

**Washougal School District 112-6
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

**Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.; Executive Session to Follow
Washougal School District Office & Online Zoom Meeting
Webinar ID: 895 7146 6980**

Generated by Julie Ferguson on Tuesday, September 14, 2021

PRESENT: Donna Sinclair, Board Director; Jim Cooper, Board Director; Chuck Carpenter, Board Director; Renae McMurray, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Aaron Hansen, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Services; and Mary Templeton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. Cory Chase, Board Director, arrived late as pre-arranged.

Attending via Zoom: Angela Hancock, Board Director

1. Opening Items - Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

A. Call to Order, Regular Meeting - Pledge of Allegiance

Angela Hancock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

B. Agenda Revisions

None. Superintendent Mary Templeton made an announcement that we may need to 'pause' when trains pass due to having the windows open to accommodate overflow seating outside.

C. Comments - Board of Directors

Chuck Carpenter commented that it is a joy to see buses go by in his neighborhood. Donna Sinclair thanked the Camas Washougal Rotary for their very generous donation to be used for school supplies. Donna asked that anyone who has questions for her personally, to please contact her and not to believe untruths being circulated. She stated that we are all one community and it would serve us well to come together because educating our children is our highest priority. Jim Cooper also thanked the Rotary for the generous donation and gave a shout-out to the Washougal High School cross country team "Shougalicious" for winning the Portland to Coast race. Jim also said he is excited about the new science curriculum adoption that is on the agenda. Angela Hancock said she would like to echo the thank you to the Rotary for their donation and she expressed how great it is to have kids in school five days a week. Angela said she has been out in schools, with more visits upcoming, and she has heard no complaints from kids regarding the Covid safety protocols that are in place and she is hopeful we can move away from the focus on mandates and forward with the work of educating our kids.

D. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Mary Templeton shared an impassioned speech about optimism, running this marathon and 21st century learners. Mary stated that we can't be satisfied with 'some' children achieving, but 'all' children achieving and said her optimism is anchored in the excellent teachers working in this district who care for our children. It is anchored in the leaders of this district and the work they put in during these challenging times. She said it is also anchored in the parents of the children, who show compassion and love for their neighbors as they have done the difficult work over these past 18 months. It is anchored in this community; we know each other and count on each other. She said we are running a marathon and it is not easy but we press on to educate our 21st century learners so they will leave this district with determination and knowing what hard work is.

Assistant Superintendent Aaron Hansen thanked everyone for attending and showing interest in what we are doing. Aaron thanked the staff for their commitment, dedication and hard work going above and beyond. He thanked Dr. Templeton and the board for their leadership and introduced Office Kevin Wooldridge, the district's new School Resource Officer. Aaron shared that Officer Wooldrige was introduced to the high school students last week and while he will spend a majority of his time at the high school, he will also visit and support all of our schools in the city. Aaron finished by saying that with the start of school, we also have a large number of students participating in sports with approximately 170 middle school athletes and over 260 high school athletes.

Assistant Superintendent Renae McMurray said that she appreciates the positivity of our leaders and while we are aware of all the challenges, we stay positive. Renae also shared that teachers are meeting weekly in professional learning communities, looking at data and talking about how to make sure every student has what they need to be successful.

NOTE: During this portion of the meeting, the zoom link was interrupted due to an internet outage at the district office.

E. Citizen Comments - General

Parent Michele Staples thanked the board and the district for all that has been done throughout the pandemic and having to deal with individuals who are opposed to the safety protocols.

Parent Wendi Moose spoke in support of the district's Covid safety measures and urgently requested that the district return to virtual school board meetings due to increasing Covid numbers and individuals who are knowingly attending meetings

and rallies while Covid positive.

Washougal resident Mimi Latta stated how much she appreciates and supports the job of the school board and she chose to attend the meeting when she heard that the Proud Boys had attended the last meeting and wanted to express that their ideologies are not what the majority of Washougal thinks.

NOTE: The zoom meeting came back online for most participants at this point in the meeting.

Washougal resident Melissa McIlwain spoke in opposition of how the board is running the district and how hypocritical the policies are. She stated that there is 'your' science and 'my' science and she pulled her children out of the district because she doesn't agree with what is happening.

Ellie said that she would like to educate the board on some Revised Codes of Washington (RCWs) and proceeded to cite several regarding assault, strangulation and suffocation of children.

Melanie Wilson submitted written comment sharing her support of the approach the board is taking to the equity issue and stated that creating an equitable environment for all students benefits everyone. She shared that communication, including question and answer sessions by school officials, would help to dispel fears and put controversies to rest.

