



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES **August 25, 2015**

Date, Place & Time	The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, 5:30 p.m., at the District Service Center, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian, Idaho
Trustees in Attendance	Chairman Tina Dean, Dr. Russell Joki, Dr. Julie Madsen, Carol Sayles, Mike Vuittonet
Staff in Attendance	Dr. Linda Clark, Barbara Leeds, Devan Delashmutt, Eric Exline, Trish Duncan, Troy Stephens, Jackie Thomason, Joe Yochum, Karel Olsen, Missy Nida, Dave Harrison, Geri Gillespy, Staci Low, Miranda Carson, Cindy Sisson
Guests	Madison Gallager, Brandon Church, Laura Taylor, Mercedes Pendleton, Scott Drayton, Joni Stevenson, Victoria Madison, Connor Dejaviniers, Andrea Jons, John Ursillo, Natasha Williams, Alex Welker, Deni Hawkins, Suzanne Crupper, Scott Crupper, Tom Haener, Kendra Wisenbaker, Kellie Taylor, Kelly Davies, Kevin Leishman, Suanne McCullough, Sue Darden, David Jakious, Val Tidwell, Dawnetta Earnest, Tracy Newell, Anne Little Roberts, Michelle See, Denise Shumway, Shana Hawkins, Jennifer Fletcher, Angie Harman, Lisa Austin, Rhonda McDonough, Joe Palaia, Ann Millward, Katie Rutan, Tammy Vebel, Jill Wrem, Dave Duncan, Peggy Ellis

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Dean

EXECUTIVE SESSION Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee Vuittonet seconded a motion to move into executive session at 5:32 p.m. to communicate with legal counsel for the school district to discuss the legal ramification of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated under Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (f). Chairman Dean took a roll call of the board to move into executive session: Trustee Joki voted yes, Trustee Madsen voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Vuittonet voted yes, and Chairman Dean voted yes.

The board recessed from executive session at 6:17 p.m. and continued in regular session.

Consent Agenda Trustee Joki requested the following items be moved to Discussion/Action for further discussion: Item #4, request to seek Alternative Authorization – Content Specialist; Item #5, request to seek Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New; and Item #8, 2015-2016 traditional and year round bus routes. Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee

Vuittonet seconded a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda. Approved items are as follow:

Minutes of the August 11, 2015 regular board meeting;

Employment recommendations;

Requests for leave without pay for:

- Anja Anderson, counselor, twenty four (24) hours;
- Starr Johnson, teacher, one (1) day;
- Georgeanne Smith, teacher, one (1) day;

Request from Rocky Mountain High School to raise funds to construct an indoor hitting facility for their baseball and softball programs;

Special work session set for September 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. to conduct board training;

Agreement between West Ada School District and Engineered Structures, Inc. for construction management services related to the construction of Star Middle School;

Bids awards for:

- Renaissance High School surveillance cameras and installation to Apex Integrated Security Solutions in the amount of \$30,683.99;
- Hillsdale Elementary:
 - Concrete (rebid) to Quality Concrete in the amount of \$771,312.00;
 - Building site work to Granit Excavation, Inc. in the amount of \$155,512.00;

Request from Kellie Taylor, a teacher at Galileo STEM Academy, to conduct her dissertation research with fourth and fifth grade classes on the impact collaborative scaffolds can have on student engagement, motivation, and discussion, engineering notebook and group roles.

Discussion/Action

Bills Dated July 1-31, 2015
Approved

Trustee Joki stated he had a question about the bills and the structure of the payments. During a meeting with Alex Simpson, budget director, he had noted that by practice or policy the format for the report on bill payments had come to the board alphabetically. One thing he would like the board to entertain is to reformat the report by object, which would group bills of a similar nature and would make more sense for someone to see what has been spent. Trustee Joki asked the chair is she would entertain one question at a time or to make a motion? Trustee Joki made a motion to direct staff to begin presenting payment of bills in a format that sorts the bills by object.

Chairman Dean asked for clarification from the finance director on whether this is easy to do.

Mr. Simpson had spoken with Trustee Joki about the format, it is an easy fix. It would require manipulation on purchasing card reporting, but could be done and is not a problem.

Trustee Vuittonet asked if it would create difficulties or long term problems in their system.

Mr. Simpson stated it was a formatting issue, while it has been done as presented, but if the will of the board is to put it in another format, it would just be another sort and the impact would be minimal.

Trustee Sayles stated the budget has sections with budgeted amounts. Can they sort so they can see what category it fits into?

Mr. Simpson replied the report can be sorted any way they want.

Trustee Vuittonet asked for clarification on whether Trustee Sayles was asking about changes to the budget or the report on payment of bills.

Trustee Sayles stated the bills are paid out of different areas and budgeted in certain sections. They need to be tracked so they know whether they are over or under on payments.

Chairman Dean asked at what point historically they have brought board reports.

Trustee Vuittonet stated there have been condensed quarterly reports to highlight the amounts being spent.

Mr. Simpson stated he understood what Trustee Sayles was looking for; however, in the Business Plus system, no one can overspend without permission. There is a budget block and those requests go through the department and money can only be moved if it is available in another part of that particular budget.

Trustee Sayles replied that she wants to see a monthly report on where the money is going, utilities, employee expenses that type of thing. Where are the expenses going for money earmarked for professional development, where is it being spent?

