

West Valley School District No. 208

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2007

After having been advertised as required by law, the Board of Directors of West Valley School District No. 208 met in regular session on Monday, November 26, 2007, West Valley Junior High School, 7505 Zier Road, Yakima, Washington, at 7:00 pm.

Board of Directors present: Mike Meyer, President; Mike Carey, Staci Verbrugge and Steve Wolcott.

Administrative Staff present: Dr. Peter Ansingh, Superintendent; Tom Fleming, Assistant Superintendent; Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent and Kristie Presler, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order - verification of quorum.

At 7:00 pm, President Mike Meyer called the meeting to order. Mike Meyer made a motion to excuse Sasha Kinloch. MC 4-0.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by President Mike Meyer at 7:00 pm.

Changes to the Agenda:

A. Additional Leave Request

Program:

The West Valley Junior High School band played the National Anthem. Megan Ley announced the WVJHS Band was chosen to play for the National Music Conference.

Introduction of Visitors:

Communications:

Nothing to report.

High School Representative(s):

Nothing to report.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. November 13, 2007 - Regular Meeting
 - 2. November 21, 2007 - Study Session
- B. Approval of Vouchers and Payroll
- C. Approval of Financial Report
- D. Approval of Employment Contracts
 - 1. Lisa Olden - Athletic Department Paraprofessional (HS)
 - 2. Lynn Pettingill - Technology Lab Paraprofessional (MS)
- E. Approval of Leave Requests
 - 1. Tammy Froehlich - Server
 - 2. **Connie Beck - Speech/Language Pathologist (ApV/MS) .4FTE**
- F. Approval of Termination
 - 1. Tammy Walkenhauer - Server

Steve Wolcott made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. MC 4-0.

Community Forum:

- A. K-5 Math
- B. 6-8 Math
- C. 9-12 Math
- D. Other Community Topics

Peter Finch, Assistant Superintendent, gave an over view of WASL scores. The percentage of students who met the standard in math. The current math curriculum programs used in WVSD are as follows: Grades K-5 Growing with Math, Grades 6-8 Connected Math 2, Grades 9-12 Math Modeling our World. Arleen Smith gave an overview of the math curriculum, Best Practices and teacher professional development. Peter Finch then reviewed SuccessMaker, a computerized math program that is utilized at the elementary level. Ahtanum, Apple Valley and Cottonwood were the pilot schools for this program. West Valley is looking to adopt SuccessMaker for grades K-5. Dave Jaeger reviewed Connected Math 2 program used at the Middle School. Grades 6-8 are using Cognitive Tutor - Bridge to Algebra computer math program. They are hoping to have the same success that they have experienced at the elementary level. Connected Math program is used by 90% of the children in Washington. Because this is a new program, Mr. Jaeger asked the parents to be patient while this program is getting off the ground. Dr. Peter Ansingh, Superintendent, reported the recommendation that the math committee suggested. The committee reviewed the Math Modeling our World math program that is currently being used for grades 9-12. The committee looked at the top six performing districts in Washington State. Each of the 16 committee members discussed their challenges with the current instructional material: Alice Campbell, Rick and Chandra

Harpel, Billie Webb, Jamie Zeller, Arleen Smith, Keely Teske, Eric Knudsen, Anna Novobielski, Doug Lewis, Julie Richardson, Michelle Murray, Pat Bobovsky, Tina Torres and Tracy Zepeda.

Primary Recommendation.

1. Replace MMOW ASAP with more traditional instructional materials that focus on: Basic skills of algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Community-used language with gradual inclusion of the modeling/integrated concepts.

Additional recommendations:

1. Offer math classes all three (3) trimesters.
2. Lower class size/hire more teachers.
3. Provide more on-going Professional Development for math teachers.
4. In the transition time (i.e. while MMOW is being replaced), students need more supplemental basic math instruction.
5. Include members of this task force when choosing new instructional material.
6. Provide SAT/ACT/COMPASS preparation through math classes or Ram Prep.
7. Use MMOW as an elective class.

Les Sutton has had two children go through MMOW. The program eliminates help from parents for the students because they can no longer be a resource because it is too hard to understand. His daughter is struggling with the basics of equations.

George Parsons, Sr and WVHS, has taken the ACT four times and he struggled with the math portion because he had never seen the problems before. The ACT is taken by juniors and he said that he wasn't prepared as a junior. He took it again as a senior and did better.

Carol Wager, CPA and certified college planning specialist, talked about how scholarships and the cost of college is related to test scores. She has three sons that graduated from WVHS. She talked about the challenges that her son has had because he was lacking the basic math skills.

Chuck Tasell shared his sons experience after graduating from WVHS and he had the old instructional program and did well trying to get into college. His daughter has had to take remedial math and she went through MMOW program. He said that there was a big difference between his two children and their math experience. He is concerned with the current program and the disservice it is to the students.

Danielle Riveria was placed in the advance math program in 8th grade. She received A's in pre-calculus and could not pass the test for calculus. She said that every college application asks what math the student has had. She said that she doesn't know what math she has taken because the program just states it as Book 1, Book 2 or Book 3. It doesn't state if it is algebra, trigonometry, etc.

Karen Chance has two boys in the WVSD. She does not like Connect Math program. She is concerned about the math education her children are going to have when they graduate. She is also concerned about the math gap.

Raina Jones, sophomore at WVHS, was placed in advanced math. She feels very confident with MMOW. She feels that she has had enough supplemental math basics, but she is now afraid that she may have a false sense of confidence regarding her math ability.

Jamie Nordstrom, math teacher at WVHS, expressed his feelings and ideas on the MMOW instructional program. Most of the concerns he has heard is college math preparation. He pointed out that the state's concern is passing the WASL. It worries him to abandon the program completely. The High School has had an increase in students passing the WASL since the institution of MMOW. He talked about the adjustments and transitions the teachers have done since beginning MMOW. He also discussed the Math Transition Project the state is working on.

Mike Carey thanked the math committee for their work and efforts. He thanked Peter Ansingh, Peter Finch and Eric Knudson for their time.

Arleen Smith, WVSD Math and Science Specialist, wanted to emphasize that we need to address instructional material that supports the grade level expectations. She supports the MMOW program. She asked the Board to not make any decision until it is further research and relevant data before making any major decision regarding the current instructional materials.

Bill Bennett, retired school principal, talked about how the district made a decision to go into progressive math. He expressed his concern about the current program and talked about how long it takes to get the program running. There is usually a couple of year transition. He said that the program is not parent math friendly. He is concerned also for the students that do not go on to college and can't do basic math functions such as add, subtract, etc.

Taylor Wilson has a daughter in the honors program. She has struggled going through the math book with her daughter. She reported on the research that she did on MMOW program. She said that the general consensus she understood from the reviews that she read online were that the program should be used as a supplemental program. She doesn't believe that there is any continuity in the program.

Mr. Harpel said that the parents are struggling in the partnership of helping teach our kids math. He wants the district to find a program that combines progressive math along with traditional math. He doesn't want the District to have a program

Mike Meyer, WVSD Board of Directors President, thanked all participants for attending the community forum. He announced that Jim Roberts will be replacing Steve Wolcott on the School Board. Mike Meyer presented Steve with a gift for all his time, energy and commitment to the Board and the School District.

Discussion Items:

Items Arising:

None.

WVEA Report:

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

The report was distributed at the Board meeting.

Board Reports/Board Development:

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Dr. Peter Ansingh
Superintendent

Mike Meyer
President