

SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 309
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JULY 28, 2020
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The Shelton School District Board of Directors met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on July 28, 2020 via a Zoom meeting.

Board members present: Chairman Sandy Tarzwell, Vice-Chairman Sally Karr, Sally Brownfield, Keri Davidson and Lynn Eaton.

Staff present: Superintendent Alex Apostle, Alison Nutt, Brenda Trogstad, Don Welander, Bob Trondsen, Kelly Neely, Maryann Marshall, Jenny LaFrenier, Robert Herron, Glenn Shorten, Bob McMath, Aaron Miller, Amber Hosford, Paula Canady, Rachel Torazzi, Bruce Kipper, John Bryz-Gornia, Susie Wirzbicki and Hannah Hoff, among others.

Others present: Jeff Feeney, Justin Holzgrove and Gordon Weeks, among others.

Call to Order

Chairman Tarzwell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Sally Brownfield led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

Keri Davidson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Sally Karr seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Comments

One community comment was received by e-mail from Beth Johnston:

"I was just looking at North Mason's plan, and have looked at several other plans, and I am wondering if we go forward with this if we could change it to "Stage 1, 2 3" instead of phase. I am just seeing confusion between this and the state phases."

Reports and Recognitions

4.01 – Report from Jeff Feeney, KMB Architects:

Jeff reported that Dr. Apostle asked KMB Architects to find out the cost of solving the drainage issues in front of the Shelton High School minidome. Jeff shared a sketch showing a solution they have come up with. The plan is to re-vamp the grades significantly to 2 ½ to 4%. To solve all the drainage issues, including in the bus lanes where students get on/off the bus, it would cost approximately \$50,000. The work can be accomplished within the D-2 work currently going on at the minidome if it is authorized this week. Robert Herron added that there is a benefit to capture cost savings with having the D-2 contractor already on site. We can pay for this additional work without getting into the contingency funds originally set aside for this project because of a credit to change orders.

Keri Davidson said she was happy to see that this work can be done and we have a way to fund the project. Many people have been concerned about their children having to walk through the water.

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Sally Karr added that this has been an issue for as long as she can remember. She asked if the increased grades would cause any issues for our buses and Jeff said no. Sally also asked why the drainage issues were not addressed when the new parking lot was put in. Jeff said new asphalt on the bus lane was the only thing we did and we did not change the grade.

Sally Brownfield asked if this was something we overlooked in the original design. Robert Herron said this was not in the scope of the original work and we only had so much budget to work with. Sally said this work is long overdue and will make the campus so much nicer.

Dr. Apostle commented as Sally Brownfield indicated that this was not part of the original design. Robert added only the section around the minidome will be repaved and the bus lane sections will be repatched. It would be a significant expense to repave the bus lane in total. Dr. Apostle asked if we are saying we are not going to have flooding issues like in the past with these repairs and Robert said that is what the civil engineers are saying. Robert said there is a one year warranty on the work and the work will be done along with work on the weight and wrestling rooms. All work on the D-2 project should be complete during the third week in August.

Chairman Tarzwell added that this does not need board approval and we will see the change orders on the spreadsheet.

4.02 – Wi-Fi Hotspots:

Glenn Shorten reported that the Shelton School District has been working in partnership with PUD 3 on community Wi-Fi access points. Three spots have been set up in our school parking lots but there is limited coverage. They are at Shelton High School, Bordeaux Elementary and Evergreen Elementary.

Justin Holzgrove from PUD 3 reported that they are a public utility and are trying to find a way to support the district. The state broadband director asked the PUD and other public utilities to essentially step up and solve broadband issues and how we can serve the underserved. Justin has been working with the Shelton School District and other school districts in the community to set up Wi-Fi access points. They have 20 of 23 spots up and running throughout Mason County. Of the hot spots there have been 4,000 users on the network with the peak times being 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The PUD team has been working hard to get this up and running and the community is valuing and using it. This is not a long-term solution but the PUD has a five year work plan.

Sally Karr asked if there are any of the PUD spots that are especially popular. Justin said Evergreen Square downtown, the Matlock Grange, and Hood Canal School have been the most used. The Bayshore Reserve has also had a lot of use. Also Shaffer State Park has had a lot of data passed but those are probably from those camping.

