

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

**Board Minutes of  
Monday, February 28, 2022**

Members Present: Dale Thornton, Board Chair  
Julie Rheinschmidt, Director  
Josh Skipper, Director  
Rick Gonzales, Director  
Teddy Bryan, Director  
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.

**Delegations**

None.

Mr. Peterson removed item 7 b under unfinished business and it will be on the next meetings agenda for second reading.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from 2/14/2022

New Hires: Travis Kafentzis, HS Asst. Track Coach; Shannon Santoy, Asst. HS Track Coach; Analicia Alvarado, HS Asst. Track Coach; Tyler Earley, MS Head Softball Coach; Mary Brown, Kitchen Helper; Aspyn Johnson, HS JV Softball Coach

Resignations/Separation/Retirement/Termination: Belinda Loy, HS Counselor; Noah Peck, MS Boys Asst. Soccer Coach

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 General Fund - \$1,546,027.75	Vouchers 1059, 1060
AP General Fund- \$87,292.60	Vouchers 1061, 1063, 1064
ASB- \$14,682.04	Vouchers 1062, 1063
Warrants 114701-114740	
LOA	

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (In person, prior written or electronic)**

Audience member, Tina Gregory read a statement to the board.

Audience member, Kyle Kurth stated his concern about only one board member responding out of the five. Mr. Kurth also inquired about the board signing a letter to the government about masks and asked if the board believes in something then take a stand. Mr. Kurth asked what the board will do if the teachers don't want the masks to end.

Audience member, Kim Howard read a statement.

Audience member and student Kiley Myren read a statement about microwaves at the elementary school.

Mr. Peterson read a statement that was submitted by Kyle Kurth.

Audience member, Katrina Hodgson expressed her concern about student information and an issue that hasn't been resolved.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Skipper asked Mr. Peterson to follow up with Mrs. Hodgson and Kiley and Mr. Peterson agreed he would.

Director Gonzales apologized to Mr. Kurth for not responding to his email and that he will get better at communication.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Lunch/Covid Discussion**

Mr. Peterson stated that lunch now starts at 10:30 and it has gone well. Mr. Peterson stated that the Department of Health will issue new guidance shortly. Mr. Peterson stated this was the first time in two years that the tables have been pulled out. Board Chair Thornton stated that it sounds like new microwaves are needed in the MPR. Director Skipper stated that it sounds like the new schedule is acceptable to parents as well. Mr. Peterson stated he has received emails about the distance between the students, but that isn't an issue as we received approval from the Department of Health. Director Skipper asked if the kids were facing each other, and Mr. Peterson shared that they are zig zagged facing each other. Mr. Peterson is working with Ms. Long on snack options as well.

Mr. Peterson sent many emails today as soon as information was released from Superintendent Reykdal. He shared that the mask mandate will lift on March 12. Mr. Peterson explained the ramifications of lifting that sooner and gave examples of the 4 districts that have tried. Mr. Peterson shared Richland is being sued by a watch dog group for OPMA violations and one of his jobs is to make sure the board knows the financial ramifications of things, and these are unbudgeted dollars. Director Rheinschmidt asked if we are waiting for guidance from DOH on how to operate without masks and Mr. Peterson stated we are waiting for covid mitigation rules. He shared that masks are now no longer required on buses. Director Rheinschmidt asked about being in contact with the districts bargaining groups around this subject and Mr. Peterson stated that it's not up for negotiation. He shared that no one could request vaccination status or require masks in classrooms. Director Rheinschmidt shared she isn't in favor of making a motion because it puts the district at risk for L&I fines, but she does share the frustration.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Director of Finance Update/Approval**

Mr. Petersons shared with the board that he is recommending Andrew Raab for the position and shared some of his employment history. Mr. Peterson stated his first day would be on March 14. Director Skipper congratulated Mr. Raab and stated he is looking forward to working with him.

A motion was made to approve Andrew Raab as Director of Finance by Director Rheinschmidt and seconded by Director Bryan.

A vote to approve Andrew Raab as Director of Finance with a 4/0 vote.  
Board Chair Thornton abstained from the vote.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Peterson thanked Belinda Loy for her service and congratulated her on retirement. Mr. Peterson shared that the website and Coffee with the Superintendent laid out the process for which school delays and closures happen. Mr. Peterson explained briefly what the process is. Mr. Peterson shared a PAC meeting was being held this evening, Community Council on Tuesday and reading curriculum is March 9<sup>th</sup>. Board Chair Thornton asked if the curriculum would be at the district office and Mr. Peterson said yes. Mr. Peterson asked to move the upcoming workshop due to Mr. Weisner not being able to attend and the board agreed that March 11 from 9-11 would work. Board Chair Thornton stated it would be open to the public and Mr. Peterson shared one topic would be onboarding of new school board members. Director Rheinschmidt called a point of order and stated public comment had ended.

**CONVENED**

At 7:25 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 60 minutes. No business to follow. Executive session was extended.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Regular board meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Dale Thornton, Board Chair

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Julie Rheinschmidt, Director

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Rick Gonzales, Director

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