

WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 208

Board of Directors Study Session Minutes - AMENDED October 7, 2009

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Having been advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met for a Study Session on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, in the West Valley High School Conference Room, 9800 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908.

Those present for the study session were: Stacy Verbrugge, Sasha Kinloch, Mike Meyer, Mike Carey, Jim Roberts, Student Reps Nicole Stine and Keenan Schoen, Dr. Peter Ansingh, Dr. Peter Finch, and Tom Fleming.

Others Present: Pam Berndt, Jim Berndt, Bill Oppliger, Dr. Jean Seibert, and Jim Fannin.

Call to order: At 6:30 a.m. President Staci Verbrugge called the meeting to order.

Study Session:

The purpose of meeting/items discussed:

1. Staci Verbrugge led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Peter A. distributed a copy of elementary class size numbers that distinguished resident and non-resident students.
3. The Board had requested information about plans for the high school schedule and plans for courses for highly capable students at the high school. The Board was interested in having the high school staff look at all options before they made their decision. Regarding the courses for advanced students, Dr. Finch shared the improvements that have been made for the 2009/10 school year. The following advanced classes have been added:

Grade 9, Honors Biology: Microbiology
Grades 10-12, AP Studio Art
Grade 10-12, Tech Prep articulation for Applied Math

The Board asked the administration to investigate the following additions:

Grade 10, AP English Language and Composition
Grades 10-12, AP Environmental Science, Tech Prep articulation for Welding, and an advanced math class for the PAL cohort for their senior year.

Dr. Ansingh shared that the Bellevue School District works with the University of Washington to offer Differential Equations.

Members of the Board discussed the course offerings. Mike Carey suggested that the District should investigate offering a Pacific Rim language such as Chinese. Other Board members agreed.

Staci Verbrugge commended the administration for adding Advanced Placement courses. She said that the administration should look at ways to increase enrollment in AP courses and increase the number of students who take the AP tests.

Board members emphasized the importance of developing the plan for math and communicating the plan to PAL students and their parents.

Board members discussed ways to increase student and parent awareness of the importance of taking rigorous courses, even if a student's GPA might be negatively affected. Mr. Carey suggested that information should be provided to parents of middle school and junior high students. Board members suggested involving college representatives and representatives from scholarship committees. Board members discussed the research that indicates students who take rigorous coursework in high school are much more successful in their academics at college.

4. Peter A. distributed copies of the WVEA Labor/Management minutes; a current grievance log was in the packet.
5. There was no WVEA report.
6. Peter asked the Board if the District should move forward with the staffing and transition plans for the 9th Grade Campus. He discussed the \$2.4 million dollars of stimulus money for 2009-2010 that will not be available for 2010-2011, and the additional \$400,000 that would be needed for the 9th Grade Campus. Peter is being asked where this money is going to come from. Tom Fleming passed out levy calculations and options for the upcoming levy. The Board wants to proceed with the 9th Grade Campus. Tom will provide a list of other areas of possible cuts at the next meeting as the Board continues their conversation about the budget.
7. The Executive Session was tabled to Monday's regular meeting.

Adjournment was declared at 8:09 a.m.

Dr. Peter Ansingh
Secretary of the Board

Staci Verbrugge
President