



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, October 11, 2021**

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The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021. This was a Zoom Meeting with login information posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Denholm, Olson, Cannon and Green were present. Director Burchard was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Director Green made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Remarks for the Good of the Schools**

Director Cannon was in attendance at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Northwest Marching Band Championships held at Mead's Union Stadium. He extended congratulations to the Mead High School Marching Band who placed 5<sup>th</sup> and to the Mt. Spokane High School Marching Band who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and took home three of the six caption awards . . . Best Colorguard, Best Percussion & Best Music.

Mrs. Nelson, mom of children who attend school at Farwell Elementary and Pittsburgh Learning Center (old Northwood building), referenced a recent large explosion associated with the Perry Street Quarry, which is located in close proximity to both school buildings. Her children reported walls and windows rattled, items were falling off of walls and, for safety, kids moved under their desks. Her older children now feel unsafe at school. She inquired about engineering inspections and suggested funds be used to modernize/upgrade older buildings like Farwell and Pittsburgh Learning Center rather than going toward new facilities. Director Denholm, who lives near this quarry, shared that he is notified a couple of days in advance when explosions are planned. He asked that Facilities & Planning Director Ned Wendle connect with Mrs. Nelson and additionally requested that, if possible, Mr. Wendle address these questions/concerns in his Facilities & Planning Department Report taking place later in the meeting.

**IV. Continuing Business**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy/Procedure 2195 Adoption  
Academic Acceleration**

Director of Secondary Education Darren Nelson presented Policy/Procedure 2195, Academic Acceleration, for second reading consideration. If adopted this would be a new policy/procedure for the Mead School District.

The presented policy/procedure puts into policy the district's current practice of automatically enrolling students who meet or exceed standards on statewide student assessments in the next most rigorous level, or advanced courses, or program, offered by the high school in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

The policy requires parental notification of this acceleration enrollment practice and the opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt their child out of participation and instead enroll in an alternative course or program that aligns with the student's high school and beyond plan goals.

The procedure sets forth the criteria for awarding dual credit (high school and college), as well as dual credit reporting requirements.

No first reading (September 27, 2021) changes were recommended.

Director Green made a motion to adopt Policy/Procedure 2195, Academic Acceleration, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

Responding to a question from Director Olson, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson explained the nearly \$1.7 million payment to School Insurance Association of Washington covers the cost of liability insurance for the entire year. This amount is higher than in past years with Ms. Ellingson noting all school districts in the state saw an increase in their premium.

Director Olson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. Reports**

### **A. Facilities & Planning Department Report**

Before beginning the Facilities & Planning Department Report Director Ned Wendle, in response to concerns/questions raised by Mrs. Nelson during *Remarks for the Good of the Schools*, shared that every six years the district, working with architects and engineers, completes a Study/Survey on all district buildings. This process includes scoring of each facility in a variety of areas. Additionally, the district's Maintenance Department, that includes a number of skilled tradesmen, is very diligent in their approach to making sure preventative maintenance is performed in a timely manner. Mr. Wendle shared he is confident all Mead School District buildings are safe.

The Facilities & Planning Department Report included a year-by-year review of bond projects completed during the past six years. Mead patrons approved Facility Improvement Bonds in 2015 (\$69 million + \$32.1 million in state match) and 2018 (\$114.5 million + \$28.3 million in state match). Highlights from each year are provided below:

#### **2015**

- Purchased 68-acre future school site (Highland Middle School & Skyline Elementary) on Five Mile Prairie
- Replaced carpet at Brentwood, Evergreen, Farwell & Meadow Ridge
- Abated 53,304 sq. ft. of asbestos & 6,237 sq. ft. of mold
- Refinished two gym floors
- Replaced roofs at Meadow Ridge, Evergreen & Brentwood
- Refinished out-door tracks at Mead High & Mt. Spokane
- Upgraded Brentwood portables
- Repainted Brentwood exterior
- Started design work on new Northwood Middle School

#### **2016**

- Purchased property around old Mead Middle School site
- Started construction on new Northwood Middle School
- Started design work on Midway and Shiloh Hills renovations

- Started design work on Single Points of Entry at Mead High, Mt. Spokane, Mountainside, Brentwood, Colbert, Evergreen, Farwell & Meadow Ridge
- Upgraded Northwood portables
- Retrofitted lighting (LED) in gym and field house at both Mead High & Mt. Spokane
- Repainted Evergreen exterior
- Refinished/upgraded Mead High gym floor

## 2017

- Repainted Colbert exterior
- Refinished/upgraded Mt. Spokane gym floor
- Completed Single Points of Entry at Mead High, Mt. Spokane, Mountainside, Brentwood, Colbert, Evergreen, Farwell & Meadow Ridge
- Started Midway renovation
- Refinished parking lots at Evergreen, Brentwood, Mt. Spokane, Prairie View & Mead High
- Repainted Farwell exterior
- Performed North Star tenant improvements

