

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

**Board Minutes of  
Monday, July 26, 2021**

Members Present: Dale Thornton, Board Chair  
Julie Rheinschmidt, Director  
Jacob Johnson, Director  
Clark Carlson, Director  
Teddy Bryan, Director  
Kim Scott, Executive 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 6:31 p.m. in the District Board Room and to view via Zoom.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

**Delegations**

None.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

New Hires: Sondra Edwards, HS Math Teacher (.6 Cont./4 Non-Cont.); Lacey Treat, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; Lindsey Walchli-Wolfe, Kindergarten Teacher; Emily Thornton, HS Head Girls Soccer Coach; Jordyn Ramirez, HS Asst. Girls Soccer Coach; Jenny Careaga, MS Art/Electives Teacher (.6 FTE); Erika Alpizar, #1 Bilingual Para; Nancy McElroy, Speech Language Pathology Asst.; Stephen Johnson, Temp Audio Visual Technician; Duncan Titus, HS/MS Music Teacher; Analicia Alvarado, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Resignations/Separation/Retirement/Termination: Andrea Dobson, HS History/Civics Teacher; Mary Mejia, MS Spec. Services Para; Alyce Budzeck, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher; Braden Childs, HS Math Teacher (.6 Cont./4 Non-Cont.); Arturo Lucatero, MS Asst. Football Coach

**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 General Fund - \$1,677,323.46	Vouchers 1108,1109
AP General Fund- \$395,806.01	Vouchers 1103, 1104, 1105, 1107, 1110, 1111
ASB- \$7,903.62	Vouchers 1103, 1106
Warrants 114271-114317	

**A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Director Rheinschmidt and seconded by Director Carlson. Board Chair Thornton recused himself as a family member was listed as a new hire.**

**Vote to approve the consent agenda with a 4/0 vote.  
Board Chair Thornton abstained from vote.**

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

None.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Minutes from 6/14/2021, Approval**

**A motion was made to approve minutes from 6/14/2021 by Director Bryan and seconded by Director Rheinschmidt.**

**A vote to approve minutes from 6/14/2021 with a 3/0 vote.  
Director Johnson and Director Carlson were absent.**

**Public Hearing on 2021-2022 Budget Extension**

Board Chair Thornton recessed the regular meeting at 6:35.

Mrs. Scott presented the information related to the additional funding of \$52,337.00 for capital projects based on bids received. Of that, \$32,640.00 will come from the awarded grant and the remaining \$19,697.00 will be a transfer from the general fund. Mrs. Scott also indicated that the District would also have to increase the general fund authority by \$419,949.00, which is mostly driven by the ESSER dollars that the District has been receiving for dealing with COVID-19. Board Chair Thornton asked about the status of completing the paving portion of the project. Mrs. Scott indicated that Mr. Adamson was working on getting lower bids and the timing of trying to get contractors out here. Board Chair Thornton indicated that he hopes it is before school starts. Superintendent Peterson indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Adamson and that currently any type of construction is slammed and the costs have gone up significantly. He also indicated that Mr. Adamson would prepare information for the Board to show that the grant will not cover the entire project to its completion. Director Bryan asked to clarify if the increase of the project cost above the grant awarded was due to COVID and Superintendent Peterson stated yes it was. Again he stated that he has asked Mr. Adamson to provide a cost-neutral list for the Board to review and also a copy of a bid of what it would cost to complete the whole project and will bring this information to the Board at the next board meeting.

There was no public comment.

Board Chair Thornton closed public comment at 6:42 and resumed the regular board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 6-2021, 20-21 Budget Extension, Approval**

There was further discussion regarding the budget extension and Mrs. Scott clarified the resolution gives the District the authority, not approving actual expenditure of the funds.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution 6-2021, 20-21 Budget Extension by Director Rheinschmidt and seconded by Director Johnson.**

**Roll Call**

**Director Bryan, Yes; Director Carlson, Yes; Director Johnson, Yes; Board Chair Thornton, Yes;  
Director Rheinschmidt, Yes.**

**A vote to approve Resolution 6-2021, 20-21 Budget Extension with a 5/0 vote.**

**Minutes from 6/28/2021, Approval**

**A motion was made to approve minutes from 6/28/2021 by Director Carlson and seconded by Director Johnson.**

**A vote to approve minutes from 6/28/2021 with a 4/0 vote.  
Director Bryan was absent.**

### **2021-2022 School Calendar**

Superintendent Peterson stated that the calendar was virtually the same as this past year with the first day of school falling on August 30, 2021. As well, it was found that there was no need for the full three days of spring conferencing and that has been reduced to one and a half days.

