries and student literacy.

Ron Mabry expressed concerns regarding how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) handles investigations in schools and if the district should have a policy regarding it. Mr. Bond passed out a document that addressed some of the concerns with ICE in schools and noted that ICE has a declaration that they will not conduct activity on school grounds. However, if the Board wants a policy Mr. Bond would work to write a one.

Board Member

None

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3rd Grade Reading Goal Update

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Greg Fancher reviewed the mid-year test results measuring student growth toward the third-grade reading goal. Schools are required to test all students who are below the 50th percentile in the fall, but schools may test students who are above the 50th percentile to monitor progress. Mr. Fancher reported that he makes three formal visits to each school to discuss student progress and School Improvement Plans. The Superintendent visits each school twice a year to discuss student progress. Principals check in with teachers at mid-year to learn how they predict their students are performing. Teachers and principals share strategies and scores, and then data analysis is performed at principal meetings. The key is what the principals and teachers do with that information. Mr. Fancher presented a chart of performance growth

showing how students perform over time and stated that intervention is very effective at growing kids toward the standards.

Ben Messinger thanked Mr. Fancher for his work and noted the way the data was presented was very helpful.

Building Safety Update

Superintendent Dave Bond reported on Building Safety and Security Issues. He reviewed what the district has done over the last five years and reported on the current status of our buildings. Mr. Bond shared examples of building enhancements, and what the remaining challenges are with our buildings. He then handed out communications from folks who are concerned about different issues which he went on to address; open/closed high school campuses, metal detectors, fire alarms, and arming staff members. Mr. Bond passed out an FBI study of active shooter incidents in the U.S. between 2000 and 2013. That study noted that law enforcement suffered casualties almost half the time when they engaged the shooter.

Commander Scott Child with the Kennewick Police Department commented on fire alarms and agreed that the buildings would be difficult to burn since they are more brick and mortar. Dave Bond added that KPD and KFD would be a part of the fire alarm discussion.

Ron Mabry asked about special needs students being on the 2nd floor of some of our schools. Greg Fancher replied that currently he doesn't believe we have any students with special needs on the 2nd floor, but a school could have a student with a broken leg in a wheelchair. Mr. Messinger stated he thinks we have a duty to explore everything.

Commander Child added that the Kennewick Police Department believes arming the staff would very problematic. He talked about the training involved and how police would have to sort out who the good guy is and who the bad guy is. Scott Child also noted that police officers now have zones which have helped to get their response time down to 2-3 minutes. Ron Mabry asked if it wouldn't be a deterrent knowing someone in the school might have a gun. Commander Child replied that weapons effect shows if you are not going to use the weapon it is going to be taken away from you. Also, the security doors of a school are much more difficult to break through then you would imagine.

Commander Child noted he was excited we were having this conversation as KPD is very passionate about student safety; it is a priority. He stated he doesn't know of any school district that shares the information or has the information that KPD has.

Heather Kintzley opened up the Board meeting for public comments.

Rachel Moore, 8815 West 5th Ave., Kennewick - Ms. Moore asked what KSD is doing to keep hackers from coming in and messing with security, specifically with our key fobs.

Mr. Bond replied that a person would have to be able to get through the district's firewall to

get into our system. He added that Ron Cone, Director of I.T., who is not in attendance tonight, would have to tell you specifically how secure our system is, but they are as secure as our record keeping and payroll systems.

Ms. Moore added that not all shooters break into schools; a student attending school could bring a weapon to the school in their backpack or some other way.

Mr. Bond replied that the District encourages students to tell if they hear or see a danger. The District tells students not to bring weapons to school, but we can't say with certainty that a student isn't going to try sneaking a weapon onto the campus.

Ms. Moore asked about students who feel alone who have no one to talk to and if we have resources available for them.

Michealyn Johanson, 6616 West 6th, Kennewick – Ms. Johanson asked how the District would know if a student brought a weapon to school without metal detectors. The Florida shooter gave many warning signs; do the schools have programs available specifically for kids that have high anxiety or show emotional concerns? Does the District have trained staff that knows what to do with the information they hear or see?

Mr. Bond replied that the District does training with the staff on how to recognize certain behaviors. The staff encourage students to find a trusted adult. Information is available in our buildings where staff can refer people to receive help.

Greg Fancher added that staff is trained to know when to refer students and parents to agencies trained in deep counseling. Ms. Johanson asked what if a parent says they are not going to take their child to the doctor or counselor. Mr. Fancher replied that each case is situational, so for instance, if a student writes a threatening note, we can require him to be evaluated before they would be allowed to come back to school.

