

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

County Public Services Building – Conference Room  
Othello, Washington

August 23, 2023 – 9:03 a.m.  
(Wednesday)

### Call to Order

Chairman Weise called the meeting to order.

### Present:

Chairman Jay R. Weise  
Vice-Chairman Dan C. Blankenship  
Commissioner Miguel A. Garza

### Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Weise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Comment – None

### Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Garza moved, Blankenship seconded, to *approve the agenda as presented*. **Motion carried.**

### Board Workshop

#### Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program

Amy Parris, Student Services Director, Othello School District; and Bryce Humphries, Vice President over Instructional Programs and Student Services, Big Bend Community College; presented the Tech Hub project application. The proposed project has Big Bend Community College as the serving institution and regional service provider to provide a program where students will not need to leave Othello in order to take a certain progression of classes that will allow a student to obtain a college AA degree at the same time a high school graduation is earned. Tech Hubs (consortium) build on concentrations of existing innovation assets, resource, and capacities aligned with the potential for global competitiveness and a clear market opportunity in a core technology area.

Phase 1 is Designation and that has been completed. Should the application be selected, there will be an opportunity to apply for implementation dollars in Fall, 2023.

Four strategies for the learning centers are:

- Vertically-Integrated Requirements Teams (VIRTs);
- Technology Testbeds;
- Business and Entrepreneur Support;
- Workforce Development.

Visions for Learning Centers are:

- High school students earning a post-secondary credential as well as a high school diploma;
- College programs and degrees available to adults within their community;
- Adults learning English, completing a high school diploma, and earning college credit toward a post-secondary credential.

In the interim, conversations have already begun with the Moses Lake School District and Columbia Basin Tech for partnerships should the application not be approved.

### **Integrated Health Care Services**

Director Guse has requested a salary placement outside of what the current county policy allows for the applicant to the position of Environmental Health Director. Guse was asked to provide detailed reasoning for the request as well as the budgetary impact to the department.

### **Othello Food Bank**

At 10:25 a.m. the Board recessed to travel on-site to the Othello Food Bank. At 10:30 a.m. the Board reconvened at the Othello Food Bank. Jose Garza, Othello Food Bank Director, provided a tour. While there, the Board presented a clock to former Commissioner Terry Thompson for his years of service to Adams County.

**Adjournment @ 11:20 a.m.**

Submitted:  
s/Patricia J. Phillips, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
s/Jay R. Weise, Chairman  
s/Dan C. Blankenship, Vice-Chairman  
s/Miguel A. Garza, Commissioner