KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
DECEMBER 11, 2019

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dawn Adams, President of the Board; Heather Kintzley, Vice President of the Board; Ron Mabry, Board Member; Michael Connors, Board Member, Diane Sundvik, Board Member; Nikhil Devanathan, Student Representative to the Board; Dr. Traci Pierce, Deputy Superintendent; and Dave Bond, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

Cabinet Members: Matt Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Services; Doug Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Ron Williamson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Rob Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Vic Roberts, Executive Director of Business Operations; and Robyn Chastain, Director of Communication and Public Relations.

Other Guests: Bronson Brown, KSD Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT

Heather Kintzley, excused (Left early 5:43 p.m. for child’s Christmas concert.)

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 85 staff and guests in attendance.

OATH OF OFFICE

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce administered the oath of office to Ron Mabry, Diane Sundvik, and Michael Connors.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was held per RCW 28A.330.010.

President

Dawn Adams nominated for President by Ron Mabry and seconded by Michael Connors.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote: Sundvik Yes
              Connors Yes
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Mabry   Yes  
Kintzley  Yes  
Adams   Yes  

Motion carried 5-0.

Vice President

Heather Kintzley nominated for Vice-President by Ron Mabry and seconded Diane Sundvik.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:  
Sundvik Yes  
Connors Yes  
Mabry Yes  
Kintzley Yes  
Adams Yes  

Motion carried 5-0.

Legislative Representative

Ron Mabry nominated for Legislative Representative by Heather Kintzley and seconded by Michael Connors.

Nominations closed with no further nominations.

Roll call vote:  
Sundvik Yes  
Connors Yes  
Mabry Yes  
Kintzley Yes  
Adams Yes  

Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Board Members

Superintendent Dave Bond recognized Board members Brian Brooks and Ben Messinger for their eight years of service on the School Board by presenting them each with a plaque and reminiscing about many of the topics that the Board had discussed over the last eight years.

Fall Sports

Kamiakin High School Cross Country team was acknowledged for being the 2019 State
Champions.

2019-2020 STEM like Me! Awards

Bruce Hawkins and Judy Reault, on behalf of Dream Builders Educational Foundation and Mid-Columbia STEM Network, congratulated Kennewick School District’s eleven Innovation Grant Awardees.

$1,000.00 - Aerial Robotics 101 - Mid Columbia Partnership School - Julie Rheinschmidt.
$996.30 - Gadgets & Career Advice - Westgate Elementary School - Mark Russell.
$997.94 - Setting the Otter Stage for STEM - Amon Creek Elem. School - Janelle Phillips.
$949.59 - Circuit Express Mystery Solvers - Sage Crest Elementary School - James Arslanian.
$998.00 - Introducing Sam Lab blocks - Cascade Elementary School - Sylvia Loosveldt.
$662.61 - On the Move with Solar Power - Cascade Elementary School - Diana Lam.
$1,000.00 - Student Technology Team - Park Middle School - Kaycee Ferguson.
$565.00 - Manhattan Project - Canyon View Elementary School - Kim Estes.
$790.00 - Reach for the Stars! - Canyon View Elementary School - Bambi Pescasio.
$1,000.00 - MCP Rocket Bots - Mid-Columbia Partnership School - Susan DeFord.
$763.00 - STEMtastic Second Grade - Amistad Elementary School - Rhonda MacLellan.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Katherine Chumney, 2508 S. Grant St., Kennewick, made a second request for the Board to consider expanding or rethinking the dual language program at Eastgate Elementary School.

Chris Kenoyer, 330 Casey Ave., Richland, asked the School Board to reevaluate the substitutes work plan of only eight days a month.

Nancy Smith, 108 W. 45th, Kennewick, asked the School Board what they were going to do about her having been threatened by an administrator and having been forced to falsify grades. Mr. Bond replied that the District had completed five separate investigations, including a federal, a state, and an insurance investigation as well as internal investigations.

Dean Brouillette, 5901 West 5th Ave, Kennewick, asked the Board to reconsider their position on substitutes only being able to work eight days per month.

