MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, September 12, 2022

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022. This meeting was held in-person and virtually via a Zoom link posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Burchard, Denholm, Olson, Cannon and Gray were present. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with President Burchard asking all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Agenda

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the presented agenda with one change. He requested Item B under Continuing Business (2nd Reading Policy & Procedure 2021 Revision, Library Media Center) be a non-action item rather than an action item. He explained he would like to amend the presented policy/procedure revision language based on feedback received from district legal counsel late last week. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion to amend the agenda failed and the meeting proceeded as set forth in the presented agenda with Item B under Continuing Business remaining an action item.

III. Approval of Minutes

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Library Media Policy Review

Trish Henry, who serves as District Librarian for the Mead School District, presented an overview of current Policy/Procedure 2021, Library Media Center. A copy of the PowerPoint used in this presentation is attached.

The report included a review of:

- The key guidance used in the selection of library materials.
- The purpose of a library collection.
- RCW 28A.320.240 that states school libraries should, "Create a culture of reading in the school community by developing a diverse, student-focused collection of materials that ensures all students can find something of quality to read and by facilitating school-wide reading initiatives along with providing individual support and guidance for students."
- Factors considered in library collection development.
- Who can make collection requests/suggestions (students, parents, community members & teachers) and how those requests are processed.
- Primary considerations used in the selection of library materials.
- How gifts and donations are handled.
- Collection maintenance that includes ongoing assessment and the removal of books/resources that are deemed out-of-date, damaged or redundant.
- The steps followed, as set forth in Policy/Procedure 2021, when a Request for Reconsideration is made, including the criteria used to evaluate challenged materials. Upon notifying a parent/guardian of the results of their Request for Reconsideration it was shared that the superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors if the concerned party feels the appropriate criteria and processes were not followed.

- Requests for Reconsideration, which included one in 2004. Since the adoption of Policy/Procedure 2021 in 2005, there have been no formal requests for the removal of books from any of the district's school libraries. On average, there is one informal reconsideration request made every 2-3 years.
- Checks and balances, with the notation that librarians meet as a PLC on Wednesday mornings where they collaborate on collection development and library instruction.

In conclusion, Ms. Henry shared the district's library catalog can be searched online and, via school websites, parents can search the collection at each individual school.

In response to a question from Director Olson regarding an email he received about pornographic material being available in school libraries, Ms. Henry categorically stated there are no pornographic materials in libraries. At the high school level there may be books with more mature images than you would find at elementary or middle schools, but there is nothing pornographic.

In response to a question from Director Gray regarding the determination of age appropriateness at elementary schools with a grade span of K-5, Ms. Henry shared library staff, in conjunction with the publisher, make this determination. She additionally noted the need to have a broad range of reading levels to meet the needs of all students and that elementary libraries do not include middle school materials. Regarding deselection, and parent concerns around shifts in culture or stereotypes, Ms. Henry reported it is one of her job responsibilities to regularly audit the district's collection and, when appropriate, deselect/remove items. An example shared was a book about girls becoming nurses and boys becoming doctors. The book was removed from the collection because of the stereotypes it promoted.

Noting the fact that there have been very few requests, either formal or informal, to remove library materials in the past several years, Director Denholm wondered if parents are aware of the ability to make challenges and indicated the importance of taking steps to educate the community on the challenge process already in place.

In response to a question from President Burchard, Ms. Henry shared parents are able, using PowerSchool login information, to see books currently checked out by their children. Director Gray expressed concern that parents are unaware of this tool and that they do not know they can let the school know the titles of books they do not want their children to have access to. Superintendent Woodward indicated the district can/will take steps to communicate both of these options to parents.

Director Cannon noted that two years ago the board, most likely, would not be having this conversation. However, there is now a growing gap between how materials are being written and the targeting of kids. He believes parents are looking for security. They want to make sure their children are not being exposed to certain subject matters. Acknowledging the presentation included good information he noted, like Director Gray, that parents are unaware of the tools available to them.

B. Curriculum Adoption Policy Review

Heather Havens, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent, presented an overview of current Policy/Procedure 2020, Curriculum Development and Adoption of Instructional Materials. Ms. Havens noted Learning & Teaching Assistant Director Robin Placzek, who has been a part of prior curriculum adoptions, was in attendance and available to help answer questions. A copy of the PowerPoint used in this presentation is attached.

The report included a review of:

- The key guidance used in the selection and adoption of instructional materials.

district's Library Media policy, Curriculum Adoption policy and Civics Education curriculum. President Burchard confirmed he requested each of these reviews be included on the meeting agenda.

Director Denholm, regarding Mr. Nelson's Public Comments on August 15th noted, in addition to being a district employee, that Darren is also a parent and district resident. Mr. Nelson confirmed he is the father of two graduates and a current Mt. Spokane High School student, but shared he spoke on August 15th in all of his roles . . . district administrator, parent and community resident.