Chairman Dean stated her confusion, wouldn't that information be addressed through Trustee Joki's request?

Trustee Joki said no, that is not what he was asking.

Chairman Dean sought clarification if one motion will cover both ideas.

Trustee Joki replied his motion would be to sort the report in another way besides alphabetically. It is not possible to look at it and get the big picture as to where large chunks of money are going. For example, he

has seen millions plus on Promethean boards come out of both general and grant funds. Looking at the \$1.3 million payment to Cascade Transportation, he could not see it alphabetically, only if the report is resorted. Trustee Sayles is asking for something different. His request does not give year to date and he is interested in that as well, but that will be brought up in another motion. They have not seen the quarterly report since they are new trustees, year to date revenue and expenditures should be seen.

Chairman Dean asked if Trustee Madsen had a question on Trustee Joki's motion.

Trustee Madsen would like to know where she or a member of the public could go to find out what a company has been paid this month. They need to link this to the budget to make it more informative.

Mr. Simpson stated those expenses are reported quarterly but not with the detail they are looking for. A system report could give the information but they need to realize there are 8000 line items in the budget.

Trustee Vuittonet asked for clarification on whether that type of report would cause more work, continuing that he did not want to overburden the budget department.

Mr. Simpson replied it would be something he would have to work on. Obviously they can put the information together, it will just take time and they may have to work with the software vendor to get the information the board is seeking.

Chairman Dean stated they need to go back to the first motion which has not been seconded. Trustee Sayles seconded Trustee Joki's motion to direct staff to begin presenting payment of bills in a format that sorts the bills by object. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dean asked Mr. Simpson when the quarterly reports will be presented to the board.

Mr. Simpson will bring quarterly reports in November, February, May and June. The annual audit report will be made at one of the board meetings in October.

Chairman Dean asked Trustee Sayles if she would make a motion to change the frequency of the reports from quarterly to monthly and Trustee Sayles replied she hoped the sort will give her the information she is looking for.

Trustee Joki moved onto his second question. That since the school board is interested in knowing where we are with expenditures and revenue, this could be a simple sort and those reports could be given monthly. Maybe the board prefers quarterly but he is looking ahead to

the supplemental and emergency levies. The board has huge issues ahead of them and would benefit with more information more often. Trustee Joki made a motion to request monthly financial reports that will show revenue and expenditures to date by fund.

Chairman Dean asked if the quarterly reports were the same.

Mr. Simpson stated his quarterly report was condensed, and the report by fund can be printed out of the system. The report Trustee Sayles is asking for has more details and would show supplies, equipment, and contracted services. He can get to Trustee Joki's report but is trying to understand the detail for Trustee Sayles request.

Chairman Dean asked for a second on Trustee Joki's motion to request monthly financial reports that will show revenue and expenditures to date by fund. Trustee Madsen seconded.

Trustee Vuittonet asked if the report would be time consuming and arduous for the budget department and possibly take time away from their jobs.

Mr. Simpson replied they would run the report and hoped the format would appease the board.

Chairman Dean called for the vote and the motion was passed unanimously.

Trustee Joki stated he had a third item, a discussion regarding large expenditures, but would hold off and encouraged the board to look at large ticket items that stick out. With this information he believes the board will be more informed and engaged.

Trustee Madsen asked where to find line items on budget.

Mr. Simpson believes the concern was year to date compared to budget, if so, that will be in the format that was approved.

Trustee Madsen clarified that she want to know how she as a board member or a member of the public would find where someone traveled to or how much we paid K-12 Insight.

Mr. Simpson answered that she would have to call his office. There may be a way to get a more detailed description, but the current field being used for the report does not have that detail, they would have to see if that was possible.

Trustee Vuittonet suggested they put something in the information that would direct patrons/staff/parents to call or email Mr. Simpson's office for detailed information and asked Trustee Madsen if that would be sufficient.

Trustee Madsen stated that was not sufficient, as stewards of the money, they shouldn't have to ask item by item. This would eliminate the burden on the public to contact administration.

Mr. Simpson stated there was a field that might have more information. They will have to see if our system can pull that. If not, someone will have to type in all of the descriptions, which would be arduous for his staff.

Chairman Dean reiterated that Mr. Simpson would look into getting the information and asked if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the payment of bills dated July 1-31, 2015.

Dr. Clark handed out current policy 802.60 regarding payment of bills. The board may need to make changes to the policy so it is consistent with the changes that are being suggested.

Chairman Dean stated that if no trustee's object, they will take Policy Code 802.60 for review and it will be placed on the next board meeting for discussion on possible revisions.

Trustee Sayles made a motion to approve the payment of bills dated July 1-31, 2015. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vuittonet and passed unanimously.

Minutes of the July 28, 2015
Held Over for
Recommended Revisions

Trustee Joki asked the minutes include the following:

- 1- Exchange that he had with the Chief Academic Officer on the IRI
- 2- The statement from Dr. Clark that it was not necessary to use the IRI as a KPI. The IRI is not a test that they should be using to assess reading proficiency, and Dr. Clark's acknowledgement.

He would like to see the IRI dropped as a KPI.

Dr. Clark responded the board chose to use the IRI because they lacked any other item. The IRI is under scrutiny by the state and only measures fluency. Originally it was a comprehensive measure of all components, now it only looks at one dimension. It is the board's choice.