Tatum Nelson, Kennewick, commented she is required to attend a School Board meeting as part of a college class assignment. Ms. Nelson added that this is her first time to attend a School Board meeting and suggested the Board encourage high school students to attend. Superintendent Bond replied that the Board currently has a Student Representative to the Board, Nikhil Devanathan, and he is part of a Superintendent/Student Advisory Committee where students are encouraged to attend.
Heidi Sant, 1610 S. Ione St., Kennewick, expressed concerns about the Tier 2 class at Canyon View Elementary School, where her son attends. She asked for better communication with the parents so that the parent can help their child process traumatic behavior in their class. Ms. Sant added that her son does not feel he is in a safe place and that the Tier 2 class is impacting the learning environment for other classes at Canyon View. She asked the Board what their plan is to address the problems at Canyon View Elementary.

President Adams replied that Rob Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, has recently taken several actions in regards to the Tier 2 class at Canyon View. Ms. Sant stated that she has talked with Mr. Phillips, and the problem is not being addressed. Ms. Adams asked Superintendent Bond to give the Board a report on what is happening. She assured Ms. Sant that the Board is listening and has had discussions, but there are several things that she cannot talk about publicly per laws that the Board has to follow. Ms. Sant stated that she feels the Board can at least direct the concern for better communication when the classroom has a lockdown. Ms. Adams said they would address it.

Ron Mabry added that the other child has rights, and the District has to be careful about what they communicate with other parents.

Debbie Lockard, 4202 S. Tacoma Pl., Kennewick, stated she agreed with Heidi Sant, and as a teacher, she recently had a student attack six other students before the child could be restrained. Her students were wide-eyed as they watched the student who was out of control. It is traumatic for the other students. Ms. Lockard explained that a teacher has to document inappropriate behavior for thirty days before a student is considered for a move to a Tier 2 classroom. She felt that the District needs to make this happen faster. President Adams agreed that she, too, would want to know if her child has been hit or kicked, and the District does need to make sure communication is happening with the other parents in the classroom.

Suhaill Nunez, 1355 Belmont Blvd, West Richland, shared that she is a Kennewick teacher and that it is not a lockdown, but a room-clear, where notification for parents needs to be put into place.

Deputy Superintendent Traci Pierce answered that the District has a Task Force that is focusing on some specific issues and has some recommendations. There are other groups that Matt Scott and Becca Anderson are working with who were also part of the Task Force. Ms. Pierce added that there had been a lot of listening and gathering of information on how to address Tier 2 behavior concerns.

Cocoa Mayo-Shjerven, 818 West 24th Ave., Kennewick, shared that she is a Canyon View Elementary School teacher and that Rob Phillips did go to the school and a few changes were made. The consensus of the building is that Canyon View hasn’t felt supported by the District. It is not clear to teachers what the District has done to keep teachers safe.
Amy Cook, 1010 Marshall, Richland, shared that she is a Canyon View teacher and that they have wonderful students. She invited the new School Board members to come and see the issues with safety and security, as it's not about more cameras.

President Adams replied that if there is anything that the Board can do, she can assure them that they are doing it. The Board cares about the safety of the students and the safety of teachers.

Bambi Pescasio, 2912 W. Hood Ave., Unit C203, Kennewick, a teacher at Canyon View, expressed her concerns that the environment in the classroom is exposing our students to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Our school lost many teachers and has a half time Assistant Principal. Ms. Pescasio added that she understands the legislation has created rules that make it hard for schools.

Dean Brouillette, 5901 West 5th Ave, Kennewick, asked the Board if subs could receive the training needed to restrain students; without the training, a sub has to wait for security.

Superintendent Bond handed the Board members a copy of the letter that went out to all our subs. He shared that the legislation requires schools to provide full benefits for anyone that works 630 hours per month. The cost to the District to cover our subs from last year would have been $1.2M, and this is an unfunded mandate by the state. Mr. Bond shared that some districts are canceling all training during the school days, so they don’t have to use as many subs. Other districts have subs sign a contract stating that they will only sub for their district. Dr. Pierce and Mr. Bond met with Rep. Boehnke last week and pounded on him for what the state has done. Mr. Bond added that restricting sub hours is a pilot program, and no final decision has been made, and the District will continue to monitor the substitute situation.

David Campbell, 3503 S. Tacoma St., Kennewick, expressed that the District should hire a dedicated pool of subs so they could have a steady pool of people to sub for the District.