Ms. Johanson noted that there are websites like Safe and Sound Youth Counsel which happens to be a free download that can be very helpful. Too much is left up to the children to identify students from social websites. Also, are the second set of doors at the schools locked?

Mr. Bond explained, for example at Desert Hills and Chinook Middle schools, the first set of doors are not locked but the second set of doors are. When you present yourself at the secretaries' desk, the secretary would have to release the door for you to enter or the secretary can press the panic button and gates will drop down.

Ms. Johanson noted that at assemblies all the doors are left open for people to go through. She stated that she would have no problem going through a metal detector, even if it takes more time or having to wait for a secretary or someone to buzz her in. Ms. Johanson asked how often schools do lockdowns drills.

Jack Anderson explained that all schools are required by law to do a combination of 10

lockdown, evacuation, and tabletop drills per year.

T.J. Daniels, 428 West 12th Ave., Kennewick – Mr. Daniels stated his son, who is a sophomore at Southridge High School, says he has never gone through a lockdown drill.

Mr. Bond replied that the Principal could let Mr. Daniels know when Southridge High School had the drills.

Ms. Johanson stated her daughter said she only remembers having one lockdown drill and something about a blue light but was unsure what to do. Do the students know how to protect themselves?

Ron King, Principal of Kennewick High School, explained how many lockdown drills Kennewick High School does and that some are actual lockdown and gave examples of the police putting the school on lockdown while they pursue an armed suspect so that the suspect doesn't run into the school.

Commander Childs talked about a series of armed robberies that happened recently where the police were chasing a suspect who was running with a gun. KPD has a network with the KSD where they were able to lock down seven different schools with one phone call.

Ms. Johanson asked Commander Childs if it was possible to have police officers do paperwork in the schools. Mr. Childs replied that it was possible and noted that KPD encourages their officers, in their particular zones, to go into the schools. He also noted that they have a DARE officer who also is in the schools.

Mr. Daniels shared that he has an 18-year-old special needs daughter and son who attend SHS and he was able to walk in and all around the school with no one trying to stop him.

Ms. Kintzley shared how she contacted Mr. Bond the day after the Florida shooting, to express her concerns about the school her child attends which anyone can walk into without being stopped. She expressed that it is a very sensitive issue for all parents and definitely for her too. Ms. Kintzley added the focus needs to be on what the District can do in the short term to better secure the older schools, as the new schools have more security in place. She requested Ridge View Elementary reconfigure the front area due to all the traffic with parents and also student traffic from the gym and music classes. Also, she requested that we reconfigure the front area of Amistad Elementary. She suggested a system where people would be forced to stop before entering the school but would have an interface with a person, possibly a secretary.

Mr. Messinger stated he liked Ms. Kintzley idea and wanted to know what it would take to have that step done by next year.

Mr. Bond replied that all our middle schools are fine and about 12 of our elementary schools are needing updates. Mr. Bond will bring back an estimate on contracting the work out compared to our guys doing the work.

Ron Mabry asked if the district had ever looked at schools with higher crime areas that use metal detectors to see if they have been successful as he would be interested in that.

Mr. Bond replied that he would have to look into it.

Brian Brooks stated he agrees with Ron Mabry that the information regarding schools that currently use metal detectors would be interesting to see.

Ms. Kintzley commented that her concern with metal detectors would be the psychological effect a kindergartener might have had to go through a metal detector and she wants children to be comfortable going to school.

Mr. Messenger stated the discussion tonight highlights that there isn't just one solution that will fix everything. The most recent threat our district had was solved because a student had the right mindset. The student identified the threat and called the right person. It is important to educate the staff and students on what they should be looking for and then report what they saw. We need to evaluate all the ideas tonight even though there may be a way around every one of them, but each idea may slow the intruder down. If we are looking for just one of these things to be perfect, we won't find it.

Mr. Bond noted that the Board could do anything they would like to do if the district has enough time and money. We will need to talk about what the Boards priorities are.

Lisa Peppard, 2762 Katie Road, Kennewick – Ms. Peppard stated she has talked with Kamiakin High School Principal Chris Chelan and has also volunteered at Desert Hills Middle School and she would hate to see more asked of school secretaries.

Jim Johanson, 6601 West 6th, Kennewick – Mr. Johanson asked if the anonymous tip line goes to the Kennewick Police Department. Mr. Bond answered no, but when the District receives a tip we send it to KPD right away if we feel it should go to them.

Mr. Bond noted that he had read an article about Toppenish School District giving each teacher pepper spray and a bat.

