

WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
West Valley School, Library, 5:00PM
February 10, 2020

Board Members Present

Stephanie Nadasi
Marilyn Hedstrom
Jane Wheeler
Cory Hill
Tad Lisowski

Board Members Absent

None

Also present

Cal Ketchum, Superintendent
Cindy Foley, District Clerk
Guests in attendance: Tessa Blade, Becky Davis, Mark Wilson, Brinn Romagnuolo, Ashley Tkachyk, Tania Kalenga, Tina Blair, and Richard Gross.

Chairman Nadasi called the meeting to order at 5:01PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Nadasi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Tad Lisowski moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS

Jane Wheeler moved to approve the February bills totaling \$145,301.32. Tad Lisowski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/GUESTS/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chair, read policy concerning the public comment that is allowed.

Mark Wilson shared information concerning the proposal of a Technology Fund Levy for the Board to consider. He broke down needs with rotations over the next 2 to 5 years with the addition of 24 computer carts which would allow a cart in every classroom; replacement of 15-20 staff computers per year; over the next 2 years, replace 13 smartboards per year with interactive tv's; STEM/STEAM robotics hardware; exterior cameras for school safety; staff training; phone system upgrade; online programs; and technology maintenance. This plan would sustain growth with a catchup over the first two years and then begin a technology rotation program by year 4. The anticipated cost would be \$175,000 per year over 10 years for budget stability, the ability to plan, respond to issues and needs, provide general fund relief as well as second to none K-8 technology.

The possibility of future technology grants were discussed as well as the ability to use the technology fund for some salaries if need be.

WEST VALLEY PTO

Tessa Blade noted Box tops are due the end of the February; March 10 and 12 is the Five Guys restaurant fundraiser; and Original Works art work is due the end of March.

WEST VALLEY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Ashley Tkachyk, Tania Kalenga, and Brinn Romagnuolo shared happenings in fourth grade noting the Traveling Medicine Show from the Hockaday will be coming to grade 4 and the students had recently been ice fishing at Echo Lake through the FWP program.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Richard Gross noted 100 positive calls were made to parents by staff on the 100th day of school and they have received great feedback; an ad for a new 4th grade teacher will hit the paper on February 12 with interviews prior to spring break; and behavior issues with students have seemed to ramp up lately.

Tina Blair noted the middle school also did the 100 day phone calls and positive feedback was received as well; 8th grade student orientation is underway at the high school, as well as the vo-ag with registration occurring the week of February 17th; trips to Apgar and ice skating have occurred along with the Dream Adaptive program beginning for our special needs students; solid scores were received on the Gates testing for English with students who have received intervention testing very well; and Math Counts is underway with the 6th thru 8th graders.

Math Night was very well received schoolwide, but a bit smaller turnout at the middle school level. The event was very well received by both parents and students with families able to take home a math game at the end of the evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ketchum thanked Tonya Jewett for her organizing a recognition event for our paraprofessionals during Paraprofessional's Week which was February 3-7.

Mr. Ketchum would like to propose, beginning in the 20/21 school year that if a classified staff member has a 4 year degree they would see a .50 cent increase per hour to their pay and those with a 2 year degree would see a .25 cent increase per hour. He has estimated the cost to be approximately \$5,000 per year. There could also be some other incentives for classified staff to advance their job performance by taking classes on the Learning Hub. This proposal will be an action item next board meeting.

Staffing proposals for the 20/21 school year are Clay Keller going from .8FTE to 1.0FTE, increasing library staffing from 1.5FTE to 2.0FTE, adding a .5FTE world language teacher and doing away with the online curriculum, adding another paraprofessional position at the middle school level; increase the elementary counselor position from .8FTE to 1.0FTE; and adding an additional section of 4th grade. The .5FTE middle school art position is also being advertised.

Mr. Ketchum noted than an action item for the Board to consider in March will be the request of a non-tenured teacher who wants a one year leave of absence to go to Great Falls with her daughter for a specialized education program.

The Building permissive levy for 20/21 would include: asphalt sealing and striping in main parking lot for \$13,100; gym floors at approximately \$6900 annually; heat maintenance agreement with FICO for the middle school area at \$5,000; the completion of a shed of which bid are being gathered; general maintenance items in the school such as enlarging the old conference room and new flooring in that room which is now a classroom; possibly build a conference room in the foyer; remodeling a large second grade classroom by making an alcove there into an office; and replace a sink area and cabinet in another second grade classroom that had a water/drain issue.

