

**WASHINGTON STATE CENTER FOR  
CHILDHOOD DEAFNESS & HEARING LOSS  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 28, 2020**

Board Members:	Maria Christianson	(District #1) – Absent (Excused)
	Allie Joiner	(District #2)
	Nancy Sinkovitz	(District #3)
	Nita Kamphuis	(District #4)
	Char Parsley	(District #5) – Absent (Excused)
	Jennifer Acuna	(District #6)
	Ariele Belo	(District #7)
	Sidney Weldele-Wallace	(District #8)
	Nancy Fitta	(District #9)
	Wes Henson	(District #10)

Executive Director: Rick Hauan  
Superintendent: Shauna Bilyeu  
Legal Counsel: Tsering Cornell  
Recorder: Erica Rader  
Interpreters:

Guests: Kai Matthews, Business Office Director  
Sarah Decker, Lean Program Manager  
Jessica Sydnor – Human Resources Director  
Kris Ching, Outreach Birth-5  
Carol Carruthers, Outreach K-12

Nancy Fitta, chair, called the Board meeting to order at 10:03am. It was determined a quorum was present.

**Approval of meeting minutes**

Board Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2020 were reviewed

Page #3, Line 2 “sell” should be changed to “sale”

Allie Joiner indicated on page 3, paragraph 3 about PARA support is confusing. Rick recommended deleting paragraph and addressing it at the next Board meeting. Allie Joiner and Board members agreed.

Page #2, Line 15 “synapsis” should be changed to “synopsis”

Page #2, Line 22, Nancy Fitta’s last name was missing on a question.

Page 5, in the public comments section Sarah Decker's name was missing the "h" at the end.

Sarah indicated in the bullets under public comments, they should include the words faculty and staff. Board votes and agrees to this.

Tsering requested on page 4 to change "advised" to "noted"

Page 5, 6<sup>th</sup> bullet under public comments "then" should be changed to "than"

Nita Kamphuis moved to approve the January 24, 2020, meeting minutes with the corrections made. Allie Joiner seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved.

## **Staff Reports**

### **Rick Hauan, Executive Director**

Rick shared with the Board that CDHY has been working with several different districts, in planning for the remainder of this school year and planning for next school year. This work has provided support as we have been working most recently with Bellingham Public Schools. Bellingham currently has 1 teacher of the deaf and 73 students. They have worked together to come up with a three-tiered plan and are appreciative of the support CDHY is going to provide. Currently they are looking at hiring another teacher of the deaf and an educational audiologist.

Q: Nancy F. asked if they have looked at demographics of these families in Bellingham?

A: Kris and Carol indicated the families are in Whatcom County.

Q: Allie Joiner asked if the 73 kids are all in 1 school?

A: Rick indicated they are spread throughout the district. Kris Ching, Director of Outreach, Birth-to-5 indicated there are 16 kids in Whatcom County just in the Birth-5 category.

Q: Jennifer Acuna asked if there is a best practice for a ratio of services?

A: Rick indicated they are working on predicative models, however there is no specific recommendation in current best practices other than general guidelines for student to teacher ratios for special education teachers.

Allie Joiner indicated that the school in Burlington may be able to work closely with Bellingham. Rick indicated Salish Sea Deaf School is collaborating with Bellingham.

## **Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent**

Shauna indicated we have 2 more National Board-Certified Educators now. We have 3 interns with us, and they will be here through May. Heat in the Auditorium is fixed, then heat went out in Northrup. Shauna meet with the Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation. They provided ideas to help upcycling or recycling, of and maybe include it in artwork for the school. Shauna let the Board know that she, Kai and Rick went and testified at the senate to request money in the budget to demolition the old buildings. Final budgets will be released at the end of March.

Shauna congratulated the WSD Basketball team who went to the Western State Basketball Classic (WSBC) and in the final second of the championship game just missed winning falling short of victory. The team had fantastic sportsmanship and played exceptionally well. We are very proud of our Terriers Basketball team!! The Terriers men's team did make it to the state playoffs and hosted a playoff game for the first time ever. We did not advance in the tournament, but again had great spirit and played well.

WSD Academic Bowl just returned from Hawaii, and they won the sportsmanship award, and made it to quarter finals.

Nancy Fitta gave the Board's thanks and commended the teams for their sportsmanship of all our sports and academic teams and students here at WSD.

Shauna reminded the Board that Flying Hands will here at WSD in 2 weeks. WSD will be hosting deaf schools from multiple states and British Columbia, Canada.

Shauna indicated that student in grades 5-12 will be going to Deaf2Deaf Day at BizTown in Auburn, Washington March 18 & 19.

## **Board questions related to current legislative activity for the current session**

Q: Allie Joiner inquired about the status of the bill progress in the legislature regarding the transition of responsibility for the delivery of services for Birth-3 (Special Education Part C of the IDEA). The bill will change the responsibility and funding stream from OSPI to DCYF.