Sylvia Loosveldt, 6058 W. 38th Ave., Kennewick, asked about the rational in the sub policy that says subs have to work at least two days per month. Doug Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, replied that the rationale had to do with the fact that the District has many people who have signed up to sub and never take positions.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Ron Mabry to approve the consent items as presented.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote: Sundvik Yes
             Connors Yes
Motion carried 4-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting November 13, 2019
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, Classified and Extracurricular
  - Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2019-2020
- Payroll and Vouchers Ending November 30, 2019
- Budget Status Report Ending:
  - September 30, 2019
- Elementary School Improvement Plans 2019-2020
- Approve Associate Superintendent Position
- Approve Contract for Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce
- Superintendent Bond Mid-Year Retirement

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent

Nikhil Devanathan, Student Representative to the Board, reported on the Superintendent-Student Advisory Committee meeting. He shared that the primary topic of discussion was the class scheduling of 24 credits required over four years for on-time graduation. He felt that the most popular schedule was a 4x4 block. Mr. Devanathan shared that the group also talked about the diversity of course offerings and how most students feel they need more classes to better prepare them for when they leave home.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce reminded the Board about Superintendent Bond's retirement party on December 19 at the District office. She also shared information with the Board regarding two upcoming events; 2020 SEWASA Annual Board Workshop and the 2020 Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill. She asked the Board members to inform Patty Lord if they would like to attend.

Board Member

Ron Mabry reported that he had attended the WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue. He would like to share information he received about football helmets and a diversity workshop at a future date.

Diane Sundvik reported that she attended the WSSDA Annual Conference and was able to attend sessions on The Priorities of the Board and Social and Emotional Learning for our students.
Ron Mabry reminded the Board and those in attendance about the upcoming Great Handshake at Hawthorne Elementary. He invited people to attend the event, and let them know that Hawthorne is looking for judges.

President Adams asked Mr. Devanathan if there is a committee looking into the 4 x 4 schedule. Dr. Pierce replied that there is no committee in place, but she has gathered information to present at the Board retreat in January. Ms. Adams reminded the Board to send Dr. Pierce topics they want on the Board retreat agenda. Mr. Bond added that one of the retreat items is for the Task-force to present on the Tier 2 program.

Ron Mabry shared that he was informed about a school event called M & M days, and he has invited the teacher to come to the Board and explain M & M day.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1-1 Technology Implementation Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Services, Matt Scott, reported on goals for the Digital Learning initiative, history of the technology implementation, Digital Learning professional development, teacher/student sharing, instructional benefits, challenges and concerns to date, and next steps to be taken. Mr. Scott had the following teachers share instructional benefits; Jamie Whitmire, Amon Creek Elementary, Kaycee Ferguson, Park Middle School, and Lisa Page and Cooper Page, Southridge High School. Mr. Sharp further reported on current and upcoming challenges followed by Ms. Butler providing feedback from parents, students, teachers, and administrators.

Michael Connors asked what the expected life span of a Chromebook is. Mr. Scott replied that the District is thinking the expected life span to be about five years.

President Adams asked if e-sports could be added as a retreat discussion. Mr. Bond answered that Mr. Williamson had been looking into e-sports and that the topic would be added to the retreat agenda.

Graduation Statistics 2018-2019

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, Ron Williamson, shared data for the 4-year cohort graduation rates for 2013 through 2019 and 5-year cohort graduation rates for 2012 through 2018. One comprehensive high school had a 5-year cohort rate above 90%, meeting the District’s North Star Goal, and one comprehensive high school finished with 89.7%. Mr. Williamson explained that the state reporting process doesn’t count 6th-year graduates who are finding success in our alternative programs. Mr. Williamson added that 39 students received a GED. He credited the Success Coordinators at the high schools and the “We Want You Back”
campaign for locating and encouraging high school drop-outs to enroll at our alternative high schools where many are finding success and are graduating.

President Adams commented that she is surprised the graduation rate is so low at Phoenix High School. Mr. Williamson suggested having Head Teacher Jill Mulhausen come and present on the program at Phoenix High and share some of the high needs the students have, including some mental health needs.

