

September 8, 2021 West Ada School Board Meeting

Submitted by Sue Darden

****Pre-meeting observations-** A sign states that everyone in the room must have a chair to sit on & the room capacity is set at 66. With ten minutes to go, there are 5 minions, their leader, David, some DSC staff, 4 police officers & myself in the room. Wow, with just minutes left the hordes of minions start to enter the room.

- I. Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairwoman Johnson
 - a. Pledge
 - b. Patron comments will be attached tomorrow
- II. Superintendent's Report- Derek Bub
 - a. Great first week & a half
 - b. Great to see students working together whether they were masked or unmasked
 - c. Thank you to teachers for a solid start to the school year
 - d. Thank you to administrators
 - e. Thank you to classified staff, they are the cog that makes the machine go
 - f. Acknowledge the board & their support of our schools & learning goals
 - g. Currently there are 149 student cases, 20 staff cases
 - i. Red alert level, hospitalization at highest rate for all age levels
 1. Expect to go to crisis care in the Treasure Valley
 2. Student quarantines are increasing in number
 3. Contact tracing is taking nurse & admin time
 4. Nationwide shortage of subs
 - a. 35% of positions are not filled daily
 5. Wanted to begin the year as normal as possible
 6. Delta variant wrecking havoc on our community
 - ii. Starting Sept 10th – West Ada all staff & students will wear masks in classrooms & when social distancing not possible **(Wahoo!!!!)**
 1. Medical exemptions on file will be honored
 2. Will review on Sept. 24th, look at data
 3. Consider school district & local health system
 4. Virus has evolved & so must we
 5. Make a positive contribution to the community
 6. Committed to working with families, students & staff to keep schools open
 7. Support encouragement, compassion appreciated
 8. Best for our children
 - h. Tr. Ozuna – great things are happening in west Ada

- i. Agrees & supports his decision
 - i. Tr. Klopfenstein
 - i. Numbers are getting high, what metrics are you using?
 - ii. Bub -spread in schools & spread in community - 2 ICU beds available
 - iii. Some states that had high numbers early on, saw a steady decrease
 - j. Tr. Coffelt (calling in)- gave Dr. Bub the authority to move as needed
 - i. He supports his recommendation
 - ii. Appreciate that it is for 2 weeks & will review
 - iii. North Star to keep kids in school, being less restrictive has not worked to keep our kids in school
 - iv. Health care professionals in the north are facing a health care crisis
 - 1. This is involving adults
 - 2. 0.1 to 1.9% are related to children
 - 3. 0.3% of deaths are related to children
 - 4. Hospitals are filled with unvaccinated adults
 - 5. Opt-out numbers about 36% which is 14,000 kids
 - 6. Not a lot of support for mask wearing & vaccinations
 - a. Does not think adding masks on 14,000 kids will not make a difference
 - b. Hopes this achieves the results
 - k. Ch J – in 2 weeks we will look at number & decide whether to go back to opt-out
 - i. Message going out to all parents today
 - ii. Quote – “A leader takes people where they want to go, but a great leader takes people where they may not want to go”
 - iii. Today West Ada lost a teacher, that will have a great impact on kids
 - iv. We have to work together as a system
 - v. Guy stands and yells out “We’re never going to beat it!” Someone else yells out, police officer moves into the room, guy sits down
- III. Revised Policy 602.20 Academic Freedom & Teaching Controversial Issues (second reading) Marcus Meyers
 - a. Committee- Board members, district leaders, teachers
 - b. Looked at input from survey sent to instructional staff
 - c. Will be reviewed each year
 - d. There is training planned the first two weeks of October
 - e. Tr. Buffi – thanked him for his work
- IV. Revised Policy 403.80, Title IX Nondiscrimination Policy (second reading) Dave Roberts
 - a. Committee met & changed p. 4, hard to put names in the policy so they added the position title
 - b. Tr. O – it was very organized & easy to read
 - c. Ch J- Does Dave Robert’s name have to be in the policy?