Chairman Dean requested the minutes reflect the conversation with Jackie Thomason and Dr. Clark's statement and will not be approved until the changes have been reviewed.

Trustee Joki also asked Ms. Thomason to send a copy of the PowerPoint, he thought it was important and she said she would. The board should receive a copy of all Power Points. The minutes should reflect the request and that Ms. Thomason said she could send them out, he wants that exchange included.

Chairman Dean stated the KPI's will be on a future agenda.

Video and/or Audio Taping
Board Meetings Reviewed

Joe Yochum, chief operations officer, thanked Troy Stephens for compiling options from basic to complex, for recording/streaming the school board meetings. Mr. Yochum reviewed three options for the board:

- Multiple source/input video and audio – cost estimate approximately \$9,000-\$14,000. This option would provide live streaming and archival of the meeting with multiple camera angles and content from computer/document camera, etc. This option would take one to three people to operate.
- Single source video and audio – cost estimate \$800 - \$16,000. This option would provide live stream and archive, single view, static camera, no input switching.
- Audio only – not live streamed, only archive or podcast. No video, record audio from the sound system and mics only. Cost estimate \$150-\$400.

Chairman Dean asked if these were one time or ongoing costs.

Mr. Yochum replied they are one time with the exception of the tech who will have to be hired and potential software updates.

Trustee Joki asked what the Caldwell School District does.

Mr. Yochum stated he had not looked into their system.

Dr. Clark replied they use YouTube.

Trustee Joki suggested they check out neighboring districts, beginning with Caldwell. He would be supportive of any of these items. This would capture important information that cannot be captured by note taking.

Chairman Dean asked Trish Duncan, clerk of the board, her thoughts on the idea of video/streaming.

Ms. Duncan responded that she supported the proposals, stating that it is difficult to capture the complete record of the meeting using the current system. All video/audio records would need to be archived and stored in perpetuity and there could be issues with storage space.

Trustee Vuittonet stated this would be an invaluable tool for patrons. He supported the idea of checking with Caldwell, but wondered if one camera would capture everything. They could view some links of other districts and make a decision based on that information.

Dr. Clark advised trustees they would implement whatever the board decided on. Staff time can be flexed, so on board meeting dates, an individual could come to work later in the day to cover the duties associated with the board meeting. The district can borrow one robotic camera from ISU if they would like to get started right away, and can provide places for them to check out what other district's use.

Chairman Dean asked which of the standing committees would look at this.

Dr. Clark replied the operations committee would look at the proposal to make sure we could handle storage.

Chairman Dean stated there was no motion necessary as the administration gathers more information.

ISBA Conference Update

Trish Duncan provided an update on the ISBA conference and the training scheduled for September 1, 2015.

Chairman Dean reminded trustees they would have an opportunity to vote on the resolutions, which will be available for discussion at the beginning of October.

ADA Compliance Issues and Options for the Board Room

Joe Yochum shared his research on the different options that are available to bring the board room into ADA compliance.

Option 1 – installation of ADA compliant signs by the elevator and stairs indicating a path to the board room. The cost of three signs, 8X8 is \$135 for engraved, and \$273 for raised text. The only other cost would be a staff member to direct attendees to the elevator and their time can be flexed to accommodate the board schedule.

Option 2 – relocation of the board room. Mr. Yochum and Don Lowman examined the Clearwater and Salmon rooms in the training area at the east end of the building, and the dais will fit into either space. Quotes were received to take the dais apart, relocate and reassemble in the new room - \$1125; from Neurolink to remove the electronics and reinstall - \$13,000+. The original bid to do the electronics in the room was \$34,000.

Option 3 – install a free standing elevator, which will be the most expensive option. An elevator was installed at MHS and the cost was \$213,000+.

Trustee Joki thanked Mr. Yochum for his work. He doesn't know which option they should choose, but this room is not ADA compliant. He asked for clarification on the cost of staffing the building and Dr. Clark replied there was no cost, staff would be flexed to cover the hours. Trustee Joki stated there was a cost to flex time and the disruption in their lives. He stated his amazement at how many people come to the meetings, and doesn't know how many require assistance, but he likes the idea of moving to the ground floor. It is a small price to pay in the long run and is a compliance issue. They will need to do one of these things and he didn't feel there were any options except the ground floor configuration.

Chairman Dean asked if the Salmon and Clearwater rooms were on the first floor.

Dr. Clark stated they are at the east end in the training center. The podium can go in there and it is her recommendation that they leave the electronics and purchase new, comparable to what is in the current board room. This would allow the current board room to continue to be

used as a meeting room. The costs could be covered through left over capital funds if that is what they choose to do.

Trustee Vuittonet asked if option one is ADA compliant and Mr. Yochum stated he had spoken with Ed Daniels, an architect with Hummel Architects, and it would be with the proper signage. They insured ADA compliance when IDLA moved into the adjacent rental space.

Trustee Joki made a motion to direct Mr. Yochum to prepare a full report on relocating the board room to the first floor and bring back to a future board meeting. This will give staff time to look at the option of using the east end training rooms.

Chairman Dean asked for clarification on whether his motion was with or without the electronics.

Trustee Joki stated that would be at the superintendent's discretion.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles.

Trustee Vuittonet asked whether this was just a report and his concerns of spending the money when the board had expressed its desire to be frugal when they denied hiring the testing director.