David Young submitted written comment urging the school board to make decisions regarding Covid-19 that adhere to guidance issued by the U.S. CDC and WA State Department of health, stating that it is always best to "follow the science." He also shared his support of Policy 0050 "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" with the caution that this is a challenging topic and one ripe for misstatements and misunderstandings so he hopes that the board will ensure that school staff have adequate procedures and training and there be a plan/process/protocol in place for handling student or parental objections resulting from the difficult conversations.

Terri Niles submitted written comment sharing that what is happening at school board meetings and at public schools is disheartening and thanked the board for standing with the parents of this community in doing what is recommended by healthcare professionals and also for the efforts to make our schools a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

Joshua Loehr submitted written comment advising that sectarian controls or rituals such as anybody not wearing a cross (or a facemask) will not be admitted cannot be enforced and will be optional and all proclaimed emergency rules around distance and wardrobe rules are null and void.

Washougal Moms submitted written comment stating that they do not agree with the updated releases about covid protocols and those concerned about sickness should attend meetings through zoom and let more public into the space, nor do they agree with children wearing masks or being tested for Covid. They also accused two board members of violating board policies related to criticizing the public and talking about board issues outside of the boardroom.

Logan Boydell submitted written comment stating that it is despicable that a sitting board member would conspire with a teacher to spread disinformation and divisive messaging through letters to the editor of local media outlets. He stated that there is no right wing conspiracy getting paychecks from the Koch Brothers, but concerned parents and members of the community who disagree with you, or love the Constitutional Republic and that doesn't make them racist white nationalists.

Board President Cory Chase arrived and apologized for being late and thanked the other board directors for filling in for him.

2. Consent Agenda

Board members received and reviewed these documents in advance of the meeting.

A. Minutes (August 24, 2021)

B. Accounts Payable

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW

42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board. As of this date the board, by a unanimous vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the below list and further described as follows:

General Fund

Warrant Numbers 246733 through 246766, totaling \$202,183.59 (Pay date: 8-24-21)

Warrant Numbers 246767 through 246773, totaling \$46,353.05 (Pay date: 8-24-21)

Warrant Numbers 246788 through 246818, totaling \$82,547.28 (Pay date: 8-30-21)

Warrant Numbers 246819 through 246822, totaling \$14,420.03 (Pay date: 8-30-21)

Warrant Numbers 246823 through 246833, totaling \$52,560.83 (Pay date: 9-7-21)

ACH Numbers 202100222 through 202100223, totaling \$2,418.40 (Pay date: 8-31-21)

Manual Checks #56, totaling \$44,849.61 (Pay date: 8-10-21)

Manual Checks #56, totaling \$19,352.48 (Pay date: 8-10-21)

C. Payroll (August 2021)

General Fund (\$3,341,149.67)

Warrant Numbers N/A, totaling \$0 (Pay date: August 31, 2021)

Warrant Numbers 246774 - 246787, totaling \$575,141.46 (Pay date: August 31, 2021)

ACH Numbers 202100220 - 202100221, totaling \$16,482.42 (Pay date: August 31, 2021)

Non-Warrants, totaling \$2,749,525.79 (Pay date: August 31, 2021)

D. Contracts

E. Budget Status (July 2021)

F. Personnel

Appointments:

