

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Board Work Session
August 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman Ted Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board members, Roger Perleberg, Nicholas Wood and Paul Nelson were present. Board Chairman Tom Christensen was absent. There were eleven others present including Superintendent Johnson.

1.0 Flag Salute

1.1. Vice-Chairman Christensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda – On a motion by Roger Perleberg, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

3.0 Reports, Correspondence and Program

3.1. 2020-2021 Budget Update – Business Manager Angela Allred was present to give the Board an update on the 2020-2021 budget. Ms. Allred stated that the District purchased a new tractor and replaced the bus garage roof as there has been extensive damage to that structure due to leaking. She mentioned that ESSER funds had been leveraged to purchase Chromebooks, PPE, filters and additional transportation costs that were the result of running additional routes. She added the biggest concern at the moment is how the district is going to leverage ESSER dollars to keep us whole and cover our loss of State apportionment in the event enrollment numbers decline. Superintendent Johnson added the district needs to continue to look at multiple modes of instruction to serve all kids as that is our mission and responsibility.

3.2 Start of School Update/Discussion – Superintendent Johnson began by stating the start of school is always an exciting time even with the challenging times and questions. He stated the district is prepared and will continue to prepare as we navigate what is to come. Superintendent Johnson then shared the upcoming August Institute coming up August 23-25. He reminded the Board that the district has scheduled conferences the two days prior to the start of the school year. He went on to explain that this model is more successful as it allows for only two days of disruptions for conferences versus the typical five days we have previously gone with.

Superintendent Johnson went on to address the Governor’s and Secretary of Health directive regarding face coverings and social distancing for the start of school. In regards to face coverings, the guidance states that everyone will wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status while in schools (doesn’t apply to outside). Superintendent Johnson stated there is a lot of emotions on both sides of this issue and understands the concerns. He shared a letter from State Superintendent, Reykdal, who states that any school board or districts that choose to not follow the such directives will see an immediate halt to their basic education apportionment (funding) and their federal funds that flow through OSPI. In addition, Superintendent Johnson shared information from the districts Risk Management Pool – Clear Risk, that districts will no longer have liability coverage related to COVID. Labor and Industry (L&I) have also issued “Requirements and Guidance” for Employers that explicitly requires the use of mask at school by employees. Lastly, he shared with the board a letter from the district’s attorney, Greg Stevens, who was asked to provide legal opinion regarding the authority and legality of these mandates/directives, the authority to withhold funds from districts, and the exposure to liability should these directives not be followed.

Other updates and guidance issued by OSPI related to COVID and the start of school included new guidance on screening, social distancing and cohorting. In regards to daily screening, this is no longer a requirement, but district staff will continue to monitor for symptoms at school. Social distancing between students has been reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet. Cohorting (students remaining in same “pod” or group all day is no longer a requirement. This is great news as we will be able to resume full interventions, extensions and after school programs.

4.0 Visitors – There were a few visitors who were present via Zoom, but did not elect to speak.

5.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Paul Nelson, and there being no further business to discuss, Vice-Chairman Ted Snodgrass adjourned the meeting at 7:49 AM.

Secretary

Chairman