Trustee Madsen requested some estimate of personnel costs from option one.

Chairman Dean asked if Trustee Joki would accept that amendment.

Trustee Joki accepted the amendment.

Chairman Dean stated the second stands and asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yochum asked if the board would like him to explore new electronics and moving the podium. Dr. Clark confirmed the current room does not need the podium and is more functional without it. The cost to relocate the podium would be approximately \$1100.

Chairman Dean asked if students from the PTE classes could move the dais and Dr. Clark replied they could not, it was built by a specialty company and the cost to move was lower than anticipated.

Supplemental Levy Discussion

Trustee Joki asked why the emergency levy was not listed on the agenda and wondered what they anticipate will happen. The district has advertised a commitment to maintain the levy rate and two of the levies were not listed to discuss. The reason he is bringing this up is the discussion that took place on the Nate Shelman radio program regarding emergency levies and the district needs to be mindful of public perception. Trustee Joki requested a brief explanation of the emergency levy.

Dr. Clark explained the emergency levy is allowed for school districts that have more students in the fall of the current year than the previous fall, it is one time money for one time expenditures. The levy is intended as emergency relief for additional students to pay for content and supplies. Some years they have had only four days of attendance to report, but this fall will have ten days to report. Because it is unknown what attendance figures will be, an estimated amount is approved as part of the budget. This year, in an effort to wean ourselves from one time money, only half of the anticipated levy was budgeted. A special meeting will be necessary to certify by the 10th of September.

Trustee Joki has heard comments on the certification of a levy without a vote and questions on what the money will be used for, they need to be prepared to answer those questions.

Alex Simpson explained the emergency levy last year was \$7.87 per hundred thousand of value, which brought in \$1.1 million. This year's preliminary growth numbers appear to be higher, but without all of the data, he is unable to give them an amount at this time. The district runs at 97% attendance at the beginning of the data collection but the numbers will settle down as they clean up the system.

Trustee Joki stated that did answer his question. How the money will be used is a question that may come up. The board should discuss the use of the funds at the training on September 1st along with the supplemental levy, which are worthy topics to be included in the training. He encouraged the addition of the emergency levy to the agenda.

Chairman Dean explained the training would be covering board protocol, Roberts Rules and training for the supplemental levy.

Dr. Clark suggested that part of the discussion on the emergency levy might be about the fund balance. There have been modest increases over the previous years, but a year with 1000 new students, could begin to re-build a fund balance that meets acceptable business practices. That would also strengthen the district rating when we go out to the voters for bonds. We have gotten to the place that a large part of the fund balance is used to balance the budget each year. In the past, districts built their fund balances through emergency levies and angel funds. District's received a July payment that took unspent money from the state and gave it to the schools. During the economic downturn, there has been no way to rebuild the fund balance, she would like to see them begin that process again.

Trustee Vuittonet agreed it was a good idea to have a meeting about the levy. It could be a work session centered on their questions and the details regarding the levy. He wondered what the training schedule was because he didn't want to cut themselves short, maybe they could have another special work session to cover the information.

Chairman Dean stated she was open to both ideas. The board was polled to see if they preferred an additional meeting for finances or if they want to include it on the September 1st date.

Trustee Vuittonet asked how long the training was scheduled to run.

Trustee Madsen asked if Trustee Vuittonet was recommending a work session or a training session.

Chairman Dean declared they would add the items to the agenda September 1st after the training was concluded.

Mr. Simpson will be taking attendance through September 4th and the levy would need to be certified with the county by September 10th.

Plant Facility and Supplemental Levy Discussion

Eric Exline provided an overview and history of the plant facility and supplemental levy. The plant facility levy is reauthorized every ten years and is used for capital projects and capital purchases. The plant facilities levy has been adjusted from year to year in an effort to maintain a consistent levy rate. The Supplemental levy has a one or two year authorization, can be reduced in the second year by a majority vote of the board and is used for school operations or maintenance. Revenue from the current supplemental levy was used to restore nine (9) instructional days from the fourteen cut originally and to fund staff positions that were previously funded by expiring one time funds. Mr. Exline reviewed how the percentage of voter approval is calculated for the plant facility levy, and reviewed election dates available to run the levies over the course of the year.

Trish Duncan provided trustees specific timelines that must be met to provide required paperwork to the counties for each election date.

Trustee Vuittonet asked what date Mr. Exline would recommend the board consider for running the supplemental.

Mr. Exline would recommend the November 3rd date but it is the board's choice. The March date competes with a barrage of information on the first presidential primary and the May and August dates are too late for budgeting purposes.

Trustee Joki stated that the board just did some things that are problematic with the sale of surplus property that causes more growth. It is important for them to bring the message to the public that the levy is clearly needed. The budget will be in freefall, this is not a tax increase and taxpayers are savvy. There needs to be a way to send out a message with this is significant and clearly it should be about more teachers. If we are going to convey any message, it should be that we are sensitive to class sizes. Now we would have the ability to add some teaching positons. The emergency levy will need to be certified, that should encourage them to talk about teachers and the quality of instruction. He believes teachers should be added to the classroom.

Chairman Dean stated she was in the classroom when the fourteen days were lost. Five days that teachers relied on have never been restored and nine days that would be lost if levy fails is dire, especially for struggling teachers. It is important to let the public know they will lose the days without the supplemental levy.