Ms. Johanson suggested a fire extinguisher be given to teachers so they could aim it at the intruder and spray them or use it to hit the intruder.

Commander Childs responded that KPD had someone use a fire extinguisher on some of them and it didn't have much effect other than to irritate them more than anything else. He stated that there are three options people have in these kinds of situations; run, hide, or fight. However, teachers are also responsible for their student's safety. What if the teacher is on the playground and someone starts shooting; there is no cookie cutter answer. Each door or area that is locked down slows the shooter down allowing more time for the police to arrive.

Mr. Daniels asked if stun guns or lasers were an option. Commander Childs replied that

they too required training to be used and police have seen numerous times when stun guns have failed.

Mr. Johanson commented that vestibules are great if they are locked but it sounds like we have determined they are not always locked. Ms. Kintzley replied that she expects schools that have vestibules to be locked. Mr. Messinger also stated we could fix that.

Ms. Johanson stated there needs to be more information for students to get help such as; crises numbers posted in schools and Safe and Sound Youth Council website posted. We can't ignore the weird student or the loner as these students didn't just wake up one day and decide to kill. We need to be better at identifying and offering help to these students.

Ms. Kintzley commented that this is a heavy topic for sure and one that does not have an easy solution. We need to focus on what we can do now and make sure resources are available. She suggested the priority should be to secure the most vulnerable schools first.

Brian Messinger stated he appreciated everyone's comments and stressed the importance of addressing the fact that people are walking directly into schools that are supposed to be locked.

Mr. Bond noted that the presentation on things the district wants to do in the next bond showed one of the proposals for Southridge H.S. was to eliminate one of the two accesses. We may need to bring in our high school principals and think about how we are going to narrow down or limit access to our high schools.

Mr. Messinger noted that Mr. Bond's presentation offered five possible security ideas and all but number five, arming staff, had been skipped. The district needs to evaluate arming staff as he has received correspondence from the public regarding this idea. Mr. Messinger also stated he understood where the Kennewick Police were coming from on this subject and if the district armed staff he would hope and expect that our partners would know who they were and that there would be a plan in place to work with the KPD in different pieces of training and scenarios. He also stated that this is a difficult problem but not insurmountable and we don't choose to do these things because they are easy but because they are difficult.

Ms. Johanson shared that Idaho state and possibly Utah state already have armed staff.

Mr. Messinger noted major training, annual qualifications, State and FBI standards would all be needed if staff was armed. We would want to create an enhancement, not a liability.

Mr. Mabry noted that he was torn between arming staff and not arming staff and would want the public to have a say about it.

Mr. Bond brought up to the Board that it may be disruptive to reconfigure schools while students are attending.

The Board agreed that they would rather disrupt the schools now to get the security in place as soon as possible.

Mr. Bond noted that School Resource Officers are armed, but School Security Guards are not; we could start with arming them before arming a teacher.

Ms. Moore shared that she lived on a military base, in another country, which had armed military guards and she still didn't feel safe. She suggested that we teach students and staff to be vigilant, know where exits are, and to be aware of your surroundings.

Mr. Messinger shared that two years ago he researched all the school shooters in the last ten or so years. He looked at the timelines and wanted to know what happened in the first four minutes, because KPD would say it took them approximately four minutes to arrive at the scene. In the first four minutes of the Florida shooting, there were a lot of casualties. Do we have security in that will effectively stop or slow down an intruder? I have full faith in KPD once they arrive but what about the first four or even two minutes until they do arrive.

Lisa Peppard asked where Kamiakin High school fits into the ranking of most vulnerable schools? It seems most school shootings happen in high schools.

Ms. Kintzley replied that she would not be satisfied securing one school a year. Security for all schools has to be the priority. She will press for the security of all our schools to happen expeditiously, as there is no higher priority.

Mr. Messinger added he was glad the Board was having this discussion and talking about real changes.

Ms. Johanson asked if the KPD were trained to deal with students who have special needs. Commander Child replied yes. He also added that KPD has talked with teachers regarding that very scenario.

Ms. Kintzley shared that she appreciated all the comments as it weighs on her heavily. She lost a family member at the Virginia Tech shooting, so it is a very tender subject.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Heather Kintzley moved the Board into executive session at 8:19 p.m. for approximately 45 minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (f) for a personnel issue and RCW

42.30.110 (1) (i) for a legal issue. No formal action will result. At 9:04 Ms. Kintzley extended executive session for an additional 70 minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Vice President Heather Kintzley reconvened regular session of the Board at 10:09 p.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Approved: March 14, 2018

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD