

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Regular Board Meeting
February 24, 2025

Call to Order: Chairman Aaron Bessonette called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Declaration of Quorum: Board members Roger Perleberg, Paul Nelson, Nick Wood and Sara Pipkin were present. There were eight others in attendance, including Superintendent Johnson.

1.0 Flag Salute – Chairman Aaron Bessonette led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda –

On a motion by Nick Wood, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

3.0 Reports, Correspondence and Program

3.1 Board Report – Roger Perleberg shared the State Wrestling Championships at the Tacoma Dome were a great success. He congratulated Sophomore Jance Novak for securing a 1st place state championship title! Chairman Bessonette highlighted a historic moment for the school girls' wrestling program. He congratulated Sophomore Tori Black, who became the first female state placer in the history of CHS girls' wrestling. Chairman Bessonette also praised the cast and crew for their outstanding work on the winter play, *The Little Mermaid*, acknowledging the dedication and talent involved in bringing the production to life. Lastly, Superintendent Johnson congratulated the Unified Basketball Team, noting the rewarding experience it was for both the players and all those involved, including the spectators in the stands.

3.2 CHS Student Report – ASB President Vanessa Ferrer-Sierra was present to update the Board on the latest CHS activities and sporting events. This included topics such as the recent State Wrestling Championships where Cashmere came home with five state wrestling titles! She went on to share Spring sports meetings had been held the previous week with strong numbers in attendance. She also highlighted the National Honor Society's annual Father Daughter Dance that was recently held on February 21st. Lastly, she shared information about the various state send offs leadership was currently busy planning for.

3.3 Superintendent Report –

3.3.1 Budget / Enrollment Update – Business Manager Bo Charlton gave a quick recap in this area. He stated February enrollment had held steady and was very similar to the month of January with very few changes.

- 3.3.2 Legislative Session Update – Business Manager Bo Charlton provided an update to the Board on the current legislative session. He shared that the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee had recently advanced three key bills—referred to as “The Big 3”: Special Education, Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC), and Transportation for students. Mr. Charlton noted that all three bills had successfully passed this important checkpoint and were expected to continue gaining traction. He then gave a detailed explanation of how these bills would impact the district.
- 3.3.3 High School Chiller Update – Superintendent Johnson stated this has been a long journey he is excited about bringing to a close. He explained that while the chillers installed at the high school five years ago were functional, they did not meet the school’s needs. He thanked the Board for their support, with a special recognition for Roger Perleberg, who dedicated significant time attending numerous meetings related to this issue over the years. Superintendent Johnson also acknowledged Larry Rose, the district’s Maintenance and Grounds Supervisor, for his continued support and involvement in addressing the issue. Additionally, he thanked Don Kearby from Loofburrow Wetch Architects, who served as the project manager for the high school and devoted countless hours to the project without compensation. As a result of these combined efforts, the district will be receiving complete replacements for the two chillers at no cost to the district. In addition, Johnson Controls has agreed to pay all expenses related to re-commissioning of the building. Superintendent Johnson then outlined the timeline for the installation of the new chillers in the coming weeks.
- 3.3.4 ML Parent Night – Superintendent Johnson began by discussing the district’s goal to improve services for multilingual (ML) students and families. He specifically highlighted the importance of increasing engagement with ML families and ensuring their voices are heard, encouraging more active involvement in schools. He shared his recent experience attending an ML meeting with over 150 attendees, noting that such high participation was a clear sign that efforts were resonating and making a positive impact. Superintendent Johnson then proceeded to invite district staff to elaborate further on this topic.

Vale Principal Sean McKenna spoke on how these meetings have evolved over time. What started as small coffee meetings led by Vale Teacher Laura Martinez, with only a handful of parents, has now grown into a broader event with participation from Migrant, PAC, and district wide ML families. Mr. McKenna emphasized that these meetings are parent driven, with topics based on their own feedback, needs and concerns. He went on to share the focus for the meeting held in December was gang awareness, supported by the Sherriff’s Department and Officer Kevin Battis from the gang unit. Additionally, the non-profit organization, CAFÉ has also been present at these meetings to provide

another valuable resource for families. CAFÉ works to advance family and community growth through education, with priorities including family education, community participation and leadership development. Mr. McKenna also shared that parents had expressed interest in learning more about topics such as bullying, deportation, preparing children for graduation, and addressing summer learning loss. He expressed excitement about future developments and ongoing improvements. High School Principal Craig MacKenzie expressed how wonderful it is to open the district's doors to the community, supporting Spanish-speaking families and helping them feel more comfortable and welcomed in our schools.