Dr. Clark reminded trustees that a day costs about \$700,000 times the nine days that were reinstated. The district used ARRA money and saved teacher positions during the downturn. This is about instruction and teachers, if this fails, we will lose days and teachers. The supplemental is very specific on what it is used for, but the term supplemental is a tremendous misnomer. It should be called a local operations levy. The first time in modern history the district went out for a supplemental, it was used to hire thirty teachers over the state limit and to fund the IB program. Over time it has become required to sustain operational costs.

Trustee Joki concurred with everything that has been said and it is about quality instruction. We are one of 93 districts of the 115 in that state that run levies. Legislature has not met its constitutional requirements to fully fund public schools.

Trustee Madsen echoed Trustee Joki's thoughts stating we would be remiss if we don't look at the root cause of why we have to go back to ask for basic needs. We need the 70 teachers we qualify for. We need to emphasize and remember that when we ask for more. We have pro-education families, but they do not support due to misunderstandings about where the money is spent. It needs to be used for specific things that translate to the classroom level. The board received the budget and they are looking for places to save or costs that can be moved to decrease the amount of the levy and offer them more. The public is showing fatigue with the common expenses.

Trustee Vuittonet stated this is the biggest thing they are facing right now and it would be catastrophic to fail. There has been a lot of work through the community and the chambers to help patrons understand that this is vital.

Chairman Dean asked to have it communicated that the supplemental levy will be used for students in the classroom.

Trustee Joki reiterated it was essential for the quality of classroom instruction. The details have to be tied to that.

Chairman Dean thanked the members of the media for helping to get this message out.

Let's Talk Rollout

Mr. Exline reviewed another piece of the K12 Insight product that will give patrons new avenues to reach out to district staff. He guided trustees through a preview of the product, describing how the site is set

up by interest areas and asked if trustees were interested in having their names and emails available for public use.

Trustee Joki stated the site should be as user friendly as possible. He suggested that Mr. Exline simplify by removing some things that the public would have no interest in. The current budget is designed for professional people, they need some shortcuts to visuals that are summary pages for what is in the budget. In his opinion, Mr. Exline needs to narrow the scope.

Mr. Exline agreed and stated they have the ability to create other landing pages and he will clean up the site before launching. The site needs to be a conduit to ask questions.

Chairman Dean asked where a question on the budget would go. Alex would receive the emails and would click into the system to answer the question. Most topics have a team so others could answer if necessary.

Trustee Vuittonet commented the site looked great to him and is interested in seeing what use this receives.

Mr. Exline stated they can track news stories, Facebook feeds and twitter feeds. They can integrate into conversation to provide accurate information.

Trustee Joki commented they have some issues in the next three months and he would like to see this focus on big issues, roll out in a narrow scope. He wants to hear comments about the supplemental levy, instruction and key topics. He thanked Eric.

Dr. Clark shared there is an advantage of being able to learn from sister districts in the country which are glowing in praise for Let's Talk. When fully implemented, we can create a matrix and measure against those matrices. Dr. Clark asked to go back to a comment Trustee Madsen had made about the K12 contract. We do not pay for individual surveys, there is an annual per pupil cost and we can run as many surveys as we want. This function is an add-on without cost. Our district is an early adopter of this product and they honor lower prices.

Trustee Madsen stated she was actually aware of the product and versatility. She doesn't question that expenditure, and as a taxpayer this information is invaluable. Giving the board this information would be a great service to them and to the patrons.

Dr. Clark explained the software provider has been good to work with and they can work with them to expand.

The board recessed at 8:12 p.m. for a break and reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

Year Round and Traditional
Bus Routes

Dr. Clark stated it is no secret to any board member that we are frustrated and have had issues with transportation. A letter was sent to

the senior vice president of ATS which outlined the major issues the district has been working with. One major frustration has been the lack of a parent portal, which was part of the work promised to the district prior to the 2014-15 school year. Promised deadlines were not kept and the product that was finally delivered on August 21st could not be used. Families are used to getting their information online and the lack of a tool was unacceptable. Dr. Clark believes this is a symptom of a bigger communication issue. Parents trying to contact Cascade Transportation either get a busy signal, a full message box, and on some occasions were hung up on. Administrative staff offered additional help for the first day of school and we told they had added extra people and expanded their email capacity to handle the onslaught. A FERPA violation was noted and detailed in the letter. At this time we are unhappy with the contract and expect to hear from the vice president of the company, we may have to exercise options on payments. A representative from Cascade Transportation is here tonight to address our concerns.

Chairman Dean asked to see the contract with Cascade for review and asked, from a fiduciary standpoint, if they fail to uphold the contract, what the district's options are.

Dr. Clark replied she would speak with our attorney. At the very least we could slow their payments. We would be looking to see if there is any additional recourse. Dr. Clark will forward the contract to board members and speak with counsel to see what other recourse we have.

Chairman Dean stated we may have a need to look for other service or do ourselves.

Dr. Clark responded that a portion of the contract required the vendor to purchase buses over the length of the contract.

Chairman Dean asked if trustees had any questions or comments for Mr. Bates, the representative from Cascade Transportation.

Dr. Clark stated the portal was not available at the beginning of last year either, but there were no issues with the routes because they were able to use the routes we already had.

Chairman Dean invited Mr. Bates to the podium.

