

WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
West Valley School, Conference Room, 5:00PM  
March 13, 2017

Board Members Present

Stephanie Nadasi  
Cory Hill  
Wendy Field

Board Members Absent

Jane Wheeler  
Rochelle Nicholson

Also present

Cal Ketchum, Superintendent via phone  
Cindy Foley, District Clerk  
Guests in attendance: Mark Wilson, Tina Blair, Brent Benkelman, Brinn Romagnuolo, Debbie Hartle, and Krista VanHelden

Chairman Nadasi called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Nadasi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Wendy Field moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS

Cory Hill moved to approve the March 13, 2017 bills, totaling \$128,247.10. Wendy Field seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/GUESTS/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

WEST VALLEY PTO

Nothing to report.

WEST VALLEY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Brinn Romagnuolo shared that the negotiations team will be ready to meet with Board representatives after March 15. The WVTA will be meeting on March 22nd.

Debbie Hartle and Krista VanHelden shared the current happenings in music and band:

K-2, singing and movement introducing instrument families and orchestra, as well as the differences between beat and rhythm; Grades 3-8 are studying reading music, instrument

families, compositions and how to write music, with recorders being introduced soon; there will be a concert on March 21st; West Valley is hosting the advanced band festival on May 4, including an evening concert, with the beginning band festival hosted by Cayuse Prairie School; and April 10th is Missoula Children's Theatre performance.

Diane Farnes will be teaching music full time next school year and Debbie Hartle will be full time Title 1. Mrs. Blair thanked Mrs. Hartle for her time as the music teacher of the K-2 program for the past several years.

### PRINCIPAL REPORT

Principal Benkelman shared that the week of March 20 grades 3 and 4 will be going through interim assessments for SBAC testing with the actual testing occurring in May; the most recent early out had staff holding grade level meetings, trainings with K-2 phonics, and Professional Learning Community (PLC) which is a collaborative approach that the district will be using next school year.

Principal Blair shared the middle school is working on interim assessments for SBAC as well; the Science Fair is March 13; 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be going to Big Creek in April; the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be going on their history trip in May; and planning for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony will begin in April.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ketchum shared that the closure of the school on March 13, due to a propane pipe breaking loose, was in the best interest of the students and the district; Daniel Sebrant, AdvancEd, was in the district on February 24 to interview administrators, board members, and staff, and he has given the approval for the district to proceed with the AdvancEd accreditation program; West Valley received \$3,000 from Roundup for Safety to use towards the card system/alarm on the front door and the doors leading to the Middle School; a quote of \$78,000 for the Go Math curriculum for grades K-8 has been received which covers a 6 year total period, including training; the AASA conference in New Orleans was very good with great sessions and keynote speakers; Mr. Ketchum thanked the Admin. and office team for training on School Messenger which is connected to our student operating system and will notify families in the event of an emergency; work is continuing on obtaining an electronic sign, with financial help from the PTO; March 13 and 14 Mr. Ketchum is in Helena for the Day of Advocacy and MASS meetings; Mandy Briney submitted her letter of intent to return for the 17/18 school year; and Mr. Ketchum noted the district had been deficient in library staff and would like to open a .5fte librarian position for the 17/18 school year to meet accreditation.

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### 1. Acceptance of RFP/Bid Lit Fiber Internet Services

Mark Wilson shared West Valley received bids from Montana Digital and CenturyLink to upgrade the current fixed wireless connection to lit fiber. Montana Digital has an upfront cost of \$47,000 to install the fiber and then a recurring cost of \$199.00 per month, whereas CenturyLink does not have an upfront cost for installation, but their recurring cost is 3.5 times higher than the Montana Digital bid. The cost of ownership for the Montana Digital option is significantly more cost-effective after 10, 15, and 20 years. The district also has the option of going with Montana

Digital for phone service as well, which would reduce our monthly cost by approximately half. The install cost of \$47,000 with Montana Digital is being submitted to E-rate for funding and once approval is given, the district portion would be \$9400 with the 20% Montana state match, or \$18,800 should the match not be funded by the legislature.

Cory Hill moved to accept the bid/rfp from Montana Digital for fiber internet service. Wendy Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2. Establish Building Reserve Fund

Cindy Foley shared the district currently does not have a Building Reserve Fund. She recommends opening the fund with the County in order to use a permissive levy to fund facilities maintenance and repairs, increased energy efficiency and technology enhancements as proposed in SB307.

Wendy Field moved to establish the Building Reserve Fund. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Cross Country Coaches, T. Smith and B. Ells

Mr. Ketchum recommended the hiring of Tony Smith and Brook Ells to coach cross country as they have done a great job coaching the program for the past few years.

Wendy Field moved to approve the cross country coaches as presented. Cory Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Out of District Student Attendance Agreement(s)-WVSD student(s) attending Whitefish SD  
Cindy Foley stated ZC is attending school in Whitefish, but resides in West Valley. Recommendation would be to disapprove this application allowing the student to enroll outside the District of Residence and that the district has no obligation to pay tuition.

Cory Hill moved to disapprove this application as recommended. Wendy Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration and adoption of resolution estimating changes in revenues/mills from tuition, adult education, building reserve, transportation and bus depreciation levies for school fiscal year 2018. SB307

Cindy Foley shared that SB307 is working its way through the legislature and MTSBA has advised districts to be proactive on adopting the resolution concerning the permissive levies. The district is to notice the local taxpayers by April 15<sup>th</sup> of the estimated increase/decrease to permissive levies for the 17/18 school year. These levies will change in August when the new taxable values are received and budgets are presented to the Board for approval at the annual budget meeting.

Cory Hill moved to approve the resolution of intent to impose an increase in levies, as presented. Wendy Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

6. Health Insurance Committee Report

Cindy Foley shared the committee had met on March 8th; RFP's will be going out to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Pacific Source, and MUST, as well as the Consortium, with answers back in April concerning plan options and premiums; medical inflation has been 8% in past years and the district's insurance premiums have not increased over the last 3 years while with the Consortium, which in hindsight they probably should have; premium increase with the Consortium is estimated at 10-11% for the 17/18 school year; and the Health Insurance Committee will meet again after April 1.

7. Business Manager/District Clerk Evaluation

Chairperson Nadasi asked that the evaluation tool be sent to all board members and requested they complete the evaluation and return it to her no later than April 3. The Business Manager/District Clerk Evaluation will be an action item on the April 10th agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Cory Hill moved to adjourn at 6:15pm. Wendy Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chairman



Cindy Foley, District Clerk