A: Both Governor Inslee and Superintendent, Chris Reykdal have issued statements outlining the new structure. We are currently awaiting passage of this bill. It has strong support and is expected to be signed into law later this year.

Q: Allie Joiner inquired about the current status of House Bill 1623 providing support for Educational Interpreters.

A: Carol explained that the bill never made it out of committee and therefore is considered "dead." Rick elaborated that this bill was carried forward from the last session, and while it is supported, there are likely changes to make the bill language more well-defined and clear. He believes the bill language will likely continue to be adjusted to provide a broader system of support developing educational interpreter training programs and educational interpreting services delivered at the local school level.

### **Kai Matthews, Director of Business Operations & Technology**

Kai Matthews gave a report from the Finance Committee meeting earlier this morning. We are currently tracking very well. Mr. Matthews referred the Board to the reports before them and explained we will likely have a small amount of money remaining for purchasing supplies at the end of the year.

Q: Allie Joiner inquired if we will ever need to return funds to the government from 19H account.

A: Kai informed the Board that, no we do not return 19H funds to the state. He reminded the Board that those funds are revenues generated for services delivered and are maintained separately on our balance sheet. They are not allocated as general funds from the state and therefore are not subject to be returned at the end of the fiscal year.

Q: Wes Henson inquired if long term discussions are underway to determine transportation costs for the future. For example, if student counts continue to grow how do we as an agency plan for that?

A: Kai indicated yes, those discussions are happening, and we should have a projection over the summer.

Q: Allie Joiner inquired if more exposure at events we host like BizTown will help student numbers grow at WSD and if so, are we prepared for that?

A: Kai indicated yes we are prepared and would be prepared in the future. Certain dollar amounts can be used for campus expenditures and what is left will be moved to Outreach.

### **Outreach – K thru 12 program Carol Carrothers, Outreach Director**

Carol indicated she has flyers for a STEM program. They are also wanting to have the STEM at the camp they are hoping to have in August.

### **Outreach – Birth to 5 program Kris Ching, Outreach Director**

Kris indicated to the Board she and Rick went to the EHDDI committee earlier this month, and 2 members are ready to launch their deaf mentor program.

Q: Allie Joiner asked for the mentors' names and was curious if they are under OSPI.

A: Kris indicated they are under ODHH and will have to look into the names of the mentors.

### **Philip and Abby Kitchens present their story to the Board about their child's journey to WSD.**

The Board goes to a short recess to greet the Kitchens' personally.

## **Policy Review**

### **2000 Student Learning Goals – 2<sup>nd</sup> read**

Nancy Sinkovitz incorporated and revised the policy as agreed at last meeting. Nancy Sinkovitz indicated changes that were discussed at the first reading were made for second reading. Nancy Fitta indicated CDYH is a typo and should be CDHY. Wes Henson asked if Board should be capitalized throughout. Nancy Fitta agreed it should be capitalized as it is a title. Nancy Sinkovitz will make the corrections.

Nita Kamphuis moved to adopt Policy 2000 with the corrections made. Ariel Belo seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved, unanimously. Policy 2000 is adopted.

### **2005 School Improvement Plan- 2<sup>nd</sup> read**

Nancy Sinkovitz incorporated recommended changes and alterations to the policy as agreed at our last meeting. Shauna recommended changing "Community Members" to "Stakeholders." Wes Henson agreed. Nancy Sinkovitz will make this change. No further discussion.

Nita Kamphuis moved to adopt Policy 2005 with the corrections made. Wes Henson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved. Policy 2005 is adopted.

### **2020 Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instruction Material - Revision**

Nancy Sinkovitz incorporated recommended changes to the policy as agreed at last meeting. Since publication for the Board packet, Nancy Sinkovitz identified some grammatical errors and will correct them. No questions from the Board.

Nita Kamphuis moved to adopt Policy 2020 with the corrections made. Allie Joiner seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved. Policy 2020 is adopted as revised.

### **2027 Agency Ownership of Staff-Created Work – 2<sup>nd</sup> read**

Nancy Sinkovitz Indicated Rick Hauan made some additions and added a guideline section from the first read. Nancy Sinkovitz inquired if the Board would like to use "Agency" in future policies in lieu of CDHY. The Board agrees to this, but the first time the word "Agency" is used it should reflect that CDHY is referred to as the "Agency." Nancy Fitta indicated the end of the policy should indicate "This shall be cross referenced with 2020 and 2022" and take out Policy Numbers 4040 and 2025 as they are not yet adopted. They can be added at a later date when adopted. Nancy Sinkovitz so noted and will propose clusters of policies relating to one another as much as possible.