Sally Karr asked if there was a way for families to see a map on where the access points are. Justin said the PUD website has this information and has a map showing locations. The images in orange are all the active locations and images in blue are locations under construction.

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Locations have signs posted to connect to PUD Wi-Fi. Glenn Shorten added that the school district has a link to go to what Justin is referring to.

Lynn Eaton asked Justin to talk about restrictions on Wi-Fi hotspots. Justin said the PUD looked at a map of Mason County and looked at where they had community partners so we could have sustainable access. They also looked at the data Glenn provided from our students and families where the greatest need is which has helped them to identify the need. PUD is working on trying to pursue CARES funding to try to recover costs and the PUD needs to be prudent.

Chairman Tarzwell asked if there was enough bandwidth if we start online school and if the system is going to hold up to that kind of use. Justin said yes, there is not a concern for congestion. The biggest issue is getting access to each home.

Dr. Apostle thanked Lynn Eaton for recommending we bring Glenn and Justin in as we move to a different dimension in schooling.

Consent Agenda

Sally Karr made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Sally Brownfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board:

- Approved minutes from the July 14, 2020 regular meeting;
- Approved minutes from the July 16, 2020 study session;
- Approved minutes from the July 21, 2020 study session;
- Approved the personnel report (see Attachment #1);
- Approved General Fund Warrant Nos. 130150412 through 130150141 in the amount of \$11,109.67;
- Approved General Fund Warrant Nos. 130150415 through 130150446 in the amount of \$178,118.11; and
- Approved Capital Projects Fund Warrant No. 130200515 in the amount of \$28,840.40

Discussion and Action Items

6.01 – Reopening of school plan:

Dr. Apostle thanked the over 200 very hardworking staff and community members who have been working in sub-committees for months on a plan to re-open school. There is a very thorough 51 page plan to carry us into the future that will be posted on-line tomorrow in full depending on what happens this evening.

The rationale for putting this plan forward is:

1. The health and safety of our staff, students and families which is extremely important.
2. The relatively short timeline to restart and prepare staff for re-opening.
3. The uncertainty of the virus. We don't know what we don't know which is a serious issue.
4. The budget. OSPI tells us we will receive 97% of our funding.
5. Consideration of the difficulty of logistics, the screening of staff and students, transportation, and professional development for our staff.

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6. The concerns about equity of the system.

The plan he is recommending is flexible and will provide services regardless of what we put forth. The recommendation is to go 100% online at this time. We will monitor very closely every two weeks and will make adjustments as necessary. Dr. Apostle went through the proposed plan in detail. If approved by the board, the plan will be initiated on August 1, 2020 to meet the specific needs of each school. We will work with families under any and all circumstances.

Jenny LaFrenier added that Special Services will be having IEP meetings in August to determine the students who need additional support and we will be working with those families. Brenda Trogstad said grab and go meals will be provided to students similar to when we shut down in the spring.

Kelly Neely said K-8 students will receive instruction in Science, Social Studies and Math. Our teachers will provide the instruction. The secondary students will have curriculum with classes we already have.

Brenda Trogstad said Chromebooks will be provided by the district. 3,200 Chromebooks have been handed out but more are available so families should contact the district if in need. We are also looking at purchasing individual hotspots for families.

Maryann Marshall and Susie Wirzbicki spoke about their Student, Staff and Family Social/Emotional Needs and Support sub-committee work. This committee is comprised of 35 students, staff and community members working hard to address these needs. They want to make it clear upfront so there is no guessing on who to contact with questions. If there is a need we can identify that within the district and also within the county to provide support. They will continue to work very hard so information is accessible to all. Susie is working with building based teams on trauma responses. They have talked about cultural competence and a screener for students to see if services are needed. School counselors have been working to come up with a plan that is fluid and can be of support to everyone and will address needs within each building.

Dr. Apostle said this is the way we want to begin school by maintaining the health and safety of everyone. Our plan is flexible and we can move easily into Stage B from Stage A and into Stage 3. We understand families will have challenges and this is not a black and white situation. We are here to make sure students are learning and families are being supported. He feels it would be irresponsible if we moved in another direction. We will spend August refining and dealing with differences that come from students and staff.

Chairman Tarzwell said the re-opening of school plan was discussed in a board study session prior to the board meeting. Keri Davidson thanked every person who has put in their time and effort in creating this plan. Hours and hours have been put in trying to make this complicated decision in an ever changing situation. We have come to the point where we need to make a

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decision. Her hope as a parent was that her children would be in a face-to-face setting but there are complications with screening students and social distancing. It has been with a heavy heart going through all this information. Keri also sits on the Board of Health which met today and it is very concerning the rise in COVID-19 cases. For her it comes down to making sure our kids, families and staff are kept safe and if we can focus on good on-line options she is in agreement with the re-opening plan.

Chairman Tarzwell also thanked the community members for their participation and also the renaming of our phases so we don't have confusion with the state. Even though parts of the re-opening plan feel like a decision has already been made, this is the time for the school board to consider.

Sally Karr echoed Keri's comments with a big thank you for the hours and hours of time that has gone into this re-opening plan. It hasn't been an easy decision but she knows a lot of thought, consideration and options have been considered. It is a very well thought out plan and she is proud of the effort by staff, community members, parents and staff who have given input. To do this in such a short period of time and with the level of involvement is impressive. Sally has been hearing we need to work with families, which could end up looking very different from family to family.

Sally Brownfield also commented so many people have put so much time into this re-opening plan which has been a moving target. The bottom line is that this is the best possible plan we can do at this time. First and foremost is the safety of everyone. Let's go forth as we have been doing in our district by looking outside the box and how we can support each and every student. She hopes our parents and community will keep in touch on what's working, what could be working better and to please share your thoughts because we are here to support the whole community.

Lynn Eaton agreed with fellow board members. We don't want to lose sight that making a decision like this has a real impact on real families. Everyone recognizes that our teachers and staff will be considering the impact which is a key piece. The only thing we can do is really just focus on the health and safety of everyone. She appreciates the thoroughness of the re-opening plan.

Chairman Tarzwell asked if a student has to use a district Chromebook or can they use their own computer and Brenda Trogstad said students can use their home computer. She also asked if the K12 model has a Special Education component. Kelly Neely responded that the K12 model can be modified depending on our student's needs. Jenny LaFrenier added that there is a big push of inclusionary practices. Preschool is not included in the K12 model so we are looking at that but she feels we should be covered.

Chairman Tarzwell also asked if Evergreen Elementary would continue to be a dual language school. Kelly said Evergreen is going to require a more hybrid approach. Dr. Apostle said

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Evergreen has a number of different situations but we are going to work together to do the very best we can.

Chairman Tarzwell asked what happens with athletics and activities when we go 100% on-line. Trevor Leopold said we will follow the WIAA recommendations. She also said at the board study session last week the board went through all the hurdles. This plan is not necessarily the best option according to the surveys but a lot has been learned since then and this is the best chance of success and the best plan at this time. She recommended people review the documents on-line and attend the Community Forum on July 30th on Zoom. She supports the recommendation to go with Stage A.

Dr. Apostle said that No. 1 is maintaining health and safety; and No. 2 as your Superintendent we will do everything in our power to provide support for students, families and staff with special circumstances. We will work to make things right, whatever we need to do we will give it everything we have to do our best. He has total confidence we will meet the needs of everyone, although it may not be perfect. There is going to be an Advisory Committee in each school to monitor how things are going and the plan is flexible to meet the needs.

6.02 – Resolution No. 20-05:

Proposed Resolution No. 20-05 was presented approving the re-opening of school plan. Chairman Tarzwell added that all school districts have to approve their re-opening of school plan. Sally Karr made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-05 and Lynn Eaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6.03 – Electing a WSSDA School Board Legislative Representative:

Every two years the school board elects a WSSDA School Board Legislative Representative. Sally Brownfield has held the position for the past two years. Chairman Tarzwell volunteered for the position if the board is in agreement. Keri Davidson commented that this interests her but is concerned about her time. Keri also sits on the WSSDA Nominating Committee. Sally Brownfield is on the WSSDA Board of Directors and said it would be good to have other eyes but we will all work together. Sally Brownfield nominated Chairman Tarzwell to fill the position. Keri Davidson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6.04 – Date for a School Board Retreat:

Chairman Tarzwell suggested a date of August 17, 2020 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. for a Zoom board retreat and said she would welcome agenda items. Sally Karr commented that one of the standing items on the board retreat agenda has been reviewing the board-self assessment and will see if WSSDA has that available for board members to take. It was agreed to hold the retreat on August 17th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent's Comments:

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- Dr. Apostle said his time for the last few months has been spent with staff working on options for the most productive way to open school and time spent on staffing and negotiations. He is making sure we are touching base with everyone. Our principals, asst. principals, cabinet and union leaders have been fantastic.
- He mentioned to the community he will work with Katie Diamond and Kelly Neely to make sure the 51 page re-opening of school document is on-line for the community. He sent our recommendation to Dana Anderson, ESD 113 Superintendent, who he has a lot of respect for and he responded that we did amazing work. Dr. Stein also sent an e-mail supporting 100% on-line instruction in the fall. We have good people in our corner.

Community Comments:

Thirteen additional community comments were received:

Lauren Oliviero: *"Maybe we can print out info for families, keep track as it changes periodically?"*

Tara Smith: *"It sounds like Stage B would be very challenging for everyone. If Stage A is the plan we go with, would we have to gradually move to stage B, then C? Or could we move right to Stage C when it's allowed. I think it would be a lot more work for teachers and cabinet members to plan for both A and B in one year".*

Jenn Johnson: *"Aaron, can you ask that with going online - does this change the calendar for 2020-21 year?"*

Sherry Simon: *"After looking at K-12 online, am I correct that the courses are taught as semesters, how does that effect our current trimesters or is it individualized per district?"*

Jennifer Dawson: *"I also noticed in looking at K12 that there aren't really any resources for teaching in Spanish. How are the Spanish language teachers in the Dual Language program going to teach with it?"*

Amy Cooper: *"Any idea on what the online "schedule" in Stage A would look like for students? As a parent, just wondering when I need to be available (my student is in elementary school)."*

Wendy Boles: *"Will teachers have building access? I don't have good WiFi at my home..."*

Cat Kelly: *"I am glad special education supports are outlined in the document. Could similar supports be outlined for ELs? ELs represent nearly 25% of students."*

Beth Johnston: *"I was just looking at North Mason's plan, and have looked at several other plans, and I am wondering if we go forward with this if we could change it to "Stage 1, 2 3" instead of phase. I am just seeing confusion between this and the state phases."*

Randy Lewis: *"The work and thoughtfulness put in by the committees is impressive. I support the recommendation to begin fully online primarily because, as Alex mentioned, it buys time to plan for the logistical challenges bringing mass students back to in-person learning."*

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One of my concerns for this model has been the challenges to parents who are put in-between a rock and a hard place with respect to their jobs and their children. Perhaps having to quit a job they cannot afford to lose.

I am hoping one of the processes implemented to mitigate this situation is not only adjusting for parents during their off-work hours, as mentioned in the earlier study session.

I am hopeful one option would be to allow students in families in this situation to go to school in person. The District has already indicated that it is "safe" to allow up to 50% of the student population attend in person.

The primary objection from a subcommittee leader with respect to 100% full time in-person (Now labeled "Stage C"?) has been the perceived difficulties establishing the mandatory 6 foot separation. Therefore, if this suggestion, which would allow for 6 foot separation, is not implemented, it would be for logistical issues, not safety issues.

If the District has a strong opinion, as I have heard, that students be able to come to the school for sports and activities, then certainly it would demonstrate empathy to let a percentage of students come to school for academics, who if mandated to stay at home, would cause severe damage to a family."

Jamie L. Dickey: *"Hello All. Thank you for your continued work on our children's education program.*

My first question is: What type of Online format is going to be used for the school district? Same as last year or a new program? If there is a new program: What vetting did you do to make this decision?