Johnnie Jones, Assistant Football, WHS, effective 8/18/21

Shaysie Kuntz, Assistant Volleyball, CCMS, effective 8/23/21

Elizabeth Bertsch, Assistant Volleyball, JMS, effective 8/23/21

Denise Croucher, Swim, WHS, effective 8/25/21

Samantha Arnold, Para, WHS, effective 8/31/21

Shaysie Kuntz, Para, WHS, effective 8/31/21

Renata Hankins, Para, HES, effective 8/31/21

Perri Prince, Para, CRGE, effective 8/31/21

Jeffrey Tan, Tech Support Assistant - Temp, DO, effective 8/31/21

Frances Cardon, Night Custodian, CCMS, effective 8/31/21

Cheryl Snedeker, Night Custodian, HES, effective 8/31/21

Christina Levy, Dispatcher/Router, BB, effective 8/27/21

Sharon Campbell, FS: Cook/Cashier, GES, effective 8/31/21

Sandy Stevens, FS: Cook/Cashier, CRGE/JMS, effective 8/31/21

Nataliya Nahurska, FS: Cook/Cashier, CRGE/JMS, effective 8/31/21

Jacqueline Olson, FS: Cook/Cashier, HES, effective 8/31/21

Catherine Boettcher, FS: Cook/Cashier, WHS, effective 8/31/21

Stanelle Perry, FS: Cook/Cashier, WHS, effective 8/31/21

Amanda Trolinger, FS: Cook/Cashier, WHS, effective 8/31/21

Jason Kero, FS: Kitchen Assistant, CRGE/JMS, effective 8/31/21

Sidney West, FS: Kitchen Assistant, GES, effective 8/31/21

Susan Zajack, FS: Kitchen Assistant, HES, effective 8/31/21

Anthony Barrett, Para, JMS, effective 8/31/21

Christina Buehler, Para, JMS, effective 8/31/21

Maria Fernanda Garcia Lay, Para, JMS, effective 8/31/21

Bethany Pitts, Bus Driver, BB, effective 8/31/21

Curt Hader, Bus Driver, BB, effective 8/31/21

Megan Seiber (Huff), Bus Driver, BB, effective 8/31/21

Avira Aryani, Playground Assist, CHS, effective 9/8/21

Katlynn Stalheim, Playground Assist, HES, effective 9/13/21

Resignations:

Rhonda Nester, Para, WHS, effective 8/20/21

Josie Mattison, Cook/Cashier, GES, effective 8/20/21

Scott Dizmang, Wrestling, CCMS, effective 8/25/21

Katie Hofsess, Volleyball, JMS, effective 9/7/21

Heather McFadden, Para, CRGE, effective 8/31/21

Nikki Adler, Playground Assist, CHS, effective 8/27/21

Retirements:

Betty Millington, Para, WHS, effective 8/24/21

G. Donations

Camas-Washougal Rotary Club, \$2,000.00 for school supplies.

H. Minimum Basic Education

I. Update 2021-22 Adult Meal Prices

J. Apple Laptop Purchase 2021-22

K. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chuck Carpenter moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, and Donna Sinclair seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Informational Presentations

A. Supervisor Introductions

Director of Business Services and Operations Kris Grindy introduced and welcomed David Tsao, the district's new Transportation Supervisor and Jessica Beehner, the new Facilities, Maintenance and Grounds Supervisor. She expressed excitement at having both of them on the team. Jessica joined via zoom and thanked the board and the team for the warm welcome.

B. ESD 112 Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Templeton announced that Chef Brenda Hitchins was selected as SW WA Regional ESD 112 Teacher of the Year. Career and Technical Education Director Margaret Rice attempted to introduce Chef Hitchins via zoom, but due to technical difficulties was unable to, so it was turned over to ESD 112 Superintendent Tim Merlino who was able to join via zoom. Superintendent Merlino recognized Chef Hitchins and shared a portion of her nomination. He personally thanked Chef Hitchins and presented her with a plaque. Chef Hitchins joined via zoom and thanked everyone who has supported her and the culinary program at Washougal School District. She expressed what an honor it is to receive this recognition.

C. Alternative to Core Instructional Materials: WLA

Assistant Superintendent Renae McMurray gave an overview of the Washougal Learning Academy program and explained the need for additional materials to meet the needs of students and families. She introduced WLA Principal Jason Foster who presented why the additional materials are needed and the process for choosing them. He explained how the staff really gets to know the students and families in the program and by listening to their needs, they were able to find alternative curriculum to add to the program.

4. Proposals for Action & Comments

A. Citizen Comments Specific to Actions Items Below

Brandii Heaward, Washougal resident and homeschool parent, said that she looked into the Mystery Science curriculum and is concerned about Mystery Doug videos which normalize the use of masks and discuss the Corona Virus. She is opposed to showing these videos in schools and asks the board to consider either pausing on the adoption of this curriculum or to consider an opt-out option for parents.

B. Adoption of K-5 Science Instructional Materials: Mystery Science

Assistant Superintendent Renae McMurray explained the process of adopting instructional materials and that this process started two years ago with science teachers looking at a variety of materials. Mystery Science was chosen and piloted for a year and teachers expressed they would like to continue with the materials. She also explained that the district does have an opt-out option for parents who are opposed to a curriculum or portion of. The board discussed and asked questions. Cory Chase moved to adopt the K-5 Science Instructional Material Mystery Science and Chuck Carpenter seconded. The adoption of the curriculum was approved unanimously.

5. Board Evaluation

Cory Chase collected the board's self-evaluation forms.

6. Future Agenda Items

None.

7. Recess to Executive Session

The regular board meeting concluded and Cory Chase recessed to executive session at 7:35 p.m.

A. RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) - Real Estate

B. Return for Adjournment Only

8. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

The board returned from executive session at 8:50 p.m. and adjourned with no action.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2021

President

Secretary to the Board