Nita Kamphuis moved to adopt Policy 2027 with the corrections made. Ariel Belo seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved. Policy 2027 is adopted

### **2220 School Calendar – 2<sup>nd</sup> Read**

Nancy Sinkovitz incorporated changes noted at the end of the policy as agreed at the last meeting. Nancy Sinkovitz indicated changes that were discussed at the first read were made for second read. There were no further Questions.

Nita Kamphuis moved to adopt Policy 2220 with the corrections made. Allie Joiner seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved. Policy 2220 is adopted

### **Code of Ethics – 1<sup>st</sup> read**

Nancy Fitta indicated if you have any typos or grammatical errors please email Nancy Sinkovitz with those corrections.

Allie Joiner indicated she has concerns about “free speech” and “honoring cultural diversity.” She inquired if the Board has looked at other Board or Commissions or State agencies for language. Rick Hauan indicated he would reach out to several agencies such as Hispanic Affairs, Native American or LGBTQ for a cultural perspective. Tsering Cornell indicated this policy doesn’t create a conflict with cultural diversity.

The Board indicated they are all comfortable signing the Code of Ethics as they currently exist.

The Board will bring back for a second read and transfer into a policy format. It will indicate that every new Board member will need to sign and it will be updated to the website.

The recorder for the Board, Erica Rader will retain these records and policies.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Erica Pedro addressed the Board and indicated that staff members received an email from Washington Federation of State Employees and Washington Public Employees Association. In the email, it indicated that members of the union and staff were going to write a letter requesting for the Executive Director, Rick Hauan of CDHY to resign. Dr. Pedro indicated that a lot of staff were not in agreement with asking for the Executive Director’s resignation. In response, other staff members decided to write their own letter in opposition to the letter asking the Executive Director Hauan to resign. Dr. Pedro presented the Board with a letter dated 02/13/2020 signed by “Contributing staff of CDHY and members of WPEA and WFSE.” She requested that the board please take the time to read the letter provided.

Kelly Wicker Chief of Staff with Governor Inslee’s Office addressed the Board of Trustees and thanked the Board for all their hard work.

Franklin Plaistow Director of Human Resources for the State of Washington addressed the Board. He also thanked them for their hard work. He indicated he would try to attend more Board Meetings throughout the year.

12:48 The Board recessed for lunch

1:10 the Board reconvened

### **Executive Session**

Board Chair, Nancy Fitta announced the Board would be moving into Executive Session. Ms. Fitta stated "It is 1:34pm We are going to enter Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) (f) "To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee;" and, RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) "...to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency."

Board entered Executive Session at 1:34pm

Board re-opened into open session at 2:29pm

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

#### **Committee Membership:**

##### *Finance Committee:*

Nancy Fitta indicated that with Rita Reandeau, Chair of the Finance Committee recently leaving the Board it left only 3 people on the Finance Committee and no Chair. She wanted to know if anyone wanted to be on the Finance Committee and vote for a chair to let her know.

Current members of the Finance Committee:

- Ariel Belo
- Sidney Weldele- Wallace
- Nancy Fitta
- Maria Christianson

##### *Policy Committee include:*

Nancy Fitta indicated that Nancy Sinkovitz, Nita Kamphuis, Allie Joiner and Char Parsley serve on the Policy Committee. Ms. Fitta asked if anyone would like to be on this committee to please speak up. Wesley Henson and Jennifer Acuna indicated they would like to serve on the Policy Committee.

In discussing the work facing the Policy Committee it became apparent that there was too much work for one committee.

Policy work will be broken into two sub-committees. Student Sub-Committee Responsible for: Policy Series 2000 – Instruction and 3000 – Students.

*Policy members include:*

- Nancy Sinkovitz
- Allie Joiner
- Nita Kamphuis.

Operational and Business Subcommittee: Policy Series 4000 – Community Relations; Series 5000 – Personnel; and Series 6000 Management Support. Members include:

- Jennifer Acuna
- Wes Henson
- Char Parsley

Nancy Fitta also indicated that Shauna is the only person on the Project Committee and if anyone would like to be in that please speak up.

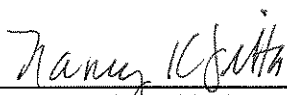
Nancy Fitta indicated you should only be on one committee at a time though since they can be time consuming.

Nancy Fitta Informed the Board that we may need to change the meeting date in September due to budget submission deadlines due to OFM.

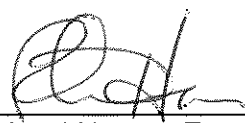
There will be no classroom visits on March 27 as that is the day before spring break. Shauna will set up classroom visits for the May 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:52pm

  
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Nancy Fitta, Chair  
CDHL Board of Trustees

7-28-2020  
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Date

  
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Richard Huan, Executive director  
CDHL Executive Director

7/28/2020  
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Date