Trustee Joki thinks the superintendent has captured what had come to his attention, so he will not repeat his questions. He was curious about what the chair had in mind with the contract. We have lost the personal connection. The district will never recapture their own fleet, maybe it is not the right time. What happened to our fleet, did we get money for the buses, where did it go and what are the comparative costs? Trustee Joki raised these questions with Mr. Simpson earlier and would like to see year to date if there are cost savings. He is hearing they are neither efficient nor friendly.

Rowdy Bates, representing Cascade Transportation, thanked the board for allowing him to come. He just found out this afternoon there were issues and flew in from another state. He understands from the letter sent to the vice president there has been bad communication, was aware of the bus portal issues and was present during the meetings last year. The portal was data based instead of geography based and the system could not find an address. He can tell them they are dedicated to this partnership, the parent portal was working through Compass. When it was down they brought in drivers and had a person on every line, but the additional volume of calls overwhelmed the system. Mr. Bates can only say they are dedicated to resolving the issues. They are trying to decide whether to stick with the existing software or change to something new. Some good things did happen on the first day, there was a driver in every bus and there were staff members manning the office, which was better than a year ago. They will solve these problems so this does not happen again, according to the reports he was getting, everything was going well.

Chairman Dean stated it seems he is not based here, where is he normally?

Mr. Bates answered he is the area general manager and oversees four locations.

Chairman Dean asked who is next in line at this location.

Mr. Bates replied that Bunny Malmin was over this location. There was a breakdown in communication between patrons and their office as well as between Bunny and him. He was aware of the portal problems, yesterday morning they could keep up, that was lost during the day.

Chairman Dean asked how long he is staying to work on the issues.

Mr. Bates replied he would be leaving but is scheduled to come back next week. He will investigate the issues and after mentioning this to the vice president, will look for a permanent solution.

Chairman Dean asked if he was aware of reports that students had been left at bus stops or not picked up at all.

Mr. Bates replied the immediate plans were to make sure all students are picked up and delivered. Routes were driven today and although there were issues, buses are going where they are supposed to. He was not aware of students that were not picked up but did get a report from Eric about some students that were dropped off in the wrong place.

Trustee Madsen shared a personal experience at Galileo. She contacted Cascade two weeks ago to get route information and was told they were not giving that out and she would have to get that from the local school, which created frustration for her. Then she attended back to school night, still no information so she made three more calls to Cascade, left

messages and none of them have been returned. Trustee Madsen also left a message for Bunny Malmin that has not been returned. Her experience so far is they have given up a safe, reliable way to get students to school. Strategies for the safe transport of kindergarten students was not there. Many families have given up on them, the lack of negative reports may be the product of a lack of information at Cascade.

Mr. Bates apologized, and stated if they don't know the issues, they cannot be addressed. Hopefully she will allow him to reach out to her and find out what her issues were and get them resolved.

Trustee Madsen replied patrons experiences have been reported to her, patrons have been hung up on, and employees become frustrated with the callers.

Mr. Bates stated there was no excuse for that, but it would be inappropriate for him to comment when he has not heard about it.

Dr. Clark informed Mr. Bates that Miranda Carson, the transportation liaison received the same complaints.

Chairman Dean asked if Mr. Bates had heard about the incident where a bus had broken down and the driver had kept the students on the bus with the windows closed for 45 minutes. What would be the safety procedure for this incident?

Miranda Carson, transportation liaison, reported she had gone to Cascade, sat down with their software and was able to pull about 80% of the student rosters, which will be sent to the schools by Thursday at the latest. This information should cut down on calls to their office. She will work on getting maps and remaining rosters out to the schools by the end of the week.

Chairman Dean asked if the routes are posted at the schools.

Ms. Carson replied they do not have maps, just stock information. She was having the same problem finding bus stops and going through pages of information is taking 20-30 minutes without the software.

Trustee Madsen asked if she could clarify. They could get the AM bus routes but not the PM routes. Is it her understanding that routes will have both the AM and PM times?

Ms. Carson stated it was her understanding they will have both and will get a workable document to send out by Friday afternoon. The system runs very slowly.

Trustee Madsen stated this should have occurred a month ago.

Ms. Carson explained that it does fall to her and the software company to give schools this information in a timely manner. Right now the software is giving names and addresses in their reports which cannot be released. A plan was made while she was out on maternity leave and it did not go as they had set it up.

Trustee Vuittonet thanked Ms. Carson and said it was good to have her back. He asked if she could tell the board what kind of relief or the time it will take to iron things out, is there a plan for communication?

Ms. Carson replied that getting the rosters out to schools should cut back about 80% of the calls.

Trustee Vuittonet asked if part of the problem was information wasn't given soon enough.

Ms. Carson replied they didn't have a back up to the parent portal, they were told it would be ready by July 1st and was told it was running.

Chairman Dean asked Dr. Clark how quickly they can get something on the web page for contact information for Cascade and for the District Office if they can't get through to them, and that route information will be out to the schools by Thursday.

Dr. Clark replied that Mr. Exline could send Blackboard Connect message to let parents know.

Chairman Dean asked that he place information both on the web site and through Blackboard Connect.

Dr. Clark continued explaining that secretaries had been taking calls at our office and Cascade's reluctance to have additional staff help was frustrating. This is not an acceptable way to start the school year and she felt it was important to state what District concerns were.

