

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Work Session
September 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Vice-Chairman Ted Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 7:03 AM.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

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

1.0 Flag Salute

1.1. Vice-Chairman Ted Snodgrass 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 Board Report – Board member Roger Perleberg commented what a great football game was played on Friday against Goldendale, noting Cashmere had won 28-25!

3.2 Superintendent’s Report –

3.2.1 Start of School/Enrollment Report – Business Manager Angela Allred shared that she had some early projections for enrollment this year but also stated some issues with this first month of enrollment. She went on to add that many families don’t always communicate their plans and it is only after the first day of school, and auto-calls going out, that we truly have a better idea of students that may not be coming back to our district.

3.2.2 Opening of School Update – Building Principals – Superintendent Johnson began by asking each administrator to give a brief overview of the start of school.

High school Principal Craig MacKenzie shared the start of this school year has been a very exciting one for him! He loved the senior parade and kickoff school-wide assembly. He added that he feels an excitement on the student’s part as they begin this new school year. Mr. MacKenzie shared he has begun visiting classrooms and feels the same excitement throughout the building. Mr. MacKenzie also spoke to the Board about

the new Mentorship Program that has been established. He shared 29 students have been trained and have each been assigned between 4-6 freshman students. The topics covered are things like being your best self, freshman advisories, working with the new Character Strong Program and helping students feel a strong sense of belonging. He added that next year, the high school will work to identify the new round of mentors in the spring time.

Middle school Principal Sara Graves shared that it has been a great start to the school year and she is excited to have everyone on campus together. Ms. Graves shared Future 5th Grade Day was a huge success. She stated the leadership students are working very hard to plan for things such as the Color Run, which is scheduled for October versus the end of the school year. The leadership students are also busy planning a back to school assembly. Ms. Graves also stated interventions will begin the following Monday, with a lot of screening happening currently to help identify and place students accurately. Ms. Graves added that these screenings are showing data that she didn't plan on but makes sense given what has happened the last year and a half.

Vale Elementary Principal Sean McKenna shared he is seeing similar things in his building. He noted what is working at Vale is that most of the kids are back and they are very happy to be here, even those that may have missed out last year. He also stated that interventions around literacy had begun last Wednesday and math interventions would begin the following Monday. Mr. McKenna communicated his excitement for the new shared partnership with the Navy. He stated they are currently working with them with a 3-D printer and rocketry and the science behind this technology. He went on to add this is a very exciting partnership and one he looks forward to continuing to work with.

- 3.2.3 COVID Protocol Update – Superintendent Johnson began by thanking School District Nurse Amber Varrelman for her time and leadership helping navigate the many challenges during these times of uncertainty. He reminded the Board that the COVID dashboard is up and running. He stated that Ms. Varrelman has been doing a lot of work around contact tracing. He added that along with the dashboard, the district has also posted an FAQ on what families can expect this start of the school year. He added that more information will continue to be posted as this situation remains very fluid. Superintendent Johnson spoke to the Board in regards to the exemption process and that there are two types of exemptions that may be requested – medical or religious. He shared that he had been working with the district's legal counsel to review the steps of the process, appropriate forms, etc. This process needs to happen for everyone, including contracted employees, substitutes, volunteers, coaches, etc. Superintendent Johnson added that the admin team would

be meeting on this topic the following day. He added that the district is looking into weekly testing as part of the accommodation process for those choosing to go the route of exemption. Superintendent Johnson stated that he has communicated to all staff that they will have until October 18th to get the vaccine or have an approved exemption.

District Nurse Amber Varrelman spoke to the Board about the steps that are followed when contact tracing is needed after a student or staff member is identified as positive. Ms. Varrelman shared families are first contacted, and a report is then completed for the Department of Health. This report helps determine if more than two cases have been confirmed in one classroom and the connections with the other students, in other classes. She added that this is a complicated and timely process. Ms. Varrelman also stated that quarantine times have shortened; seeing kids come back in about half the time. She stated students can come back to school if they are symptom free and test negative.

3.2.4 Student Assistance Program Grant – NCESD – Superintendent Johnson stated he was excited to announce the NCESD pursued this grant and districts now have a full-time person in this role, for 180 days! The Student Assistance Professional will make a true impact on the lives of students providing additional multi-tiered support, in our district, and at no cost to us. He stated this position will be a huge blessing to our district!

3.2.5 Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance – Business Manager Angela Allred addressed the Board on the new requirement to provide them with a certification of compliance showing the Cashmere School District meets the basic education requirements contained in [RCW 28A.150.220](#) and the minimum high school graduation requirements set forth in [Chapter 180-51 WAC](#).

4.0 Visitors – Parent Colleen Malmassari provided some feedback on a potential testing idea. These tests were approved by the Department of Health to use at home and the reliability is very good. They are also very convenient as there is not a need to travel to a testing center to have one done. Superintendent Johnson thanked Ms. Malmassari for the great idea and insight. He explained that due to the grant the district is utilizing, we may not have a choice as to what test we use but that we will continue to work with the NCESD for further guidance and direction on the district's testing needs.

5.0 Discussion Items – There were no discussion items.

6.0 Adjournment – On a motion by Roger Perleberg and there being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Ted Snodgrass adjourned the meeting at 8:10 AM.

Secretary

Chairman