

Tonasket School District #404
“Focused on Learning, Linking Learning to Life”

School Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
In the Boardroom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joyce Fancher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Sharron Cox, Ernesto Cerrillo, Jennie Wilson and Lois Rhoads present. Superintendent Kevin Young and secretary Anitra Atchison were also present. Also in attendance was Trisha Roach, Lilly Martin, Kelwy El-Haj, Bobbi Catone, Billy Monroe and others in person and remotely.

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Joyce Fancher led the flag salute at 6:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA – Yes

A verbal report from Jennie Wilson the board Legislative Representative.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS – Yes

Maia Deebach, a Running Start student, spoke about her thoughts on Running Start students not being allowed to take part in Tonasket HS’s Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection. She spoke about her reasons behind why Running Start students should be allowed to be in contention for the Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection process.

Erik Martin, a 2023 Graduate, spoke about his experience attending Running Start. He wanted to share his experience with the board. He feels that Running Start students are left out of the HS Experience.

Roger Castelda spoke about the district moving to an all-digital platform for ticket money at the gates. He was not in favor of the change and wants cash to remain an option to be able to pay. His preference is to have both cash and digital. A discussion was held with suggestions and thoughts on how to proceed.

Mike Larson spoke about his concerns about changing the high school graduation policy and what it means for students who aren’t earning a Tonasket diploma but still partake in other aspects of the school.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Action: Lois Rhoads moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Financial

Bobbi Catone reviewed the monthly financial reports.

Administrator

Lilly Martin discussed the beginning of the elementary school year and the start of NWEA testing. The PTO held its first meeting this month, and they will be holding another Trunk or Treat this October. There are new recycling bins around the ES due to a grant won by 5th grade teacher Kevin Lepley. The ES is almost 100 percent complete with the family annual updates. The elementary has a team working together to come up with ways to combat the high absentee rates. Ms. Martin also spoke about an increase in illness absences.

Kelwy El-Haj reported on the middle school year start, and attendance is becoming an issue. A new concern developing is an increase in student tardiness. They have reinstituted bells again this year to try and help with student tardiness. Another concern is students are getting hungry during the 4th & 5th periods before lunch. The MS received a large food donation and is using it to have snacks readily available for students. The discipline issues are centered chiefly around class disruptions, prompting MS staff to have multiple conversations with students about school expectations. Some staff were able to attend a Restorative Justice training, which is being implemented in the middle school. Restorative Justice is all about resolving conflict through building relationships. The middle school has just completed its NWEA testing. Mrs. El-Haj spoke briefly about how the migrant PAC meetings get the topics that are covered and it is the migrant parents who determine what the PAC meetings are about.

Minutes

9/27/23

Page 2

Trisha Roach reported on the high school enrollment numbers and Running Start numbers. The HS attendance is improving, but still is a concern. They are still hoping to continue the downward trend for tardies. October is the first month that the off-campus privilege system will be enforced. The HS is also dealing with student hunger, but some positive changes this year are the salad bar being left out longer, and students can go back for seconds once everyone has gone through the line. A new struggle this year is profanity among students. HS staff are working hard on language and language appropriateness with students. They have also recently completed their NWEA testing. They held their first All Things Freshman Orientation and were pleased with the large turnout. There is also an upcoming All Things Senior Night, which is historically highly attended. The HS ASB and leadership students are working hard on planning homecoming. There is also a collaboration with the CCC (Community Cultural Center) for Bowls of Hope. Bowls of Hope is a fundraiser for the CCC's teen kitchen, which will directly benefit our students. One of the soups created for the fundraiser was made with vegetables from our school garden by Choice HS students. Mrs. Roach spoke about her goal to be in the high school classrooms 500 times this year. Having Billy Monroe (Assistant Principal & AD) at the school has allowed her to be able to set this goal. The ESD invited Trisha to attend the Courageous Principals Conference in Dallas, which is funded by grant money.

Superintendent

Kevin Young spoke about the people's reactions to graduation, running start, and valedictorian and salutatorian process discussions and how those discussions need to be balanced between personal feelings and what is right for all students. Mr. Young also discussed communicating the goals the school board has set for the district.

Legislative Report

Jennie Wilson spoke about the recent WSSDA general assembly meeting. It was an important meeting due to the vote taking place on changing the weighted vote policy that WSSDA currently has to one vote for one school system—the one vote one school passed by a 76% margin.

NEW BUSINESS

February 2024 Levy

The board discussed the timeline for the upcoming levy in February and some options for rates and plans moving forward.

POLICY UPDATES

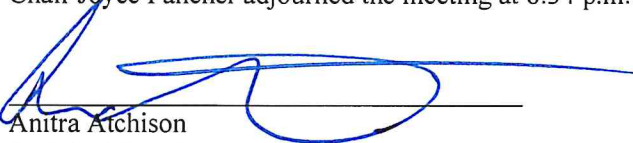
First Reading Policies

The Board discussed the first reading of Policies 2410, 2411, 3231, 3242, 5001, and 6111. The policies will move on to the second reading.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION - None

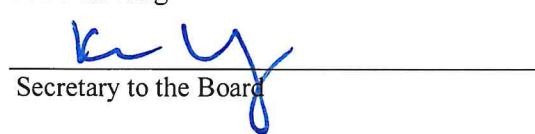
ADJOURNMENT

Chair Joyce Fancher adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

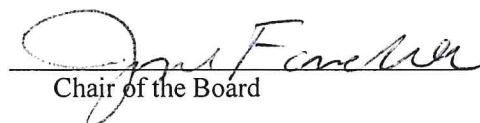


Anitra Atchison
Assistant Secretary

The minutes of the September 27, 2023 regular board meeting (two pages) were approved at the October 25, 2023 board meeting.



Secretary to the Board



Chair of the Board