

WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ELECTRONIC MEETING USING GOOGLE MEET 5:00PM
April 13, 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: Becky Davis, Serina Nelson, Sarah Matdies, Rich Nickerson, Mark Wilson, Paula Nielsen, Gena Wilson, Tara Measure, Marty Klindt, Tonya Jewett, Marycaye Dover, Victoria Price, Tina Blair, and Richard Gross.

Chairman Nadasi called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

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

Tad Lisowski moved to approve the March 16, 2020 bills totaling \$1,624.94 and the April 13, 2020 bills totalling \$109,107.68. Cory Hill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/GUESTS/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chair, read policy concerning the public comment that is allowed. There was not any public participation.

WEST VALLEY PTO

No report.

WEST VALLEY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

No report.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Richard Gross noted the educational coaches and teachers have been doing a great job with the online learning; teachers are doing up to two weeks of lesson plans at the point; PLC's are continuing; and planning is underway for the 20/21 schedule.

Tina Blair noted 47 packets were put together for students this week, including special education students, who do not participate in the online learning platform; 9 high school students have applied for the Alison Fifield Memorial Scholarship and a team of West Valley teachers will review and pick the recipient; all middle school lockers were cleaned out and all but 50 students have picked up their belongings; counselors are available for families to reach out to; and computers have been handed out to students for online learning.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ketchum shared information concerning interviews with firms who submitted application packets for pre-bonding work. He noted that per MTSBA if we were to postpone the interviews until fall, we would have to re advertise for RFQ's. Mr. Ketchum noted he would rather postpone the interviews until fall so they could be done in person, rather than via Google Meet. He will have more information for the Board at the May Board Meeting; a bid was received for building some office space on the north side of the foyer at approximately \$13,500; the small gym floor will be resurfaced the middle of June and the large gym will be resurfaced the first of August; it is possible schools will remain closed until the end of the school year per OPI; and the Superintendent commended the whole staff in how they have performed and getting things ready for online learning.

April 14 is an online Classified staff meeting and on Wednesday, April 15, the administrators will discuss kindergarten registration as well as general registration.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Second Reading New Policy: 8550

This policy concerns Cyber Security and forming a response team in West Valley. Mr. Ketchum recommends the passage of policy 8550 on second reading.

Tad Lisowski moved to approve Policy 8550 on second reading. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Athletic Director Salary Matrix Proposal - Rich Nickerson

Mr. Nickerson shared his proposal at the March Board Meeting with a recommendation for an incremental adjustment in how the Athletic director is paid. This is comparable to other school districts our size. Superintendent Ketchum recommends this matrix beginning with the 20/21 school year.

Jane Wheeler moved to approve the matrix for the Athletic Director. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Hires 20/21SY: Kristen Funderburgh, Fourth Grade; Jessica Levitt, MS Art & World Language; Uriah Keller, MS Music

Superintendent Ketchum recommends the new hires as presented. It was noted that Ms. Funderburgh had taught a number of years in SD5, moved away for a few years, and is looking to move back; Jessica Levitt is a current sub and basketball coach in the district and a recent college graduate; and Mr. Keller is from the Columbia Falls area, taught in Chester for a year, has recently been in the Marine Corp Band, and now wants back in the classroom. He also has choir experience.

Cory Hill moved to approve the new hires for the 20/21 school year, pending a clear background check, as presented. Jane Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Hire, Effective July 1, 2020: Serina Nelson, District Clerk/Business Manager/Office Administrator

Mrs. Nelson was interviewed and recommended for hire by the Board at the end of February, and a clear background check has been received.

Tad Lisowski moved to approve Serina Nelson as District Clerk effective July 1, 2020. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Vehicle Lease Agreement, 2007 Ford Van to Altacare for Summer 2020, June 15 through August 24

Mr. Ketchum recommended the agreement with Altacare, who has leased the van from the district the last two years. It was recommended to increase the per mile rate from .60 to .75 cents per mile.

Jane Wheeler moved to approve the contract with Altacare at .75 cents per mile. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve Payment of Classified Staff during COVID-19 shutdown per Governor Bullock, with the exception of designated school breaks or paid holidays (April 27 non school day)
The Board had approved paying classified staff up through April 10 and Mr. Ketchum recommends approval for continuing to pay classified staff throughout the shutdown.

Cory Hill moved to pay the classified staff throughout the COVID-19 shutdown per Governor Bullock. Jane Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Out of District Attendance Agreement(s) - WV residents attending other district(s)
The Clerk shared 4 West Valley resident students were choosing to attend school in Somers SD in grades 1, 3, 4, 5.