V. Remarks for the Good of the Schools - Public Comment

President Burchard first opened the floor for staff/board comments followed by comments from the individuals who signed-up to speak on agenda topics. Because of the large number of people wishing to speak, President Burchard requested comments be limited to two minutes in length and shared that Public Comments would be heard for two hours. President Burchard noted two separate sign-in sheets were utilized . . . one for those *IN FAVOR OF* the proposed policy adoption (Civics Education) or policy revision (Library Media Center) and one for those *OPPOSED TO* one or both of the proposals. Comments were heard using an alternating, *IN FAVOR OF/OPPOSED TO,* format.

Staff/Board Comments

Director Denholm noted the very generous $10,000 donation from NW Farm Credit Services to the Evergreen Elementary *Living Garden.*

Director Olson, who participated in the annual *Cat Scramble* fundraising event, whose proceeds are split between the Mead High and Mt. Spokane Athletic Booster Clubs to benefit student athletes, noted all who participated had a great time for a great cause.

Director Cannon also recognized the substantial donation from NW Farm Credit Services to the Evergreen Elementary *Living Garden.* He additionally acknowledged the large number of individuals in attendance and expressed his appreciation for their being at the meeting. He reminded that at the end of the evening all are members of the Mead community. He loves this type of community engagement and does not want his two proposals to create long-term divisiveness.

President Burchard also referenced the *Cat Scramble Golf Tournament,* noting this fundraiser typically raises $50,000 (approx.) that is shared by both high school athletic booster clubs. He expressed his appreciation to all who worked behind the scenes to make this event happen.

Public Comments

NOTE: The name of each speaker is listed below, along with whether they were *IN FAVOR OF* or *OPPOSED TO* one or both of the proposals (Proposal #1: Adoption of Civics Education policy. Proposal #2: Revision to Library Media Center policy/procedure) scheduled for board action later in the meeting. The speaker's affiliation to the district, if any, is also indicated. To listen to comments in their entirety please visit www.mead354.org/board where a link to the Zoom recording of the meeting is posted. At approximately the midway point in the two hours allotted for Public Comment President Burchard called for a ten-minute recess after which Public Comments continued.

Juliet Barent spoke in favor of the proposed Civics Education policy adoption.

Dave Gamon, a district resident/parent and staff member, expressed opposition to the proposed Civics Education policy adoption and Library Media Center policy/procedure revision.

Noting that all board members had spoken, President Burchard called for a motion on the proposed policy.

Director Cannon made a motion to adopt Policy 2401, Civics Education, as presented. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion failed.

B. 2nd Reading Policy & Procedure 2021 Revision Library Media Center

President Burchard, noting this policy/procedure revision was presented for first reading consideration on August 15, 2022, by Director Cannon, and this evening is before the board for second reading consideration as an action item, opened the floor for board comments/discussion.

Director Gray, noting a legal opinion was just received on the proposed revisions, shared she does not believe the board should vote on a policy that does not meet legal standards.

Following discussion, that included the notation that the item is listed on the agenda as an action item, Director Denholm made a motion for an up or down vote on the policy/procedure revisions, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion.

Director Cannon, referencing legal issues with the revisions, once again revisited his reasons for requesting, when the agenda was approved, that this item be changed from action to non-action. As it currently stands, with a motion for an up or down vote having been made and seconded, Director Cannon stated he was going to abstain. He will not be forced into voting against his own proposed revision. He is fully aware and acknowledged the proposed revision language needs to be changed. He is trying to address a parent concern and that concern doesn't go away because the proposed language needs further review/revision.

Noting there is a motion on the table for an up or down vote on the proposed policy/procedure revision, President Burchard called for a vote. As previously stated, Director Cannon abstained with Director Denholm, Director Olson, Director Gray and President Burchard all voting "nay" on the presented revisions to Policy/Procedure 2021, Library Media Center.

VII. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. Hired Certificated Personnel:

Emily Powell	Prairie View	Cert	1.0 FTE Leave Replacement 4th Grade teacher 22/23 school year effective 8/30/22
Marci Steinbach	Mead High	Cert	.6 FTE Continuing CTE teacher in addition to .4 FTE Continuing effective 8/30/22
Natalie McKenna	Learning & Teaching	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing HiCap teacher effective 8/30/22 (no longer a part of Farwell staff)
Shari Hartwig	Learning & Teaching	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing HiCap teacher effective 8/30/22 (no longer a part of Farwell staff)
Megan Thompson	Brentwood	Cert	.4 FTE Leave Replacement Combo Support teacher 22/23 school year effective 8/30/22
Ariana Swenson	Evergreen	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing 4th Grade teacher effective 8/30/22
Rachel Swenson	Brentwood	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing 2nd Grade teacher effective 8/30/22
Kristen Sandstrom	Mead High	Cert	.4 FTE Continuing Resource Room teacher effective 8/30/22
Rachel Black	Mead High	Cert	.8 FTE Continuing Spanish/French teacher effective 8/30/22 (replaces 1.0 FTE continuing position at Mead HS)
Christian Smith	Mountainside	Cert	.4 FTE Continuing CTE teacher effective 8/30/22
Emily Armstrong	Farwell	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing 5th Grade teacher effective 8/30/22
Tyler McLean	Brentwood	Cert	1.0 FTE Continuing 4th Grade teacher effective 8/30/22