

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

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

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

Members Absent: Josh Skipper, Director

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 Rheinschmidt and seconded by Director Bryan.

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

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Peterson welcomed Mr. Wilson up and Mr. Wilson introduced Taylor Elston. Taylor Elston introduced each member of the Tractor Driving team and Mr. Wilson explained what each member had to do while competing. Mr. Peterson shared that Mr. Wilson was able to get a tractor from Burrows tractor on loan to have at the school for the members to practice with, which was a big help.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from 11/13/23

New Hires: McKenzie Burgess, #1 HS Asst. Boys Basketball Coach; Reid Craigo, Director of MOT; Maria Mondragon Dominguez, MS Asst. Wrestling Coach

Resignations/Separation/Retirement/Termination/Non-Renewal: Sara Vannoy, HS ASB Bookkeeper
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 - \$1,676,436.84	Vouchers 1029, 1030
AP General Fund- \$138,864.50	Vouchers 1025, 1027,1028
ASB- \$12,452.59	Vouchers 1026
Warrants 116065-116104	

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

Vote to approve the consent agenda with a 4/0 vote.

Director Skipper was absent.

Mr. Peterson introduced Reid Craigo and shared that he will start on December 11 and Mr. Adamson will be back on December 18 to help with a few details. Mr. Peterson stated the district is happy to have him and he will do a great job. Mr. Craigo thanked Mr. Peterson and expressed his gratitude for being able to join the district.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (In person, prior written or electronic)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Academic Goals, Discussion

The board received MAP scores and CEE information and Mr. Peterson asked the board where they would like to set the goal. Director Rheinschmidt thanked Mrs. Ashley for the scores, and she appreciated the opportunity to hear all the teachers but felt the board needed to keep in mind the reality of test taking when setting the academic goal. Director Rheinschmidt shared that 80-85% at grade level for reading and math in grades 3-12 would be a starting point for discussion. Mr. Peterson shared his idea about the ERLA if a student has some test anxiety. Director Rheinschmidt stated she really enjoyed hearing the excitement about the reading program from the teachers as well as the math program at the high school. Director Rheinschmidt stated anything that we can do to meet the students where they are is great. Board Chair Thornton asked Mrs. Ashley if she had anything to add. Mrs. Ashley shared her concern with a student that comes into school already 85% behind and reminded the board of how triggering numbers can be for some after the school being in priority status awhile back. Mrs. Ashley shared that the delivery and keeping teachers in the loop is important. Director Gonzales shared that maybe that percent is adjusted and get some input from the teachers. Mr. Peterson shared that it is typical if a student is on grade level at third grade, they will stay that way through their school years. Mrs. Ashley shared that the implementation of the Dual Language program will help also. Director Rheinschmidt stated she would like to focus on Math/Reading and each student having a trusted adult at school. With that, Director Rheinschmidt stated that 100% of our students should feel safe at school. Mr. Peterson shared that he agrees with that and that this year with threats that have come up students have come to trusted adults. Director Thornton suggested 80% by 5th grade, 85% by 8th grade and 100% SEL. Director Bryan asked about scaling it 75% in 3rd grade, 80% in 5th grade and 85% in 8th grade so that it's not such a daunting ask. Mr. Peterson shared that if there is growth towards that goal it will be a positive. Board Chair Thornton stated he would like to set a starting point goal. Director Rheinschmidt shared she wants this to show we believe in our kids, and they have the potential and can get there. Board Chair Thornton stated 80% is achievable. Mr. Peterson shared that goal would be about 15% growth a year. Mr. Peterson also shared that he didn't think that goal was too much to ask, and Board Chair Thornton stated he feels a higher level of optimism should be there. Mr. Peterson shared that the biggest hurdle is accepting that we can achieve this goal from the start. Director Gonzales stated that this goal can be looked at in 3-4 years to reevaluate. Director Rheinschmidt stated that she doesn't think the goal should be any lower than 75% because it should be rigorous. Mr. Peterson shared that the board could set the goal and then he would go back to the teachers and find out how we can help them achieve it. Director Rheinschmidt shared that 80% is a huge goal but she would want that growth no matter what it was acknowledged and continue to encourage the teachers through the process. Mr. Peterson reiterated this isn't a quick fix and it will take time, but it is achievable.

A motion was made that 80% of our students will achieve grade level in math and reading and 100% will feel safe at school and have a trusted adult by Director Rheinschmidt and seconded by Board Chair Thornton.

A vote to approve that 80% of our students will achieve grade level in math and reading and 100% will feel safe at school and have a trusted adult with a 4/0 vote.

Director Skipper was absent.

Policy 24XX, Elective Credit for Paid Work Experience, Discussion

Mr. Peterson shared with the board that the XX is at the end of the number because we aren't sure where this fits yet. Mr. Peterson stated that having this policy in place before second semester could help some of our students with credits.

After School Program, Discussion

Mr. Peterson shared that this is more of an update and would like to remove the posting for the afterschool program. There hasn't been a huge call for it. Mr. Peterson shared that the district would know by the end of the year if the ESD123 received the funding again for the program. Mr. Peterson shared that he would like to take those resources and put them into supporting behavior intervention and Director Rheinschmidt shared that she liked that idea.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Chair Thornton shared it's been fun, and he has seen a lot of ups and downs, endured COVID, teachers got a good raise, and this has been an experience. He also stated he has met all kinds of people in this position.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Mr. Peterson thanked Board Chair Thornton and shared the River North Flyer. Director Bryan asked if this new development would add another bus route and Mr. Peterson said no not this year. Mr. Peterson shared that Community Council is next Tuesday along with our first home basketball games. Mr. Peterson shared that he is planning on attending the planning commission meeting in December.

CONVENED

At 7:46 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (1) (g) performance of a public employee, for approximately 30 minutes with no business to follow. Executive Session was extended.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Dale Thornton, Board Chair

Julie Rheinschmidt, Director

Rick Gonzales, Director

Josh Skipper, Director

Teddy Bryan, Director

Pete Peterson, Superintendent