Diane Sundvik asked if the District pays the fees for students to take the GED tests. Mr. Williamson answered that the funding comes from the state.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bus Purchases

Superintendent Dave Bond shared that Transportation Director April Heiser is recommending that we purchase up to nine buses for delivery for summer 2020. The purchases would increase our special needs fleet due to the rise in enrollment and students riding buses. Mr. Bond added that the current fleet includes 136 buses. The new busses would include four buses primarily for ECEAP and Keewaydin Discovery Center with five-point seat restraints, and five buses for Special Education routes with a wheelchair lift and interior harness mechanism to secure wheelchair with lap/shoulder seatbelts. Mr. Bond reported that the estimated bus purchase cost is $1.2M. In August 2020, the district will receive $708,900 from the state for bus replacement. The remaining purchase price balance of $492,573 would be funded from a combination of cash on hand available in the fund and transfer funds from the General Fund into the Transportation Vehicle Fund. Mr. Bond noted that the 2019-2020 adopted budget included $400,000 as a General Fund transfer to the Transportation Fund.

Motion by Ron Mabry to authorize the Transportation Director to order nine buses for delivery summer 2020, as presented by Mr. Bond.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote: Sundvik Yes Connors Yes Mabry Yes Adams Yes

Motion carried 4-0.
Classroom Space Needs 2020-2021

Superintendent Dave Bond reported on the portable needs of the district and shared how the goal is to not buy any portables for the 2020-2021 school year. In the summer of 2021, when Kennewick High is complete, and the additions are complete at Southridge and Kamiakin, we will have over a dozen portables including several double portables that can be able to be used to meet space needs throughout the district. Mr. Bond shared that the plan for 2020-2021 is to move 1-2 portables from Washington and/or Edison to Sage Crest to accommodate growth. In addition, the District will move 1-2 portables from Washington and/or Edison or use existing available classrooms at Hawthorne, Cottonwood, or Eastgate (Tier 2) and other buildings to accommodate Special Education growth needs. Mr. Bond added that the District would present a more detailed plan for accommodating special education space needs at the January Retreat.

Ron Mabry suggested that the District look at boundaries again.

Policy No. 6100, ADMINISTRATION: Line-Staff Chart, First Reading

Dr. Traci Pierce, Deputy Superintendent, presented updates to Policy No. 6100, ADMINISTRATION: Line-Staff Chart.

Motion by Diane Sundvik to adopt Policy No. 6100, ADMINISTRATION: Line-Staff Chart for first and second reading as presented by Dr. Traci Pierce.

Seconded by Michael Connors.

Roll call vote: Sundvik Yes
Connors Yes
Mabry Yes
Adams Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

Policy No. 5406, PERSONNEL: Leave Sharing, First Reading

Doug Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared the WSSDA recommendations regarding leave sharing.

President Adams noted that the word “temporally” in the fifth line should be “temporarily.”

Motion by Michael Connors to adopt Policy No. 5406, PERSONNEL: Leave Sharing for first and second reading with the correction of the word “temporarily” as recommended.
Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote:  
Sundvik  Yes
Connors  Yes
Mabry   Yes
Adams   Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

Policy No. 9100, SCHOOL FACILITIES: Planning, First Reading

Superintendent Dave Bond presented updates to Policy No. 9100, SCHOOL FACILITIES: Planning.

Motion by Ron Mabry to accept revisions to Policy No. 9100, SCHOOL FACILITIES: Planning for first and second reading as presented by Dave Bond.

Seconded by Michael Connors.

Roll call vote:  
Sundvik  Yes
Connors  Yes
Mabry   Yes
Adams   Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

Policy No. 9105, SCHOOL FACILITIES: Site Acquisition, First Reading

Superintendent Dave Bond shared Policy No. 9105, SCHOOL FACILITIES: Site Acquisition, per the WSSDA recommendations.

Motion by Michael Connors to adopt Policy No. 9105, SCHOOL FACILITIES: Site Acquisition for first and second reading as presented by Dave Bond.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

Roll call vote:  
Sundvik  Yes
Connors  Yes
Mabry   Yes
Adams   Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
President Dawn Adams moved the Board into executive session at 8:10 pm for approximately 45 minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (b) for a real estate issue, and RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) for a legal issue. Ms. Adams added that no formal action would result. At 8:55, Ms. Adams extended the executive session for an additional 65 minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

The regular session of the Board reconvened at 9:58 p.m. There being no further business; the Board adjourned at 9:58 p.m.