Ms. Carson stated she now has a radio and will be using it to call the bus drivers directly on calls about lost students.

Trustee Joki indicated they will receive a copy of the contract and as a part of that, would like to see cost comparisons so the new trustees have more information. He recognizes it is impossible to go back, but the history was there at the State Department of Education and is typical of contracted systems. There is no personal contact.

Dr. Clark replied there were significant cost savings with the contract and the district had talked to state departments and districts all over the country who had successful things to say about the contract. She will make sure the board has all of the information on the contract.

Trustee Sayles is appalled by all of this. Last year she spoke with the state and they told her contracted services cost 7% more. If there were significant savings at the beginning, there won't be in the long run.

Trustee Vuittonet replied that \$16 million over five years is significant and is a hard number not to give consideration to. He didn't know if a situation that creates tension is a deal breaker and we need to give them time to fix. The contract numbers were vetted following a year and a half study.

Trustee Sayles stated her belief that we are allowing the company to use the fleet at no cost as well as the buildings and property. The savings are mute because they don't have any skin in the game.

Chairman Dean stated the rest of the discussion needs to be at a future date following the receipt of the routing information.

Requests for Alternative Authorization – Content Specialist; and Requests for Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Approved

Chairman Dean expressed her concern with the number of teachers listed to seek alternative authorizations and asked Ms. Leeds to share information regarding the route and time it takes to receive these authorizations.

Ms. Leeds explained she had received information from the Professional Standards Commission that a provisional, which is a one year certification, is no longer allowed for an emergency plan. The provisional did not meet highly qualified requirements. Ms. Leeds shared information on the different types of alternative authorizations with the board which included an explanation of each, the initial qualifications and the route preparation program. When they hire, they try to find qualified teachers, but a good deal of the requests are for special education teachers. Other areas of concern are library media specialists, which are near to impossible to find. They have reached out to the universities and advertised in more than one area. A number of districts, including ours, have no viable math candidates. The University of Idaho is not offering family consumer science any longer, so we are limited to drawing from BYU Idaho, which has the only program and most candidates aren't interested in leaving southern Idaho.

Ramona Lee, special education director, explained that in all of her years as a director, the shortage of special education teachers has been an issue. The Professional Standards Commission web site has information on how many alternative authorizations are approved, and special education is the highest category, the ABCTE route is second. She has been recruiting and hiring all summer. Usually all of the candidates for approval have strong backgrounds in special education, but that is not the situation now. On the list the trustee received, three are certified but in the process of transferring from another state. That process can take up to eight weeks, so they are requesting the alternative authorization in case the process doesn't get done on time. Six on the list are certified teachers who are adding special education to their certificate and the last five are using the ABCTE route, having a bachelors in another area,

but have worked in special education. Some are former paraprofessionals.

Chairman Dean stated that alternative authorization for special education teachers can put the district at risk if they fail to complete the pipework or service the number of hours required. What extra support is the district office able to offer these teachers to make sure they are compliant and service the needs of their students?

Ms. Lee responded that she has concerns as well, but she is pleased with the systems in place to support these staff members. Leadership money was used to develop a handbook for compliance and all teachers attended a session for special education where the consulting teachers went over the guidebook. There are consulting teachers in the buildings every day, along with an Exceed data specialist who is on the phone as a help desk, and five supervisors provide support.

Chairman Dean asked if there any funds set aside to offer subs so they could meet for refreshers throughout the year.

Ms. Lee responded that a number of trainings have been set up and there are days set aside for working on paperwork with support.

Trustee Madsen asked if there had been an increase or had the district lost positions from last year to this year.

Ms. Lee responded that the number has increased slightly this year. The budget is ready to submit with the application to the federal government. She has been looking at enrollment in every building and reviewing the process every day.

Dr. Clark added there were ten positions for special education funded in the budget this year. We have seen a significant loss of staff to other districts.

Trustee Madsen asked whether we could be doing more to keep these resources here, do they need more para's, lower student ratios?

Ms. Lee answered that retention is critical and high on her list. Caseloads are a challenge, paras help but they have to use the budget that was approved. The district is looking at how we bill Medicaid to bring in more dollars. Unfortunate that paperwork and stress is hard and the pay is different. Our district trains the teachers and then they are recruited by other districts.

Trustee Joki stated his frustration on hearing what Ms. Lee said. Pay is the primary story, and he would like to study. Do they conduct exit interviews maybe that is a policy position the board may take? We need to do more as a policy making board, giving her directions, they can't continue to lose good teachers. Whether the reason is for the pay, the culture, or working conditions. This district needs to be a lighthouse

district where teachers want to come. He knows from previous research that we have more certified teachers than vacancies, but teachers choose to leave special education. If we have research data, Ms. Lee's information and the exit interviews, what are we doing about it? The career ladder is supposed to be a partial solution, but is it not helping with the retention of teachers. Trustee Joki asked for a report back if there is something they should be doing to keep teachers in general and in these specific areas.

Ms. Lee responded that some actions the board has already taken have been helpful. The leadership stipend is received by special education teachers and with the career ladder, it was the first time she was able to hire a highly qualified position and was able to hire with those improvements. Ms. Lee thinks that many teachers left when they didn't know what their pay would come out on the career ladder. She has received comments back on the career ladder that it is an improvement.