Tad Lisowski moved to acknowledge receipt of these attendance agreements. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Out of District Attendance Agreement (s) - Student(s) attending in West Valley
Cindy Foley shared Mr. Gross had granted his approval of a 4th grade student from Columbia Falls to attend West Valley beginning approximately 2/18/20.

Jane Wheeler moved to approve the attendance agreement for the 4th grade student to attend West Valley. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Out of District Attendance Agreement(s) - West Valley Student attending Crossroads (Evergreen)

The Clerk noted the tuition for this student, estimated at \$32,337, is paid through permissive levy and will take place in the 20/21 school year. Recommendation is to approve the student attendance agreement for J. as transportation and/or tuition is being paid by the District.

Cory Hill moved to approve the out of district attendance agreement with Crossroads. Jane Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. 20/21 School Year Tuition Rates

The Clerk noted that the current tuition rate imposed by the district is \$1,100.00 per year and the state rate for the 20/21 school year for K-8 is \$1,145.40. Recommendation would be to remain at \$1,100.00. The Superintendent noted that out of district levels will be watched closely so no additional staff will be hired.

Jane Wheeler moved to leave the out of district tuition rate at \$1,100.00. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Transfer of funds at year end from Flex Fund, General Fund, Misc 115 to Transportation and/or General Fund, as appropriate

Cindy Foley requested formal approval to transfer monies at year end from the Flex Fund, General Fund, and Misc 115 Fund to cover negative balances in the Transportation and/or General Fund, if needed. Exact amounts won't be known until year end.

Cory Hill moved to approve the Business Manager transferring funds at year end as appropriate. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

12. Extending Academic Coaches Contracts by Three Days beginning 20/21 School Year
Superintendent Ketchum noted additional time needed for academic coaches to meet with principals in August to help get staff off to a great start. He noted that these coaches, Molly Roe, Tonya Jewett, and Teri Dierenfield have done an outstanding job in their new roles and especially with providing support to staff during this shutdown. It was also pointed out that the counselors and the technology coordinator have additional days added to their contracts to come in earlier than other teaching staff in August. This will be an action item in May

13. Superintendent Contract

Cal Ketchum requested an additional year be added to his current contract so it remains a 3 year contract. The Superintendent's contract will be an action item in May.

14. Food Service Discussion During Shutdown

Superintendent Ketchum shared that any family in our district can go to SD5 to receive a breakfast or lunch for their student at no charge during this shutdown. Should West Valley start serving during the shutdown, we would claim for students just as if they were on site going to school. Mr. Ketchum will be visiting with Food Services staff to see if we should begin serving for students after April 24, as we don't want our families missing food services should they need it.

15. Stimulus Fund Monies - CARES Act

The Superintendent reported the district will be receiving an estimated \$70,000 plus in federal funds through the CARES Act and the district will be looking at the best way to use that money within the guidelines of the Act. Mr. Ketchum would like to look at using some of that money for a Summer Camp for kids to increase skills they missed at the end of this year. The money is available until 9/30/21 and it may be pushed out farther. Other monies that will be available to schools will run through the Governor's office and just what the amounts and application processes will be are still to come.

16. Review Student Return Should School Reopen - Possible Tiered Approach

The Superintendent noted that the Board has the authority to decide how West Valley will proceed should the Governor call us back in session. The many options available would also include the continuation of online learning. He reminded everyone this is a very fluid situation.

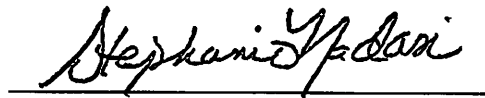
17. Discussion of Bus Contract Amendment

Mr. Ketchum noted the district is accountable for the majority of the bus contract, however we may be able to get a slight break since we aren't using any gas in the busses since they are idle. Treasure State Transit will be looking into this and there will be more information regarding this possible amendment at the May board meeting.

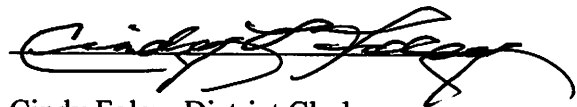
Tad Lisowski noted that Mr. Baker has really done an amazing job through videos, encouraging words to kids, and life lessons throughout this shutdown. Great job Mr. Baker!

ADJOURNMENT

Cory Hill moved to adjourn at 6:05 pm. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chairman



Cindy Foley, District Clerk