Second question is with schools not opening anytime soon: What resources are going to be available to students for help?

Final question is with students being told from state and local leaders that their grades would not drop when they received their report cards at the end of the year: Why was this not followed by teachers and is it going to be correctable? Thank you for your time."

Beth Chapin: *"Hello! I am very excited about the Phased plan, it sounds well thought out. My concern lies with internet. While it seems feasible that a 9-12th grader sit in a parking lot all day doing their assignments on our online platform. I worry about our K-8 (and specifically K-3) students. These kids have working parents, and will not be able to join in on assignments, just as they struggled to last year. I heard PUD3 say they had a 5 year plan, but I worry that in 5 years it will be too late for our kids without quality internet access to have a 2020-2021 school year. Are there other options for those families?*

Beth Chapin
3rd Grade

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Bordeaux Elementary”

Heather Adicks: *“Are teachers going to be allowed to teach from the classroom especially with low or no internet?”*

Board Member Comments:

Sally Karr:

- Sally thanked everyone who submitted questions/community comments. There were some excellent points that staff are working on. She encouraged families/parents/staff to attend the upcoming community forum to get questions answered. It is important to keep the lines of communication open and we can be more proactive to make sure the needs can be addressed.
- She thanked everyone involved in the re-opening of school planning process. The school board has been in hours of meetings which is a small fraction of the work that's been done, but we now have a plan that our schools will be working on.

Sally Brownfield:

- Sally said echoed all the comments made by Sally Karr.
- We have talked about giving out Chromebooks and doing as much as possible but another piece is tech support. For parents of young students, how do they use these Chromebooks once they receive them, how do they understand how to use passwords, etc.
- She is happy we have gotten through this part of the process which was a lot of work but the work won't cease now. We will continue to need everyone's efforts and it will take everyone in the community to provide what's best for students and families.

Keri Davidson:

- Keri commented that the Shelton community has always stepped up and knows this will continue.
- As a parent of two children it has been lucky to have Sally Karr's input and as we get more information we will have a better understanding of what we are dealing with.
- She asked if there was a special registration process for children with this new on-line program, how does that work and if there is anything parents need to be doing as they start hearing about the on-line start to school. Kelly Neely said K8 will not have to do anything special other than making sure their addresses are current. High School will have a different registration process. K12 integrates through Skyward. Keri said she sat in on Kelly's sub-committee and has been so impressed with the quality of people working in our district. She thanked the sub-committee for all their work and knows this is an evolving document but is glad we are going forward.
- She also thanked Dr. Apostle for his leadership.

Lynn Eaton:

- Lynn said Keri and Sally Brownfield both brought up more questions than we have answers for, but the decision made tonight allows the team to move forward to provide

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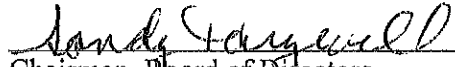
those answers. We will not stop working and things are constantly evolving and changing. She agreed with everyone on the amount of work that has been put in and the tough decisions made. She thanked everyone for their work.

Sandy Tarzwell:

- Sandy also hoped community members are involved in the community forums and thanked everyone of all the work they have put in.

Adjourn:

At 8:15 p.m. Sally Brownfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keri Davidson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Chairman, Board of Directors

Secretary to the Board

Shelton School District #309
Personnel Action Requested for
Board Meeting of July 28, 2020

Employment with the District will be on a conditional basis pending completion of a State and National background clearance, with the fee to be paid by the applicant, as well as a clearance based upon the "Washington State Sexual Misconduct Disclosure Release" forms and proper certification.

CERTIFICATED

New Hires / Rehires

Jessica Carey – Teacher (Elem. Specialist); Evergreen Elementary. Beginning September 2, 2020. This is a new position to accommodate the number of K-3 classes.

Resignations / Retirements

Crystal Allenton – Teacher (Music); Mt. View Elementary. Resignation is effective immediately, per letter dated July 12, 2020.

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Resignations / Retirements

Holly Holcomb – Para Educator; Bordeaux Elementary. Resignation was effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year, per letter dated July 17, 2020.