## 2018

- Delivered new Northwood (January)
- Upgraded Farwell portables
- Delivered renovated Midway
- Started Shiloh Hills renovation
- Started design work on Creekside Elementary, Highland Middle School, new Transportation facility, new Maintenance facility and Union Stadium
- Replaced boiler at Farwell

## 2019

- Replaced HVAC system at Meadow Ridge
- Delivered renovated Shiloh Hills
- Replaced chiller at Brentwood & Evergreen
- Started construction of Creekside Elementary, Highland Middle School, new Transportation facility, new Maintenance facility and Union Stadium
- Installed playground mats at four elementary schools
- Started design work on Skyline Elementary
- Replaced roofs at Mead High and Mt. Spokane

## 2020

- Delivered new Transportation facility
- Delivered new Maintenance facility
- Delivered Highland Middle School
- Delivered Creekside Elementary
- Delivered Union Stadium
- Delivered Mead/Mt. Spokane gymnastics center
- Installed playground mats at two elementary schools
- Replaced flooring at Mead High & Mt. Spokane
- Started construction of Skyline Elementary
- Repainted Mt. Spokane interior
- Purchased future school site on Hatch Rd.
- Sold Northpoint office building

## 2021

- Delivered Skyline Elementary
- Delivered new ProStart kitchens at Mead High & Mt. Spokane
- Completed gym floor replacement at Meadow Ridge (carpet to wood)

- Replaced Prairie View roof
- Installed playground mats at Five Mile Prairie

All completed 2015 and 2018 bond projects were within or below budget despite escalating lumber prices this past year. Regarding Skyline Elementary, Mr. Wendle shared he believes it is the finest school built to date, noting the district incorporated all they have learned from earlier building projects.

Information on remaining bond monies was provided (approximately \$13 million) and the cost of projects still needing to be completed (approximately \$9 million) was shared.

Looking to future facility needs, Mr. Wendle shared current enrollment numbers (enrollment has rebounded somewhat from the COVID downturn but is still approximately 300 less than pre-pandemic) and reviewed projections from the 2018 Davis Demographics report. He reviewed anticipated new residential construction, as well as the district's 25-year Facilities Plan.

In conclusion Mr. Wendle recommended, like in the past, the district consider forming a Facilities Planning Committee. This committee, comprised of a cross-section of community members, would study and then recommend future capital improvement projects. He additionally shared the district is looking into having Davis Demographics update their report.

Director Denholm thanked Mr. Wendle for this very informative report. Director Green commented on the comprehensive nature of the report and, in particular, noted the fact that all of this work was completed on or under budget over the course of several years.

Regarding a question from Director Olson, Mr. Wendle shared providing more paved parking at Union Stadium could be looked into once all remaining bond projects have been completed.

Addressing a question from Director Cannon, Mr. Wendle shared that when a building reaches 30 years of age it is eligible for "state match" money. State match covers approximately one-third of renovation costs. The remaining two-thirds must be paid via a voter approved facilities improvement bond.

Mr. Wendle estimates the cost of a new middle school at \$50-\$60 million and the cost of a new high school at approximately \$200 million.

Director Green inquired about the retirement of bonds from previous projects and how that fits into strategic planning. Mr. Wendle shared a Facilities Planning Committee would factor that into their recommendation. Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson, in response to a question from Director Cannon, reported the district recently checked into refinancing existing debt and learned there is no current benefit. However, in 3-4 years, depending on interest rates at that time, it could be beneficial.

## **B. Superintendent's Report & Discussion Items**

Superintendent Woodward provided an update on the following topics:

Staff COVID Vaccinations - Of the district's approximately 1,400 staff, 267 have reached out for information on obtaining an exemption. To date, 195 exemptions have been granted (65 teachers). The deadline to obtain an exemption or provide proof of vaccination is October 18<sup>th</sup>. At this time the district is unsure of what, if any, fallout there will be to staffing levels because of the mandate. An update will be provided at the next school board meeting.

Labor Pool - Mead, like many other school districts and businesses, is experiencing difficulty in filling open positions including substitute teachers and substitute classified positions (para educators, bus drivers, custodians). To address this shortfall and be more competitive the

district is looking to increase substitute pay bringing it in line with the larger school districts in the area. The district will also be reaching out to family members in the community with bachelor degrees and invite them to consider serving as Emergency Substitute Teachers. Substitutes were less of an issue last year because Mead was one of the few school districts open all year for in-person instruction. Regarding a question from Director Green, Superintendent Woodward explained that, while it has been considered, the district is not sure there would be a benefit to hiring several subs on a full-time basis to “float” between schools. Those who would be hired most likely already sub in Mead regularly.

Social Media - The district (Doug Edmonson) is working on a draft Social Media policy to present to the board for their consideration in the near future. WSSDA does not have a staff social media policy. Therefore, the district is looking at policies from other school districts in the Pacific Northwest to aid in drafting a policy. Noting an uptick in rumors shared on social media regarding the Mead School District, with the information posted often taken out of context, Superintendent Woodward encouraged parents and community members to please go directly to the source before posting so that the information shared is accurate.

## **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

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**President**

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**Secretary**