

City Council



1049 State Avenue  
Marysville, WA 98270

**Joint Meeting  
City Council /  
School Board  
March 28, 2022**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 5:30

**Attendance**

Marysville City Council:

Mayor Jon Nehring  
Council President Kamille Norton  
Councilmember Mark James  
Councilmember Tom King  
Councilmember Steve Muller  
Councilmember Kelly Richards  
Councilmember Jeff Vaughan

Marysville School District:

Interim Supt. Chris Pearson  
Dr. Zac Robbins (via Zoom)  
Wade Rinehardt, Vice President, Board of Directors, District 4 Director  
Paul Galovin, President, District 2 Director, Marysville School Board  
Connor Krebbs, District 1 Director, Marysville School Board  
Keira Atchley, District 3 Director, Marysville School Board

**Introduction of Dr. Robbins and Q&A**

Dr. Pearson made introductory comments. Board of Director President Galovin introduced Dr. Zac Robbins who spoke to the importance of collaboration and equipping youth for the future. He gave an overview of his extensive background in education. He commented that he is thrilled to do the work to help families and children be successful.

Mayor Nehring asked about Dr. Robbins' first 3-6 months' priorities and how the City can support those. Mr. Robbins said he initially wants to do a lot of listening and

learning. He spoke to the importance of highlighting what is going well to foster confidence in the district as well as utilizing existing expertise.

Councilmember Richards asked about plans to address the socio-emotional health of students which had suffered as a result of the lockdowns. Dr. Robbins commented that they have to follow the guidance with the CDC and the governor. They also have to provide students with experiences to interact and enjoy while learning together without sacrificing health and wellness. When issues are identified they need to be able to get support for those students.

Mayor Nehring asked about the top things that would turn around student performance in a significant fashion using whatever metrics he would like to use. Dr. Robbins discussed the importance of literacy attainment, math literacy, believing students can be successful, and finding educational options that fit all students.

Councilmember Muller asked how they can implement the ideas in a timely manner so the community sees action toward the goals. Dr. Robbins commented on the importance of planning, taking action, and fine-tuning the approach as they go. Having the right staff members who are able to adjust as they go is key. He gave an example of how he has implemented this approach in the past.

Council President Norton asked how he would address concerns about certain social theories in schools. Dr. Robbins stated that they need to focus on the standards.

Councilmember King asked how Dr. Robbins dealt with bullying in his previous district. Dr. Robbins explained there was state legislation regarding bullying that would allow the state to take the license of any party that does not act appropriately when a bullying event is reported and not handled correctly. Whenever there is a bullying issue, the school is required to act. That alone stopped a lot of bullying behavior from being allowed to persist. He believes that every student deserves a safe and respectful learning environment. His administrators understand this is his belief. If there is ongoing and pervasive negative action toward a student it has to be addressed so it doesn't increase. In his buildings it is looked into and dealt with. He recounted a specific situation that happened in a school district in Nevada and how he addressed it.

Mayor Nehring thanked Dr. Robbins for his time. He congratulated him on the position. Dr. Robbins stated he is thrilled to come out and work for the district. Mayor Nehring also thanked Dr. Pearson for his intermediate time with the City.

### **Levy Discussion**

Dr. Pearson gave some feedback on the levy presentations that were done throughout the City. There are a lot more voices talking about the levy this time around than previously were. Community forums have been a mixed bag of successes. Some have been more successfully attended than others. The District is adjusting times and days to try to meet people where they are. They are trying to directly answer the questions they

are getting; an example of this is interactions on social media. The feedback he is hearing from the public aligns with the results of the survey and includes transparency/fiscal responsibility, academic performance, and safety.

Mayor Nehring commented that he thinks residents really want to hear the amounts in real dollars instead of levy rates and percentages. Dr. Pearson explained they can give examples of what it would do for different-priced homes. He suggested they could isolate that slide and post it for people to study.

Councilmember Muller asked how they measure success with their outreach. Dr. Pearson explained they keep track of all the people who attend the events. They can see data on social media about how many people the information has reached and how many people engage. They also send out postcards to every mailbox in Marysville before the ballots drop.

Councilmember Richards asked specifically about how they reach senior voters. Dr. Pearson explained they have connected with the Pastors' Association, the library, but they have not gotten much feedback.

Councilmember James commented that the focus needs to be on the value and not so much on the dollars.

Director Atchley noted that a small portion of the feedback they received was concerns about the dollar amount.

Director Krebs thinks that the amount of people who care about the dollar amount is closer to 40-50%. Moving a dollar value down was a good move in trying to be more transparent in the district. Recording the board meetings has also been a good move. There is also a brand new executive staff and superintendent. He thinks lowering the levy rate will be more significant of an impact than most people see it.

Director Atchley commented on the importance of communicating the value of what the levy will fund.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Approved this 26<sup>TH</sup> day of Apr 1, 2022.

  
Mayor Jon Nehring