**A motion was made to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Carlson.**

**A vote to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar with a 5/0 vote.**

### **Climate & Professional Growth Surveys**

Director Rheinschmidt explained that sending surveys out to our staff will really help get an idea of the culture and climate; get how people are feeling. She also stated that they could tailor them to each of our buildings, program, athletics; assess those needs and start looking at growth opportunities and ways to improve. Director Rheinschmidt stated that this would allow supervisors to get input from employees that might be a little hesitant in talking with them. She also stated that this would be great way to strengthen relationships within the District. Board Chair Thornton asked if she was thinking of a professional structure survey and Director Rheinschmidt indicated that Superintendent Peterson has been working with someone on culture surveys and perhaps we can mesh those together, but thinking that getting the surveys out in the fall or winter time to the various buildings and programs and that input would come back in, and make sure they are anonymous and secure so people are comfortable with sharing. Superintendent Peterson shared with the Board that the last time a climate and culture survey was done was in 2015-16 by the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE). The CEE does the professional data and survey work throughout the northwest and Washington for many of the reasons stated; for the anonymity and designing questions that are not leading in any way. Superintendent Peterson stated it would be his recommendation to go with CEE and that he has a meeting scheduled with the regional contact, Eric Boltz. He indicated that he will bring back to the Board a quote at the August 9<sup>th</sup> boarding meeting outlining the survey services. Superintendent Peterson also stated that these surveys can be replicated for the community; parents, community members and also designed around one of Director Rheinschmidt's talking points related to professional development. Superintendent Peterson also indicated at the end of the survey there is an interactive tool that he would be trained on and he would be able to do a Board presentation of the results. Superintendent Peterson did inform the Board that Mr. Boltz cautioned him regarding the community/parent surveys being skewed by factors outside of the Board or Districts control, such as people's uneasiness with COVID and restrictions; to possibly hold off until the pandemic is more so in the review mirror.

### **Facility Use Policy and Procedures Discussion**

Superintendent Peterson pointed out that our facility use policy and procedures is not necessarily the same as our practices. He indicated that what we need to do is follow the policy and procedures or adjust the policy to match practices; the primary issue moving forward will be the facility use fees and the waiver of fees (past practice) of waiving fees if 50% of the event participants are Ki Be students. Superintendent Peterson also indicated that besides the fees, the District has offset some of the cleaning costs or allowed the users to do the cleaning themselves. Superintendent Peterson explained that we need to tighten that up by verifying every participant to see if they are from Benton City; or the honor system that we have followed regarding 50% Ki Be students being met, which the District is finding out this is not the case. Superintendent Peterson did state that this is not an immediate issue discussion, it is simply the fact that this has been a past practice and he recommends giving our community agencies a full school year to adjust. This will give the District three months to develop the process and procedures, publish them in the winter of this school year, with the idea that all the information goes out and is publicized taking effect in August 2022 to start the new school year. Superintendent Peterson stated that financially it is not a matter of make or break, but there is not the

same level of insurance requirements. He indicated that this timeline allows the groups we work with to get things in line, come up with very clear procedures and fee schedule. Superintendent Peterson did indicate one minor change that is now in effect is the charge for lost keys. There have been a couple of instances of lost internal keys and what was come up with is a flat \$100 fee for the first three keys lost to cover the cost of keys and staff time and an additional \$50 per lost key after that. He indicated that this will be placed into practice now. Director Rheinschmidt agreed with the timeframe for implementing the new procedures. She also suggested having discussions with the community and users during this process. Board Chair Thornton mentioned also checking with other districts.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

None.

**CONVENED**

At 7:01 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 9:00 p.m.

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**Dale Thornton, Board Chair**

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**Julie Rheinschmidt, Director**

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**Jacob Johnson, Director**

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**Clark Carlson, Director**

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**Teddy Bryan, Director**

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**Pete Peterson, Superintendent**