

**KIONA-BENTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 52
1105 DALE AVENUE
BENTON CITY, WASHINGTON 99320**

**Board Minutes of
Monday, February 27, 2023**

Members Present: Dale Thornton, Board Chair
Julie Rheinschmidt, Director
Teddy Bryan, Director
Rick Gonzales, Director
Josh Skipper, Director
Drew Raab, Director of Finance
Pete Peterson, Superintendent

Members Absent: None.

Visitors: See attached.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Thornton called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room and to view via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Director Bryan and seconded by Director Gonzales.

A vote to approve the agenda with a 5/0 vote.

Delegations

None.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from 2/13/23

New Hires: Barb Nelson Thomas, HS Asst. Tennis Coach; Moises Ortiz, HS Asst. Boys Soccer Coach

Resignations/Separations/Retirements/Termination/Non-Renewal: Emily Raab, HS Asst. Girls Basketball Coach; Sandy Guinn, Paraeducator

Financials

The following vouchers as audited and certified by the auditing officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified, as required by RCW 42.24.090, are approved for payment.

Payroll - \$1,638,844.42	Vouchers 9, 1065, 1066
AP General Fund- \$191,916.68	Vouchers 1067, 1069, 1070
ASB- \$1,272.60	Vouchers 1068, 1070
Warrants 115469-115507	

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Director Rheinschmidt and seconded by Director Gonzales.

Vote to approve the consent agenda with a 5/0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (In person, prior written or electronic)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Work Session Discussion and Action from Finance Review

Board Chair Thornton stated that the board looked into the finances and know where the district stands and if the levy didn't pass that wouldn't be any fun. Mr. Peterson shared that in a work session the board cannot take any action. The board was presented with 6 tiers for a short/long term approach. Mr. Peterson explained the different tiers and stated that it would help keep the finance team in a lane as they attack things. He stated that if the board decides all options are needed then the resolution would need to be approved. He shared that Drew and Mona were both present for any questions that may come up from the board. Director Thornton stated that the goal is to get to the 5% reserve the State is asking and we are going to have to approach it in tiers so the kids aren't affected. Board Chair Thornton stated he didn't want to see severe cuts and have an impact on morale. Director Skipper shared that tier 1-5 seems palatable and he is open to discussing 6 if it came to that. Director Rheinschmidt stated she felt the board needs to share what got the district here and it was increases in services, two-year levy failure and inflation are a few. Mr. Peterson stated that in his email to the staff last Monday he shared that information and that everyone is feeling the effects of it. The non-negotiables that are fundamental to the functioning of the district. Mr. Peterson commended Drew and Mona for looking at the tier approach and he feels that the district can get to where it needs to be short of a RIF declaration. Mr. Peterson doesn't feel the district is at that point yet. He also shared that the district is in a better spot today than with the double levy failure. Director Rheinschmidt shared that thankfully the community passed the levy and none of that is being cut. Mr. Peterson echoed that and again stated that none of those things are on the chopping block. Director Skipper asked if the board needed to come to a consensus on tiers and Board Chair Thornton shared he didn't think so. Director Rheinschmidt shared that some changes need to be made and tier 2 and 3 would make an impact now. Mr. Peterson reviewed the tiers again and stated that he would reiterate what Director Rheinschmidt said is 2 and 3 would be immediate impact and long term for the other tiers. Director Skipper echoed what Mr. Peterson said about Drew and Mona and thanked them for what they did.

Resolution 1-2023, Adoption of a Modified Educational Program for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, Approval

Mr. Peterson shared that this would formalize the process of what we talked about earlier. He stated again that he didn't see a need for a RIF, but if an emergent situation came up then it would be in place. Director Rheinschmidt stated she felt the resolution is necessary as it communicates the possibilities if the 3% can't be met. Director Skipper asked if at the next meeting they could have an update on the impacts and Drew and Mona said yes. Board Chair Thornton stated he is hesitant to jump into this so quickly and right away. He also stated that this could be done later as well. Mr. Peterson stated this resolution gives us the authority to move forward but the board also has the option to table this as well. Mr. Peterson stated that passing this doesn't mean anyone is getting RIFd right now. Director Skipper asked if it's passed then does it need to be rescinded or updated and Mr. Peterson stated that after the budget is adopted it would supersede this. Board Chair Thornton asked if this was tabled if tier 1-5 can still be carried out and Mr. Peterson stated yes they can. Director Skipper asked if there was any advantage to tabling this for two weeks and Director Bryan stated approving it now just gives you the ability to do it. Mr. Peterson stated that included in the resolution is all of the options only the actual RIF is what we would need it for, but it can be revisited on March 13 also. Director Bryan stated this is something that would be revisited each meeting from here forward. Director Rheinschmidt stated that the advantage is formally make our staff aware of things and they deserve that. It also supports our district staff in relaying our spending and cuts.

A motion was made to table Resolution 1-2023, Adoption of a Modified Educational Program for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and 2023-2024 Fiscal Year by Board Chair Thornton. No second.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 1-2023, Adoption of a Modified Educational Program for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and 2023-2024 Fiscal Year by Director Rheinschmidt and seconded by Director Skipper.

**A vote to approve Resolution 1-2023, Adoption of a Modified Educational Program for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and 2023-2024 Fiscal Year with a 4/1 vote.
Board Chair Thornton voted no.**

Resolution 2-2023, Declaring Surplus, Approval

Mr. Peterson stated this is pretty self-explanatory and standard.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2-2023, Declaring Surplus by Director Skipper and seconded by Director Bryan.

A vote to approve Resolution 2-2023, Declaring Surplus with a 5/0 vote.

Benton County LOA (Interest), Approval

Mr. Raab explained what the letter was and that it will be 4.62% interest that will be locked in the day the letter is signed. Director Skipper asked how much is the projected interest and Mr. Raab stated approximately \$14,000.

A motion was made to approve the Benton County LOA by Director Skipper and seconded by Director Gonzales.

A vote to approve Benton County LOA with a 5/0 vote.

10 Year Facilities and Finance Plan, Update

Mr. Peterson sent the board the documents and reviewed a few points. He asked the board to take a look at the documents again and understand that it is a working document; this is a good starting point and now is the time to take the first step with the architect to come to the district. Director Skipper was glad to see the HS CTE on the plan. Board Chair Thornton thanked Mr. Peterson for putting this on paper.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Skipper stated that he would like to acknowledge the 47.5 percent that voted no. He personally believes everyone pays enough taxes, but everyone is on board with using the tax dollars with the biggest impact for students.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Mr. Peterson shared that he wasn't able to attend the day on the hill due to bad weather over the pass. Mr. Peterson along with other superintendents thought they would see some movement in SPED and transportation, but it doesn't look like that is happening. He did share some updates on four bills and will continue to send WASA updates as he gets them.

CONVENED

At 7:29 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 30 minutes with no business to follow. Executive session was extended.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Dale Thornton, Board Chair

Julie Rheinschmidt, Director

Rick Gonzales, Director

Josh Skipper, Director

Teddy Bryan, Director

Pete Peterson, Superintendent