

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

**Board Minutes of  
Monday, March 13, 2023**

Members Present: Dale Thornton, Board Chair  
Julie Rheinschmidt, Director  
Josh Skipper, Director  
Rick Gonzales, Director  
Pete Peterson, Superintendent

Members Absent: Teddy Bryan, Director; Drew Raab, Executive Director of Finance

Visitors: See attached.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Thornton called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance conducted. Ki-Be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Peterson suggested that the agenda be revised to remove 5b) Resignations/Separation/Retirement/Non-Renewal from the proposed consent agenda in its entirety and table it until further notice.

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

**A vote to approve the agenda with a 4/0 vote.  
Director Bryan was absent.**

**DELEGATIONS**

None.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

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.

AP General Fund- \$239,800.06                      Vouchers 1071, 1073, 1074, 1075

ASB- \$9,668.62                                      Vouchers 1045,1051, 1052, 1053

Warrants 115508-115535

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

**Vote to approve the revised consent agenda with a 4/0 vote.  
Director Bryan was absent.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Several staff and community members in person expressed their thoughts and concerns related to potential employee releases, budget, spending and business practices of the District. No prior written or electronic comments were received.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**a. KB Primary School**

Acting Principal Lisa Upton handed out information to the board and reviewed it. She shared upcoming Elementary events such as conferences and staff training.

**b. KB Middle School**

Assistant Principal Michael Kantman shared that the Middle School students have been very active. They had guest speaker Erin Jones visit, leadership was able to visit and assist at the Union Gospel Mission and participated in a Valentine’s dance and talent show. He also shared that others scheduled events, spring sports participation numbers and congratulated Rebecca Turner for being this years Crystal Apple award winner.

**c. KB High School**

Principal Clay Henry shared that the High School had a Migrant field trip coming up, SAT testing has been scheduled, and GEAR UP at the Middle School and High School were planning an 8<sup>th</sup> grade welcoming event to help with their transition.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Governance and Planning Discussion**

Mr. Peterson indicated that WSSDA will be compiling information related to board self-assessments to reflect on current practices. There was discussion whether this was required. Mr. Peterson indicated that it was not required. The board agreed to participate.

**Legislative Update**

Mr. Peterson updated the Board on the status of HB 1550 and the elimination of Transitional Kindergarten after the next school year. He indicated that it didn’t look promising; however, he would be speaking with legislators regarding the negative impact the bill would have on small rural schools such as Kiona-Benton.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Gonzales thanked everyone for coming, understanding it is emotional and giving the board information to take in and maybe think differently. Board Chair Thornton indicated that there have been several board meetings where there was budget discussion and even the bad news. Director Rheinschmidt thanked everyone for speaking from the heart. Director Skipper thanked everyone appreciating their input, welcoming public comments any time. He also appreciated hearing about community services projects and thanked Mr. Peterson for meeting with him regarding course options.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Regular board meeting adjourned at 7:53 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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