

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Regular Board Meeting
September 23, 2024

Call to Order: Chairman Aaron Bessonette called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM.

Declaration of Quorum: Board members Paul Nelson, Roger Perleberg Sara Pipkin and Nicholas Wood were present. There were twenty others present 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 Nicholas Wood, the Board approved the agenda as presented.
- 3.0 Reports, Correspondence and Program
 - 3.1 Board Report – There was no board report.
 - 3.2 CHS Student Report – ASB President Vanessa Ferrer-Sierra, Vice-President Sofia Batanoiu, Secretary Serena Sandhu and Treasurer Eliana Thomas were present to update the Board on the upcoming activities and events at the high school such as College Planning Night scheduled for the evening of September 25th, plans for the week of spirit week and the upcoming homecoming game against Connell. They each also shared a little bit about themselves, their plans for after high school and the teacher who has inspired them the most.
 - 3.3 Superintendent Report
 - 3.3.1. Recognition CHS “Bulldog Watch” Volunteers – High school principal Craig MacKenzie began by giving a brief introduction as to how this program began. The Watch D.O.G.S. program was originally started at the elementary school years ago with the initiative of board member, Nicholas Wood. This has been a great program that continues to be a huge success to date. Mr. MacKenzie shared the high school also saw a need for supervision during the lunch time hour. He went on to introduce Stan Radoslovich and Tom Day and thanked them for their time not only helping supervise the high school parking lot during the busy lunch hour but also for their time spent building relationships with so many students over time. Both Mr. Radoslovich and Mr. Day have served as Bulldog Watch volunteers since the 23-24 school year.
 - 3.3.2. Enrollment / Fiscal Update – Business Manager Bowen Charlton provided a budget and enrollment update for the board. He began by stating enrollment during this time is extremely important adding the district had come in approximately 50 FTE over what was budgeted. He then shared the 2023-24 budget had now closed and he would have a full report of the year end budget at the next regular meeting.

- 3.3.3. District Transportation Report / Update – Transportation Director Rob Todd was present to provide the Board with an update. He began by stating he feels fortunate that he has 20 current staff members which include contracted and substitute bus drivers. He is also currently working to train three additional new drivers. Mr. Todd then went on to explain the training process which includes 80 hours of specific classroom and route training. This was followed by a brief discussion about the associated costs for new drivers. He stated he anticipates these three new drivers will complete this required training by December 1st. Mr. Todd went on to say the current total in the district's fleet is 16, made up of busses and vans that transport anywhere between 650-720 students every day.

At this time, Superintendent Johnson stated he would like to pause for a quick break at 7PM for a special presentation. For this reason, he asked that item 3.3.4. Start of School Reports, be postponed until after the break. He subsequently proposed item 3.3.5. 2023-24 State Assessment Results be moved up to prior to the break.

- 3.3.5. 2023-24 State Assessment Results – Superintendent Johnson shared the most recent State Assessment Results for the district. This included ELA, Math and Science assessment data for all grade levels tested. In addition, Cashmere Data was compared to both regional and state-wide scores. Superintendent Johnson shared that while the results were promising, there is always room to grow and improve.

At this time, the Board paused for a quick break. They were asked to step outside for a special presentation where they were met by the Cashmere High School Band led by Kent Chalmers. They played several songs for the Board and showcased their beautiful new band uniforms.

- 3.3.4. Start of School Reports – Superintendent Johnson invited the building administrators to provide the Board with a start of school report.

Vale Elementary assistant principal, Rhett Morgan began by stating it has been a great start of the school year! He thanked the Board again for approving the purchase of the new literacy curriculum. He went on to add how proud he is of the staff as they have all joined in as a team to dive into this new curriculum making the transition as seamless as possible. The staff has worked very hard, have committed to creating valuable lesson plans and have asked great questions along the way.

Middle school principal Sara Graves stated the school year was also off to a great start in her building. She shared extracurricular activities such as football, x-country and volleyball as well as various clubs were also off to a strong start adding how great it was to see kids getting involved in so many of these activities. Ms. Graves also spoke to the recent MAPS assessments that have

wrapped up for the fall testing window. She stated they are now looking into the data MAPS provides to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses as they develop plans accordingly. 5th grade teacher, Kim Thibault was then introduced to provide the Board with a brief summary of the middle school's 'House System'. Ms. Thibault explained this program originated in 2007 at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. The idea was developed as a way to praise students for doing what is right and expected. Students are celebrated for their efforts in school. The program also helps foster school spirit, allows for relationship-building across grade levels, and gives students a sense of belonging in their school "family."

High school principal Craig MacKenzie began by stating how appreciative he feels of the Board's involvement and investment in our school community. He went to state his own commitment to relationship building throughout the school year. He spoke about the more than 40 peer mentors who spent time before the start of the school year developing activities and strategies to engage students. The impact this has had has been very powerful and meaningful to all students but particularly to the incoming 9th grade class. Mr. MacKenzie shared plans for an upcoming book study, a great roll out PAC meeting recently held and the collaborative relationships that continue to grow strong with the Cascade SD.