The Superintendent shared information on Jamie Vollmer's collaboration with the district and his positive take on public education and getting information out to staff and the community.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. First Reading Revision to Policy: 1005FE, 1006FE, 1009FE, 1014FE, 1014FE-F1, 1110, 1120, 1402, 1420, 1512, 1700, 2150-R, 2161P, 3110, 3520, 3600P, 3600F2, 4315, 4332, 5120, 5232, 7260, 7520, 8225, 5328P

Mr. Ketchum noted these policies were reviewed at the Work Session on January 15th. These policies have already been previously adopted by the district and with the revisions can be approved on first reading should the Board so choose.

Tad Lisowski moved to approve the revised policies on first reading. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. First Reading New Policy: 3550, 3650, 7215, 2151F, 4320, 5329, 5329P, 5330, 5430F
The Superintendent recommends the new policies as presented.

Cory Hill moved to approve the first reading of new policies as stated. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call for Election – Trustee, General Fund or Technology Levy, Appointment of Election Judges, Mail Ballot or Polling Place

The District Clerk presented to the Board the date of May 5, 2020 for an election to elect one trustee for a three year term, to appoint Michael Fraser, Sharon Tikka, and Nancy Osler as election judges, to conduct either a polling place election or a mail ballot election, and the approval of an additional levy to operate and maintain the General Fund or the Technology Fund. If it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required, the Board of Trustees authorizes Cindy Foley, election administrator, to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, MCA. Also shared with the Board was the fact that over 60% of our active voters do their voting by absentee.

Mr. Ketchum recommended to the Board running a Technology Levy which is the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Currently there is a set aside for technology of

\$60,000 in the General Fund for 20/21, however there is not a guarantee that placeholder will always be there. He feels technology is tangible and that the community may accept this positively since this Technology Levy is a set period of years, not for perpetuity.

Tad Lisowski moved to approve the Call for Election for trustee election, a Technology Fund levy, conduct a mail ballot election, appoint election judges as presented, as well as allowing Cindy Foley, election administrator, to cancel any portion of the election that isn't necessary. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. MTSBA Membership Renewal

Jane Wheeler moved to renew the MTSBA membership. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Athletic Director Job Description

Tad Lisowski moved to approve the job description for the Athletic Director as presented. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Change to length of Blue Bus Route, creation of Blue.2 route

Cindy Foley shared the proposed change in length of the current Blue route by 1.5 miles per day and the addition of a stop. This route encompasses West View Estates, Stillwater Estates, and Treeline.

Cory Hill moved to change the length of the blue bus route and create Blue.2 route. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Hire – Pam Wendt, Paraprofessional

Richard Gross noted that Ms. Wendt would be filling a paraprofessional vacancy and recommended her hiring to the Board

Tad Lisowski moved to approve Pam Wendt. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Request for Qualifications for Architect/Engineering Services

Mr. Ketchum noted this RFQ would go out for Architect/Engineering Services to begin the process of researching options for growth in our district and facilitate the steering committee. This process would begin this spring.

Cory Hill moved to go out for RFQ for Architect/Engineering Services. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

9. Policies: 8550, 1420F, 1441, 4410, 5223

Mr. Ketchum noted Policy 8550 is a new policy concerning cyber security and a response team. 1420F and 1441 concerning public comment and will move to action; 4410 involves the interdisciplinary child safety team that is a county or regional team; and 5223 involves personal conduct of staff and students. All these will be presented as Action Items in March.

10. Spring Student Count for ANB

The February 3, 2020 Count Day noted an overall enrollment of 703 students, 545 in grades K-6 and 158 in grades 7-8. This count is a decrease of one student over the October 2019 count and an increase of 41 students from the February 2019 count.

11. Staff intending to move over on the Salary Schedule for the 20-21 school year

Gena Wilson and Renell Wilson will be moving from BA+60 to BA+75; Chelsea Belanger and Jo Kowalka will be moving from BA+45 to BA+60; Kathleen Johnson, Rich Nickerson, and Alesia Hamill will be moving from BA+30 to BA+45; Carly Banek, Alicia Piquett, and Bethany Knudsen will be moving from BA+15 to BA+30; Emily Black will move from BA+45 to MA+60; Molly Roe will move from MA+45 to MA+60; and Ashley Tkachyk will be moving from BA to BA+15.

Mr. Ketchum noted Melanie Ruonavaara is working through her National Board Certification and anticipates completing that in December of 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Tad Lisowski moved to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chairman



Cindy Foley, District Clerk

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above matter.

I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the results of the investigation. I have been very busy lately, but I have been unable to devote as much time to this matter as I would have liked to.

I am sure that you will understand my position and that I am doing the best I can for you.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Signature]