



Wenatchee School District

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Wenatchee School District Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of March 10, 2020
WSD District Office – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Board President, Laura Jaecks, at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Laura R. Jaecks, Board President
Martin Barron, Board Vice President
Dr. Michele Sandberg, Board Director
Julie Norton, Board Director
Maria Iñiguez, Board Director
Dr. Paul Gordon, Board Secretary

Also Present:

Staff Members
Community Members

BOARD PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT

President Jaecks asked that anyone who wished to address the Board this evening fill out a public comment form and submit it to the Executive Assistant.

AGENDA APPROVAL

President Jaecks indicated that no executive session will be needed tonight, and asked if there were any additional changes to the agenda. There were none.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

School Retirees Appreciation

Dr. Gordon welcomed the Washington State School Retirees present and thanked them for their commitment and past service to our schools and community. Members then introduced themselves and provided a brief history of their background in education. Dr. Gordon and Board members again expressed their appreciation for the group's commitment to students in our public education system.

Education Support Professionals Appreciation

Dr. Gordon announced that the Board and District were very proud to also recognize the District's educational support professionals, who are involved in every aspect of our schools. He noted that their impact is vast and the work of educating our students could not occur without the support of these professionals. Katie Batson, Human Resource Director, added that there are four classified bargaining units in the District, including the Secretaries, Paraeducator and Professional/Technical group, the Bus Drivers group, the Nutrition Services group, and the Maintenance and Operations group. She recognized the presence of Heather Bertomeu, representing the Secretaries, Paraeducator and Professional/Technical group, which is the District's largest bargaining group. She also recognized the bus drivers, the maintenance and operation staff and food service workers, discussing the various roles of the employees in each group, reiterating that these professionals keep our school going and provide a wide range of support to staff and students. Dr. Gordon thanked and recognized all of the District's education support professions for their important work.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Jaecks reviewed the items contained on the consent agenda. **Motion:** Director Norton made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Seconded:** Director Sandberg. **Discussion:** None. **Motion passed unanimously.** Consent Agenda items included the following:

- A. Minutes: 2-11-20 Regular Meeting; 2-18-20 Board Workshop

- B. Vouchers/Payroll
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Surplus Report
- E. Contracts
- F. Field Trip Requests
- G. Policy Updates - 2nd Read: #3225, #4314, #3416, #3423, #5201

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

JT Dodge, Junior Class President at Wenatchee High School, spoke about the reasons he feels students should earn credit for participation in school sports, and his particular situation of needing a half credit of PE waived. He shared his research about PE and waiver requirements, and offered possible solutions, including giving credit to students in sports, giving a 5th period, or changing the system in which credits are waived. At the conclusion of his comments, he thanked the Board for their time. Dr. Gordon commended JT for an outstanding presentation and President Jaecks recommended that he should run for a school board position when he is 18 years old.

Chelsea Mahuika, parent and community member, talked about the sex education bill that is on the Governor's desk, noting that she disagrees with most of the bill. As a mother of six, she is disturbed by what is being proposed. She suggested that Board and Cabinet members attend meetings that are available in the district pertaining to the curriculum the District is currently offering. In addition, she requested that the Board send a letter to the Governor, similar to what another district had done, urging control of sex/health education of the local level.

ASB REPORTS

None

PRESENTATION

Impact Literacy Training.

Dr. Gordon introduced Sarah Wall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Stacie Bain, Inclusional and Instructional Practices Specialist, and Amber Birks, Instructional Programs Coordinator, indicating that he is proud of the work they are doing. The team shared some background information and reasons why the District chose to implement the Impact Literacy training, noting that the training equips teachers to open the door for all students to be successful by deepening their understanding of how to teach reading. They reviewed reading data across the district showing decreasing reading skills and shared that the goal of Impact Literacy training is to have 95% of all district students reading at or above grade level. Detailed information regarding the training, continued professional development for staff, student assessment measures, along with a video presentation and hands-on instruction were provided. Following their presentation, they responded to questions from board members.

It was clarified that Impact Literacy training does not replace our current Wonders curriculum, but rather helps staff to have a deeper understanding of the science behind reading instruction. The Impact professional development offers teachers an opportunity to feel more confident in the delivery of the curriculum. The science of reading approach works across all languages and all students are individually instructed. In fact, through explicit instruction, all scholars can become bilingual and biliterate. The Impact Literacy delivery method has also proven highly successful for students with dyslexia and the Washington Dyslexia Association continues to highlight the Wenatchee School District to OSPI. At the conclusion of questions and discussion, Board members and Dr. Gordon commended the team for their work. Dr. Gordon added that he is thankful to the team and all of the District's educators who are embracing this work on a daily basis; it is some of the most powerful work he has ever witnessed. The team thanked the Board for their support and for inviting them to share their work.

ACTION ITEMS:

PSE of Wenatchee Bus Drivers Collective Bargaining Agreement

Katie Batson, Human Resources Director provided an update on the collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the bus drivers union. The primary focus was to clarify language and practices, which took a great deal of time. She reviewed the updated salary and benefit terms, noting that a three-year contract term had been agreed to. She then responded to questions from Board members. At the end of the discussion, **Motion:** Director Sandberg made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wenatchee School District and PSE of Wenatchee Bus Drivers as presented. **Seconded:** Director Iñiguez. **Motion passed unanimously.** Board members and Dr. Gordon thanked the Human Resource team for all the hard work involved in reaching this agreement.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Director Norton, Legislative Representative, provided an update on the comprehensive sex education bill, noting that it had passed in the legislature, but still needs the Governor's approval. She explained that the bill sets forth implementing the curriculum in phases through the 21-22 and 22-23 school years and requires Districts to work with OSPI on the curriculum. Discussion concerning the curriculum and

district control over curriculum followed. Dr. Gordon indicated that District staff will provide a presentation at an upcoming Board meeting to address the facts and provide a clearer understanding of the implications to the District if the Governor signs the bill.

President Jaecks reported that she had received a nice note of thanks from individuals with Jazz Workshop, for the District’s support of their program.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mark Helm, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on the Facility Task Force and asked the Board what their goal was in moving forward with the Task Force. The meeting schedule has been delayed due to the COVID-19 issue, but hopes are that the Task Force will be able to have a proposal for the Board in August or September. Mr. Helm also reminded the Board that the demographic study is still underway, and the Task Force will work with the demographer in compiling their data and recommendations. The demographic study will also be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting. Currently there are 14 individuals who have expressed interest in being on the Task Force. Mr. Helm will be sure to express to them, at their first meeting, the time commitment involved for participation. The Task Force will be led by community members who will elect their Chair and Co-Chair, and will seek information and proposals, both architecturally and financially, from the district’s consultants and district personnel.

Dr. Gordon shared that he had sent information to the community this afternoon regarding canceling large group events in reference to COVID-19, all in the interest of helping our community mitigate the spread of the virus. The Cabinet has spoken to the experts and school districts do have a role to play. He apologized for the impact on students and the community, noting that these cancellations will affect quite a number of events involving large gatherings of people inside our facilities. Student safety and learning are our highest priorities. This is our small piece of helping our community.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

President Date

Superintendent Date