- i. Yes
- V. Levy Discussion- Jonathan Gillen
 - a. Supplemental Levy
 - i. 5% of our budget is covered by this levy, would impact FTE's, school supplies if it fails
 - ii. November time frame does not give us a lot of time to inform the public
 - iii. March – complicates the budget process, would need to create 2 budgets in case it fails
 - iv. Market rate for \$100,000
 - v. Bond language written by Hawley Troxell
 - vi. Tr. K – are there some areas where ESSER funds cannot be used to cover expenses usually covered by Emergency Levy?
 - 1. Jonathan- can shift dollars
 - vii. Tr. C - \$1,000,000 reduction in supply allocation if the levy fails
 - 1. Jonathan, this is what we could not pay last time levy failed
 - a. Covers consumables, stretch dollars even further
 - viii. Tr. C – is there an advantage to running it in either Nov. or March?
 - 1. Jonathan – it is all about educating the public on how the money is used
 - 2. Tr. C – probably a lower turnout in March
 - 3. Ch J – one failed in May, but passed in August, but because of Covid, they used mail in ballots & it did not change the turnout
 - ix. Tr. O – will this impact professional development or teaching days?
 - 1. Jonathan – money from the state pays for PD
 - 2. Impact is more on personnel
 - x. Ch J – thanked Jonathan – easing burden on taxpayers by not using emergency levy is a positive thing
 - xi. Jonathan – today you will approve the language
 - 1. If you choose March, language would need to be revised slightly
 - xii. Ch J – wants to have a board discussion on timing because that will affect language
 - 1. Tr. K – likes the November time in case the legislator removes the March election
 - 2. Tr. O – also likes the Nov. time frame for budgeting and planning purposes
 - a. Will know how the community feels
 - 3. Tr. C – supports Nov. time frame – better exposure to voters
 - a. If we wait until March, that will impact budgeting & strategic planning
 - 4. Tr. B – supports Nov. election
 - a. Could we rerun it in March?

- b. Ch J – a bill was proposed last year to not allow March elections, but it would be too soon for them to kill it for this coming March
 - i. Believes people support schools & their kids
 - b. Tr. Emergency Levy
 - i. District recommends we do not request an emergency levy at this time
 - ii. Flexibility with ESSER funding allows us to skip it
- VI. Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) (first reading) Marcus Meyers
 - a. Draft Continuous Improvement Plan 21-22
 - b. Team effort -reflects product of metrics that show where students are at and where they we are going
 - i. Thanked some people
 - c. Purpose – goal setting required by state department of Ed.
 - i. Identifies academic achievement & proficiency
 - 1. ISAT, graduation rate, IRI, etc.
 - 2. Compares spring to spring
 - 3. Accountability document
 - 4. State needs it for federal reporting
 - ii. Yearly common reporting- end of year data
 - 1. Reporting tool, not strategic planning tools
 - iii. Does not discuss processes
 - iv. Is a communication tool for stakeholders, must be published
 - v. Identifies student achievement at the end of the year, but not process
 - d. District has a PLC plan with scheduled benchmarks
 - i. I was texting so I did not get it all down
 - e. Next steps
 - i. Systemic PLC academic mentoring process
 - 1. Doing initial benchmarks now
 - 2. Not learning by chance, learning with intentionality
 - f. Ch J – you showed ELA, what about Math
 - i. These were just examples
 - ii. She was in Mt. View High School last week & saw a math class where they had data at where kids were at & the plan to move them forward – very impressive
 - g. Tr. C – excited to see benchmarks and plan to show improvement
 - i. Appreciated the work of the staff
 - h. Ch J – teacher at Mt. View asked kids what they wanted to do first, her lesson, homework, computer work, or games
 - i. Students wanted to do lesson & then homework because they did not have help at home

1. Dr. Bub mentioned a homework program which will be really helpful when it is available
 - ii. Marcus- student ownership is important
 1. Getting help is important, working with state department to get access to program where students can get online help
- VII. L2 Tax Certification Form
 - a. Mechanism by which we levy taxes
 - i. Data inputs to tabulate levy amounts
 - ii. Data goes to county & state
 - b. Waiting on market values for levy rate, data is not available yet
 - c. Showed L2 form
 - i. \$14,000,000 past supplemental
 - ii. Facilities- \$16,000,000
 1. Already approved by votes
 - iii. Tort - \$496K – allowable for insurance values
 1. Changes annually
 - iv. Big increase in market value will lower levy rate
 - v. \$30.9 million (total)
 - vi. Judgement levy - \$96K reduction, not levied this year, counties notify each year
 - vii. Bonds – reduction of approximately \$9 million
 - viii. Market value - \$37,636, 749,783
 1. From last year, should be higher (**I think those are all commas**)
 2. \$237 per 100,000, home assessments make people pay more even when levy rate is lower
- VIII. Board Action
 - a. Supplemental Levy timeframe
 - i. Place on November ballot
 - ii. Approved
 - b. Supplemental Levy language
 - i. Approved as presented
 - c. L2 Tax Certification form
 - i. Approved
- IX. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approved
- X. Future Board Items
 - a. Tr. O – would like an update on transportation
- XI. Executive Session
 - a. Moved at 7:06 p.m.

*** David gathered his minions together and spoke some kind words about the Rocky teacher who passed away today. Led a prayer for him.

They are having a meeting tomorrow at 9 p.m. to focus on next steps. They are talking about electing anti-mask people to the board. They left because they could see that three of us union thugs were listening in. I was not even trying to be subtle.