- 3.3.6. School Board Visitations of School – Superintendent Johnson began by stating the benefits of buildings hosting work sessions during the school year to conduct walkthroughs and review important items. Chairman Aaron Bessonette agreed with Superintendent Johnson and expressed how the Board would like to continue to be visible and approachable. He added how much the Board enjoyed the time spent in the previous year meeting with teachers and students at each of the buildings. Superintendent Johnson went on to suggest the buildings host a series of special meetings in the coming weeks to provide the Board with a comprehensive review of their current SIP plans for the year. This was followed by a brief discussion amongst the Board where they reviewed their calendars and agreed on the following dates; the high school would host a special meeting on Mon., 10/7 with a 7AM start time. The elementary agreed to host a special meeting on Mon., 10/21 with a 7:30AM start time and the middle school agreed to host a special meeting on Tues., 10/22 with a 7AM start time.

- 4.0 Visitors – There were several visitors present and some elected to speak. Mr. and Mrs. Day voiced their concerns surrounding the topic of transgender athletes competing alongside female athletes. They would like to see a change in the current laws that do not protect female athletes who compete in sports alongside transgender athletes.

- 5.0 Consent Agenda –

5.1 Approval of Board Minutes – On a motion by Roger Perleberg, the Board approved the August 19, 2024 and September 9, 2024 minutes as presented.

5.2 Approval of Warrants and Financial Reports –

Pay date of August 30, 2024: Warrants #325069 - #325120 totaling \$160,998.00
General Fund \$134,369.05
ASB \$26,628.95

Pay date of September 12, 2024: Warrants #325121 - #325203 totaling \$222,372.77
General Fund \$211,646.12
ASB \$10,726.65

Pay date of September 30, 2024: Warrants #325218 - #325286 totaling \$313,970.97
General Fund \$86,050.50
ASB \$5,663.19
Transportation \$222,257.28

Pay date of September 30, 2024: Payroll in an amount totaling \$1,799,579.87, including benefits.

On a motion Paul Nelson, the Board approved the warrants and payroll as presented.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Personnel Report –

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

Name	Position	FTE	Request/Reassignment
Jill Michael	CHS – SpEd Paraprofessional		Resignation
Korin Hendrickson	CSD – Bus Driver		Retirement

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

Name	Position	FTE	Request/Reassignment
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3. Recommendation for Employment/Transfer/Return from Leave of Absence

Name	Position	FTE	Request/Reassignment
Michael Key	CSD – Custodian		Replaces Steve Knowles
Jon Chandra	CHS – SpEd Paraprofessional		Replaces Jill Michael
Miriam Cisneros	CHS – TBIP Paraprofessional		Replaces Emily Santos
Sydney Smith	Vale – Intervention Paraprofessional		New Position – One Year Only
Kim Larson	Vale – Intervention Paraprofessional		New Position – One Year Only
Alejandra Gonzalez	Vale – “Kid Zone” Paraprofessional		

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
Michelle Christensen	CMS – Asst Girls Basketball Coach	Resignation
Bill Schmidt	CHS – Asst Tennis Coach	Resignation
Avery Ackerman	CHS – Girls Head Wrestling Coach	Resignation

2. Non-Renewals

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

Name	Position	Comments
Katie Broadbent	CMS – Girls Basketball Coach	Replaces Chris Cloakey
Kaci Weeks	CMS – Asst Girls Basketball Coach	Replaces Katie Broadbent
Julianna Herrington	CMS – Asst Girls Basketball Coach	Replaces Michelle Christensen
Larry Michael	CMS – Asst Boys Basketball Coach	Replaces Chris Cloakey

On a motion by Nicholas Wood, the Board approved the Personnel Report.

6.2 WIAA-Title IX Amendment –

The Cashmere School Board, after discussing both amendments at length, has unanimously approved the endorsement of two WIAA amendments drafted by the Lynden and Eastmont School Districts. Board Chairman Aaron Bessonette began the discussion by giving an overview of the proposed amendments and the WIAA amendment process. The board reviewed current federal and state laws regarding Title IX and transgender participation in athletics, acknowledging that the WIAA's current rules are aligned with these laws. The board also recognizes their responsibility and requirement to follow these laws. The board expressed hope that these amendments would encourage further dialogue and lead to a review of current laws. While recognizing that neither amendment is perfect, Board Chairman Aaron Bessonette emphasized that both proposals support the district's commitment to inclusivity and the protection of female athletes' rights to compete. These amendments represent steps toward fostering fair and safe opportunities for female athletes.

On a motion from Roger Perleberg, the board unanimously approved to sign the proposed WIAA-Title IX Amendment form as presented.

7.0 Adjournment – On a motion by Paul Nelson and there being no further business to discuss, Chairman Aaron Bessonette adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.

Secretary

Chairman