MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members: 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; and Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nikhil Devanathan, Student Representative to the Board, Excused
Heather Kintzley, Vice Present to the Board, Excused (Left Early 5:47 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:15 p.m., the Board went into executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (f) to consider a personnel issue.

CALL TO ORDER

President Dawn Adams called the regular session of the Board meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance with approximately 160 staff and guests in attendance.

RECOGNITION

National Music in Our Schools Month

The Southridge High School Choir performed before the Board meeting for National Music in Our Schools Month. Laurie Evans, the choir teacher at Southridge High School, thanked the Board for being supportive of our district music programs.

School Retirees Appreciation Week

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce introduced Victoria Russell, President for the Benton-Franklin School Retirees’ Association and former President, Dottie Stevens. Dr. Pierce read Governor Inslee’s proclamation declaring March 16-22, 2020 as School Retirees Appreciation Week, adding that she appreciates them for their service and is honored to recognize them.
CONSENT ITEMS

President Dawn Adams shared that the Board has a concern with one of the consent items regarding the termination of an employee from the Facilities department, who is listed on the Classified Personnel Action Items list. Heather Kintzley recommended pulling the employee from the Personnel Action item.

A motion was made by Heather Kintzley to table the termination of an employee from the Facilities group until the next Board meeting.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Heather Kintzley made a motion to approve the consent items after removal of the employee from the personnel action items as identified by the Board.

Seconded by Diane Sundvik.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The consent items were as follows:

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting February 26, 2020
- Personnel Actions – Certificated, (Amended) Classified and Extracurricular
  - Out of Endorsement Teacher Plans 2019-2020
- Resolution No. 16, 2019-2020: Kamiakin High School Addition Constructability Review Acceptance
- Resolution No. 17, 2019-2020: Southridge High School Addition Constructability Review Acceptance
- Memo: Highlands Middle School Track 7 Field Project
- Resolution No. 18, 2019-2020: Unused or Underutilized School Facilities in Neighboring Districts

Ms. Kintzley left at 5:47 p.m.
RECOGNITION CONTINUED

Education Support Professionals Week

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared some thoughts about the many Education Support Professionals who make our schools a great place to be for staff, students, and families. Dr. Pierce read Governor Inslee’s proclamation declaring March 9-13, 2020, as Education Support Professionals Week.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARENTS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS

Mindy Stromberg, 201 Center Blvd, Richland, shared she was representing several parents who have concerns with the ESSB 5395 bill (Concerning comprehensive sexual health education) that was passed by the state Legislature and is in the final stages of being adopted. First, she thanked the principals, teachers, and staff as their goal is to get everyone on the same side united to come up with the best options for our children. Ms. Stromberg has three children in the district. She asked the Board to email the governor and ask him not to sign this bill.

Tiffanie Parrish, 4906 W. 19th Ave., Kennewick, shared a list of questions that she and other parents would like answered regarding ESSB 5395. Ms. Parrish thanked the Board for listening to her.

Neil Schertz, 200 S. Roosevelt St., Kennewick, thanked the Board for the opportunity for parents to come together on the topic of ESSB 5395. Mr. Schertz asked the Board to consider if ESSB 5395 align with the school district's goals. He noted that page 2 of the bill state that abstinence may not be taught, and page 6 talks about what “medically and scientifically accurate” means. Mr. Schertz stated that it is his opinion that the Bible is medically and scientifically accurate.

Moon Kulp, 8611 Bonnie Ave, Kennewick, commented that everyone brings bias into their teaching and asked the District to ensure that the teachers teaching sexual health do so without bias. She indicated that she wanted to make sure parents have the option to opt out of instruction and thanked the Board for opening the floor to the community.

Brandy Straight, 1913 S. Lyle St., Kennewick, commented that she is a paraeducator at Canyon View Elementary School and Co-President of Kennewick Association of Public School Employees. Ms. Straight shared the importance of recognizing Education Support Professionals, as schools cannot run without them. She went on to thank School Board members for their time and service and emphasized the union's intentions to work with the School Board.

Kim Estes, 3413 S. Jean St., Kennewick, shared her concerns about Title I elementary schools that will soon have a Tier II program. She stated concerns that the Tier II program is not running efficiently and that the District is taking away from Title 1 schools to move help and support to the Tier II programs. Ms. Estes encouraged Board members to visit a Tier II program if they had not already done so.
SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce gave an update on the strategic planning process and added that the District would continue to monitor and send out updates on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

Board Member

Ron Mabry reported that Southridge High is participating in eSports and explained a little about eSports.

Dawn Adams reported that the NSBA Conference was canceled due to the Coronavirus.

Mike Connors reported that he was a judge in the Future Chefs competition and added that Sam Shick did an excellent job.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Class of 2021 Credits Earned Update

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Ron Williamson reviewed the new law regarding 24 credits for graduation, and shared the current credit status for the Class of 2021. He shared options that students have to earn additional credits and added that the district would continue to do everything possible to help students achieve the 24 credits needed to graduate. Board discussion followed with Mr. Mabry asking if Mr. Williamson could let him know how many students are actually failing with an F grade, not the ones in Running Start, etc. Mr. Mabry said a Weekly Update item would be fine.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce shared an overview of the legislative session to date along with the areas in common in House and Senate budget proposals. Dr. Pierce showed a list of key bills to watch, highlighting three that the District is watching very closely: HB 1182 – Lap; SB 6117 – Special Education Funding; and, SB 5395 – Sexual Health Education. HB 1182 passed both chambers and would then go to the Governor to sign. This bill would restore some flexibility in using LAP money for academic and non-academic supports. Dr. Pierce commented that if the District could support the non-academic needs of the students, then the student may perform better academically. SB 6117 was still in committee, but proposed a funding factor increase from 1.0075 to 1.0251. If passed, the additional funding would apply to students who in a general education setting for 80% of their day. SB 5395 passed both the Senate and House and was headed to the Governors’ desk. Stronger language is included that says the curriculum, instruction, and materials used to provide comprehensive sexual health education must be medically and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate, and must include information about abstinence and other methods of preventing
unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Dr. Pierce added that there is even stronger wording that parents can request to opt their children out of instruction and the District must approve the request.

Board discussion followed.

**2020-2021 Preliminary Budget Transportation Vehicle and Debt Service Funds**

Executive Director of Business Operations Vic Roberts presented preliminary budgets for the Transportation Vehicle and Debt Service funds for 2020-21 through 2023-24. He estimated Transportation Vehicle revenue for 2020-21 at $730,500 and expenditures of $800,000 for the purchase of five to six new buses with an ending fund balance of $88,669 at August 31, 2021. Mr. Roberts presented the 2020-21 Debt Service budget with revenues projected to be $16,820,000 including $1,000,000 from District payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) funds, and expenditures estimated at $15,735,000 for an ending fund balance at August 31, 2021 of $7,097,781. Mr. Roberts reviewed the debt service retirement schedule and noted an estimated levy rate of $1.68 for 2021. Mr. Roberts presented a budget timeline schedule that results in the Board adoption of the budget at the June 17 meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

____________________________ _________________
RECORDING SECRETARY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

____________________________
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Approved: April 1, 2020