4.0 Visitors – There were some visitors in attendance but none elected to speak.

5.0 Consent Agenda –

5.1 Approval of Board Minutes – On a motion by Roger Perleberg, the Board approved the January 27, 2025, the February 6, 2025, the February 10, 2025 and the February 18, 2025 minutes as presented.

5.2 Approval of Warrants and Financial Reports –

Pay date of February 12, 2025: Warrants #325926 – #326003 totaling \$195,948.59
General Fund \$172,428.77
ASB \$23,519.82

Pay date of February 28, 2025: Warrants #326018 – #326061 totaling \$62,943.72
General Fund \$59,435.80
ASB \$3,507.92

Pay date of February 28, 2025: Payroll in an amount totaling \$1,867,839.73, including benefits.

On a motion by Sara Pipkin, the Board approved the warrants and payroll as presented.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Board Policy 6220 Bid Requirements (Second Reading)

On a motion by Paul Nelson, the Board approved Board Policy 6220 – Bid Requirements as presented.

6.2 Board Policy and Procedure 4300 Immigration Enforcement in Schools (First Reading)

Superintendent Johnson provided the Board with an overview of Board Policy 4300 – Immigration Enforcement in Schools. He also included an ED Law Alert from the district’s attorney as well as information from OSPI which highlighted the current protections in place surrounding this topic. Superintendent Johnson stated this policy is now a requirement that districts must have in place. He asked the Board review the information given to them and stated he would bring this item back at a future meeting for a second reading.

- 6.3 2025-26 and 2026-27 District Calendars – Superintendent Johnson presented drafts of district calendars for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

On a motion by Nick Wood, the Board approved the district calendars for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years as presented.

- 6.4 Personnel Report –

1. Retirements/Resignations/Releases/Terminations, etc.

Name	Position	FTE	Request/Reassignment
Michelle Byington	CMS – SpEd Paraprofessional		Resignation
Brenda Hostetter	Vale – SpEd Paraprofessional		Resignation
Lauryn Kopp	Vale – SpEd Teacher		Resignation
Rachel Milne-Cruickshank	Vale – 3 rd Grade Teacher		Resignation
Catherine Bronson	CMS / CHS Choir Teacher		Resignation

2. Requests for Leave/Transfer/Change in Hours/Additional or New Assignment

3. Recommendation for Employment/Transfer/Return from Leave of Absence

Name	Position	FTE	Comments
Thomas Stone	CSD – Bus Driver		Replaces Judy Martin

3a. Contract Approvals/Renewals 2024-2025

4. Recommendation/Request for Approval of Positions to be Posted

Position	FTE	Comments
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CO-CURRICULAR/SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS

1. Resignations/Releases

Name	Position	Comments
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2. Non-Renewals

Name	Position	Comments
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3. Recommendations for Employment/Renewals: Co-Curricular Contracts for Activities

Name	Position	Comments
David Belcher	CMS – Asst Boys Soccer Coach	Replaces Chris Frank
Rich Kowatsch	CHS – Asst Tennis Coach	Replaces Bill Schmidt
Ty Schoening	CHS – Asst Boys Soccer Coach	Replaces Barry Hodges

On a motion by Paul Nelson, the Board approved the Personnel Report.

7.0 Discussion Items – There were no items for discussion.

8.0 Executive Session – Superintendent Johnson requested an approximate 45-minute executive session on a personnel matter with no action to follow per RCW 42.30.100(1)(g).

On a motion by Roger Perleberg, the Board moved into executive session at 7:08 PM.

On a motion by Paul Nelson, the Board moved out of executive session at 7:50 PM.

9.0 Adjournment – On a motion by Nick Wood and there being no further business to discuss, Chairman Aaron Bessonette adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Secretary

Chairman