Dr. Clark stated the board did take action to add a stipend for special education teachers with the leadership premiums. They have talked with staff that has left the district. Our numbers of special education teachers would be high if everyone with the endorsement weren't teaching regular ed. Paperwork required by the federal government is an issue. There are \$60 million reasons why we are losing teachers to the east. Their levy doesn't require a vote, and they receive more than we do with 12,000 less students. The career ladder will make a big difference and there is lots of work to be done to help the legislature realize they didn't deal with the top part of the salary schedule. They didn't deal with retention of teachers. Our negotiations went well, and we have a legacy in our salary but the top did not get funded. This is all part of the equation.

Trustee Dean called for a motion.

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Madsen seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve requests to seek alternative authorization as follow:

Alternative Authorization – Content Specialist:

- Kleber Almeida to teach Extended Resource at Lake Hazel Middle School;
- Nicholas Camberlango to teach Extended Resource at Eagle Middle School;
- Janet Gates to serve as the Library Media Specialist at Eagle High School;
- Jessica Hunt to teach Positive Behavior Intervention at Lake Hazel Middle School;
- Zandra King to teach Math at Eagle High School;
- Tiffany Lakey to teach Extended Resource at Frontier Elementary;
- Melvin Miller to teach Positive Behavior Intervention at Lake Hazel Middle School;
- Abbie Sutherland to teach Extended Resource at Siena Elementary;

- Jessica Swygart to teach American Sign Language at Eagle High School;
- Sally Tolle to teach Culinary Arts at Meridian High School;
- Kristine Were to teach Early Childhood Special Education (preschool) at Discovery Elementary;
- Catherine Woods to teach Math at Meridian Middle School;
- Teresa Wright to teach Extended Resource at Meridian Elementary;

Requests for Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New:

- Krista Jardine to teach Positive Behavior Intervention Classroom at Heritage Middle School;
- Mary Shawver to teach Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Ponderosa Elementary;
- Ameer Smith to teach Extended Resource Room at Meridian Middle
- Jennifer Sousa to teach extended Resource at Meridian Middle
- Evelyn Tanner to teach Resource room at Lake Hazel and Christine Donnell school of the Arts Elementary Schools;
- Greg Young to teach Extended Resource at Eagle Middle School.

Board
Reports/Assignments

Trustee Vuittonet reported on a TVEP college retention committee meeting where they are working on the FAFSA and looking for ways to get more participation. There will be an ISBA Region III meeting in this building September 14th at 6:00 p.m. He has been invited as a private citizen to look at college initiatives in California, he is hoping to learn something that could help our district and just wanted other board members to know.

Chairman Dean addressed the administrators at their first meeting expressing the board's thanks and that they were loved. She also addressed the teachers at their opening meeting and gave remarks and was a speaker at the Tech Expo.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Clark expressed her thanks to:

- Hummel Architects and the Russell Corporation, who will cover the costs of replacing signage at the District Service Center to reflect the change from Joint School District No. 2 to West Ada School District.
- The Bank of America donation that will provide busing for children who will receive help from Operation School Bell through the Junior League
- The many entities donating school supplies, Meridian Kiwanis, Elks 310, Insurance Professionals and many anonymous donors.

Chairman Dean asked for a list so she can send thank you notes for the donations from the trustees.

School openings went smooth except for transportation issues. First day enrollment was 37,797; 36,822 was projected. As shared with the board in June, part of the increase is due to the expansion of the Digital Schoolhouse to include 200-250 home schooled students. Students are still registering every day. Some minimal FTE was held back for growth and all but .44 has been given out. No additional FTE will be added until

the board gives them authorization. Information regarding hot spots will be presented to the board and they will need to approve. Overcrowded aides will be in the classrooms until then.

Dr. Clark handed out a list of attorney fees and an update to the organization charts, a requested by the board.

The budget book has been handed out, the format is done as a professional document as part of criteria for recognition.

Mr. Yochum provided an update on the history of the Eagle High School parking lot. It appears that during construction of the building and parking lot, additional cost was incurred for the building itself due to unstable ground and high ground water. The parking lot costs were reduced to cover this. The company that provided the work at that time, Boise Paving, is now out of business.

Trustee Madsen asked if information was available to the company that bid the current job or was it discovered after they started?

Mr. Yochum replied he did not know, but could find out.

Dr. Clark stated they probably didn't know because maintenance had to go into back a long ways to find this information.

Mr. Yochum added there are many more regulations in buildings than parking lots, which is why decisions were made in 1995. Trustee Vuittonet shared it is not uncommon to find high water tables in Eagle, sometimes these things are unforeseeable.

Mr. Yochum shared a piece of good news on the Eagle High School parking lot. They won't spend the entire amount in the change order, and Knife River was able to use some of the base for the repairs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Sayles seconded and a roll call of the board was unanimous to reconvene in executive session to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74 Idaho Code, (d); and 74-206 (1) (b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent or public school student.

Dr. Clark and Trish Duncan were excused from executive session and Trustee Madsen was appointed temporary clerk for the purpose of taking minutes.

After a vote in open session, the board entered executive session to evaluate charges against an elected official. All five trustees were present for the Executive Session. The charges were read and discussed by all trustees. No action was agreed upon or taken.

Chairwoman Dean declared the board out of executive session at approximately 10:47pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Joki moved, Trustee Sayles seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk