



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 8, 2015

Date, Place & Time	The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened at 5:39 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 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	Joe Yochum, Eric Exline, Cindy Sisson, Scott Stuart, Michelle Sanders, Denise Shumway, Mandy White, Eian Harm
Guests	Eric Studebaker, Stephen Crumrine, KC Gibson, Doug Kofford, Jenna Hunt-Cowman, Kim Harp, Serene Doland, Jenny Bean, Ryan Wilhite, Tressa McLaughlin, Kelly White, Lynda Robbins, Jennifer Hennager, Aaron Irons, Tanya Koyle, Sarah Holt, Scott Bonar, Khristie Bair, Geoff Stands, Shana Hawkins, Amy Jorgensen, Jason Sever, Ed Donnell, Mary Ollie, Rob Lundgren, Aaron Lyman, Tyler Erickson, Dale Stucker, Nicki Whitt, Troy Rice, Ronda Hanson, Brittany Amos, Mike Graefe, Michelle Watson, Sue Darden, Joni Leipf, Kimber Chrz, Lynn Fehrer, Marty Schraer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dean

Agenda Amended

Trustee Joki made a motion to amend the agenda to change the purpose for the executive session to include Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (a), *to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need.* The revision of the agenda to include this section was done less than forty-eight hours prior to the regular meeting of the board. With the revision to executive session, Dr. Joki asked to have item B-12, invitation to tour district to applicant(s) for superintendent position, moved to the conclusion of executive session and to formally add item B-13, investigation findings pertaining to the October 13, 2015 executive session to the agenda. The motions were seconded by Trustee Sayles.

Chairman Dean called for a vote. The motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously.

Trustee Vuittonet asked to move item A-4, minutes of the October 13, 2015 board meeting to discussion action; and Trustee Madsen asked to move item A-13, agreement for conditions of annexation of the Star Middle School site into the Star Water and Sewer District, to discussion/action.

Consent Agenda

Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee Vuittonet seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the consent agenda as revised. Approved items are as follow:

Payment of bills dated November 1-30, 2015;

P-card payments dated October 1-31, 2015;

Monthly budget report;

Minutes of the:

- October 27, 2015 regular board meeting
- October 29, 2015 special board meeting
- November 9, 2015 special board meeting

Associated Student Body Reports;

Employment Recommendations;

Requests for leave without pay for:

- Tony King, teacher, five (5) days;
- Kelly Loggins, paraprofessional, one (1) day;
- Brian McCormick, paraprofessional, two (2) days;
- Georgeanne Smith, teacher, one (1) day;
- Steven Trickey, paraprofessional, ten (10) days;

Requests for professional leave for:

- Jacqueline Allumbaugh, Laudan Kirk, Ali Shearer, four (4) days, to attend the Digital Promise Grant Coaching Convening in Redwood City, California;
- Jean Dean, three (3) days, to attend the School Nutrition Industry Conference in San Diego, California;
- Devan Delashmutt, Geri Gillespy, Jennifer Marshall, two (2) days, to attend the Kent School District Tech Expo in Kent, Washington;
- Teresa Fritsch, four (4) days; Laura Taylor, three (3) days, to attend the National School Psychologist Association Conference, and PREPaRE Training in New Orleans, Louisiana;
- Missy Nichols, one (1) day, to attend the 2016 National Sports Clinics' National Softball Coaches Clinic in Portland, Oregon;

Non-resident student enrollment requests for the 2015-2016 school year;

Early graduation requests;

Bid awarded to Sonntag Recreation for the purchase of Softfall Engineered Wood Fiber for playgrounds at district elementary sites in the amount of \$172,282.50;

Request from Lori Fairgrieve, Northwest Nazarene University, to conduct a research study titled "the Use of Sandtray in Schools as an Effective Intervention to Reduce Anxiety and Other Mental Health Issues Negatively Impacting Students";

Request from Khristie Bair, Mary McPherson Elementary, to conduct a research study titled "Elementary Teachers' Perspectives: A Qualitative Exploration of the Role of Elementary Teachers on the Hiring Team";

Personnel contracts – interim superintendent.

Discussion/Action

Dual Credit Compensation for Teachers **Cindy Sisson**, curriculum director, shared a short PowerPoint presentation on the concurrent credit program and information regarding the teacher stipend.

Trustees discussed tax implications to the universities/colleges, partnerships that pay only to a school or district, are teachers in favor of changing the practice, what resources are purchased with the stipend and what happens when the teacher changes schools or leaves the district.

Chairman Dean opened the floor to comments.

Eric Studebaker, representing the College of Western Idaho, responded to several points made by Ms. Sisson. They work with over twenty districts in the state and West Ada is the only one that excludes them from providing direct compensation to the teachers. It is their preference to provide direct compensation to teachers who teach concurrent credit courses in partnership with their school. A letter has been provided to the district requesting direct compensation beginning with the next school year. **Trustee Madsen** asked which school districts have a blended system where the teacher can decide whether to take the compensation or use it to build their program. **Mr. Studebaker** replied only the Boise School District has that system. **Trustee Vuittonet** asked if Mr. Studebaker sees a difference in participation between districts that use different processes. **Mr. Studebaker** replied that no matter which way a district operates, there will be concerns on both sides.

Shana Hawkins, Renaissance High School principal, stated her appreciation of the information that was shared. She hoped there would be continued discussion throughout the semester to determine the pros and cons of each preference and that if a decision was made, it start in the fall since some of the allocated funds have already been spent this school year.

Chairman Dean asked if a survey could be sent out to high school teachers to find out how many of those who teach concurrent credit would want to be directly compensated and of those not teaching concurrent credit, how many would be interested if they were directly compensated. She would also like to see a committee of administrators look at the issue over the next few months and bring back a report to help the board with the decision. **Trustee Sayles** stated she was on the fence about the survey; teachers should be trusted to spend the money as intended and would like the discussion to center around giving them that responsibility.

Trustee Joki made a motion to direct staff to offer teachers the option, regardless of the university, to receive compensation for dual credit instruction as income or as a donation back to the program. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles. **Trustee Vuittonet** agreed with the

idea of a survey and felt a decision by the board should wait until that data could be collected. **Dave Roberts** was asked to address the issue of compensation and indicated a teacher couldn't defer the income without it being taxed, however, they could take the income and make a charitable donation to the district. **Trustee Joki** spoke to the compensation becoming a way to increase a teachers pay and that teachers should be able to make a choice on how the income is received. **Chairman Dean** asked Trustee Joki to clarify if his motion should apply to the current school year, and he stated the payment arrangements should happen as soon as possible at whatever pace the universities can work it out. **Chairman Dean** called for the vote, Trustee Joki voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Madsen voted yes, Chairman Dean voted yes, and Trustee Vuittonet voted no. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

Synthetic Turf Task Force
Recommendation Approved

Scott Stuart, district activities director, introduced Jason Sever, a Rocky Mountain parent, who provided a timeline of the installation of turf in the district and an overview of the process followed by the task force. The recommendation of the task force was that all three high school fields be replaced with synthetic turf (Meridian High School, Eagle High School and Rocky Mountain High School) on a timeline appropriate for the district within the need for replacement. Each field would have an estimated life span of approximately ten (10) years. The basis for their recommendation comes from data analyzed in the following areas: usage comparison, maintenance, safety and return on investment.

The issue of the safety of the infill being used was discussed, however, no conclusive evidence was found to support reports of the turf causing cancer. Student injury data since the turf was installed was discussed. **Mr. Stuart** explained the standards for turf are created by the industry but the district has a series of choices about what type of grass blade to use, what infill to use, etc. The replacement of the fields would be on a schedule similar to how the district replaces tracks or refinishes basketball courts. Meridian High School will be done first, followed by Eagle High and then Rocky Mountain High. Administration was asked to look at setting aside revenue to pay for the turf in the future, to look at costs associated with the use of a less dangerous fill material, and to establish a budgetary plan for deferring other projects so the turf projects could be funded. **Trustee Sayles** expressed her concern with selling the idea to taxpayers and stated the information regarding maintenance, savings, safety, usage and cost should be made available to the public. The district should also look at equality among the current high schools and including turf in future high school sites.

Jennifer Heniger, MHS band president, asked the board to consider the other groups that would not be able to use the field if they did not replace the turf.

Trustee Vuittonet made a motion to approve the task force recommendation as presented, the motion was seconded by Trustee Madsen. **Trustee Joki** asked to have the motion amended to state the committee would bring safety information to the board meeting in

January. Trustee Vuittonet and Trustee Sayles accepted the amendment and the motion passed unanimously.

The recessed at 7:05 and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Land Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless for Cell Tower at Eagle High School Held for Public Input at a Future Meeting

Doug Kofford, representing Verizon Wireless, reviewed the process of locating a site and planning and zoning approval to place a cell tower near the football field at Eagle High School. The new site will help manage capacity in that area. In response to Chairman Dean's question about building a separate tower or adding to an existing light standard, Mr. Kofford explained they would be building at ground level behind the football stadium in an area approximately 20x20 which would be fenced. Verizon does co-locate with other carriers, however, the antennae currently in place for Cricket is not sturdy enough to handle Verizon's equipment. Cricket could co-locate on the new Verizon tower and sign an access agreement with the district for that partnership. Due to zoning restrictions, alternative sites would be public properties or commercial sites and this location works from a cell phone distribution standpoint.

Casey Gibson, Verizon engineer, stated there are two different frequencies used, ionizing and non-ionizing. Cell phones transmit in the non-ionizing frequencies, which do not change body cell formation. Although there are many conflicting reports available, the American Cancer Society, Center for Disease Control, FCC all find cell phones to be safe.

Bill Jung, owner of Ohana Wireless, spoke to the process homeowners had gone through to try and stop the construction of a cell tower in the City of Eagle. He suggested the district consider the legal fees that could occur if they turned Verizon down. **Mr. Kofford** clarified the cell tower in Eagle was not owned by Verizon and there was no threat of litigation from their company regarding this site.

Trustee Vuittonet asked the district to look into the possibility of having Cricket move their service onto the same pole as Verizon.

Trustee Joki made a motion to delay the decision until staff can answer the question of Cricket joining the same tower and scheduling a meeting in Eagle with this as a topic. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles and passed unanimously.

Bus Cost Analyst

Alex Simpson presented a comparison of transportation costs between 2013-14 and 2014-15 to examine savings to the district from their contract with Cascade Transportation.

Trustee Joki asked how the depreciation of facilities is included in the report. **Mr. Simpson** replied it is not included in this report but can be found in the fund financials. The district did not sell the building or the buses to Cascade. They lease both and pay utilities on the buildings. **Trustee Joki** asked staff to continue to review for cost and legality of the arrangement with Cascade. **Mr. Yochum** commented the contract had been reviewed by district counsel and the state. **Mr. Simpson** indicated he had also been analyzing cost comparisons on the reimbursement

reports to the State Transportation Department and estimates the district will receive \$8M in reimbursement compared to \$7.9M from the year before. **Trustee Madsen** asked if the comparison includes the cost of staff that was deployed to assist Cascade. **Mr. Yochum** replied the spreadsheet on those costs was almost complete and would be submitted to Cascade for payment.

Bob Learsch, an employee of Cascade Transportation, asked if the comparison included the cost of fuel provided by the district and the cost of the buildings, which were part of a bond, in the comparisons. **Mr. Simpson** replied the comparison covered only transportation expenses, including fuel. **Trustee Joki** commented Cascade had received a sweet deal from the district. It was a mistake to praise the savings when the district has bent over backwards to provide a generous package. **Mr. Simpson**, in response to Chairman Dean's question on the depreciation of buses, replied the district applies depreciation to the books but as the buses age out and are replaced by Cascade, will receive less and less. **Trustee Vuittonet** stated the cost savings were not insignificant and were a good thing for tax payers. **Trustee Sayles** felt the decision had been short sighted because the district allowed Cascade to use our buses and facilities, local businesses have been affected by the purchase of tires, parts and buses from other states, and the state has reported there is a 7% increase in costs with the use of contracted transportation services. **Chairman Dean** asked if the district was receiving payment for the use of the buildings that would cover costs associated with the bond. **Mr. Simpson** replied he does not receive checks from Cascade for lease or rent but they may be netting the cost against the payment. **Chairman Dean** asked him to research and bring the information back to the board.

2016- 2017 Middle and High
School Course Additions and
Deletions Approved

Cindy Sisson, curriculum director, reviewed the timeline for the course description process and discussed the new classes proposed and recommended deletions.

Chairman Dean asked about math courses available for students during their senior year. **Ms. Sisson** spoke to a number of the courses and referred trustees to the complete course description book attached to the agenda. **Trustee Joki** commented on the difficulty of presenting such a large document for first time review and he made a motion to approve the new course proposal and deletions for the next school year. **Trustee Joki** further explained this is not a motion to approve the entire handbook, which he and the board would need more time to review and be able to formulate questions for staff. The motion was seconded by **Trustee Sayles**. **Chairman Dean** asked, if the handbook was reviewed again in January, would there be time to get it ready for the schools. **Alta Graham** stated it would put a burden on the secretaries and registrars to prepare the handbooks for each building, and pushing into spring presents issues for the counselors as they prepare for district testing. **Trustee Joki**, reiterated the board needs an opportunity to formulate questions and present them to staff. **Trustee Vuittonet** wondered if they could look at the handbook in a work session. **Trustee Madsen** asked if previous boards had approved the handbook after such a short

period of review. **Ms. Sisson** replied only the deletions and additions are brought to the board each year, other courses have already been approved. **Trustee Joki** asked for time to formulate the questions he would like answered regarding the entire handbook. The board could email questions so staff could be prepared.

Chairman Dean called for the vote. Trustee Joki voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Madsen voted yes, Chairman Dean voted yes and Trustee Vuittonet voted no. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote.

Elementary Secondary
Education Act Update

Denise Shumway provided an update on the reauthorization of ESEA. The act was last updated in 2002 as "No Child Left Behind". Under that title, a lot of the authority moved from the states to the federal government. In the new act, a lot of the authority will move back to the states and in some cases to the district level in the 2017-18 school year. Testing requirements will change and the new federal mandate will be one test each year in reading and math for grades 3-8 and once in high school.

Podcast Update

Eric Exline explained he and Mr. Stephens had created a section on the district web site to store recordings of all board meetings. The recordings will be available on the web site for a year and then will be archived at the District Service Center.

New Policy Code No. 100.1,
Impact of Residential
Growth on School District
Operations Approved

Mr. Exline continued with a review of revisions to Policy Code No. 100.1. Trustee Joki made a motion to approve the policy, the motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles. The motion passed unanimously.

Revised Policy Code No. 704,
Safety Program Approved

Colene Letterle, district nursing coordinator, reviewed revisions to Policy Code No. 704. **Trustee Joki** asked if there would be someone from first responders included on the list of members. **Ms. Letterle** replied that piece was handled under the crisis committee. **Trustee Madsen** clarified this was more of school safety program rather than a district safety program and suggested the name change to reflect that distinction. **Trustee Sayles** made a motion to approve Policy Code No. 704 with a change in the title to read "School Safety Program." The motion was seconded by Trustee Madsen and passed unanimously.

Revised Policy Code No.
806.10, Idaho Public
Records Law Approved

Eric Exline reviewed the proposed changes to Policy Code No. 806.10 to reflect changes to state code.

Mary Ollie, patron, stated she has done record requests in the past and asked the board to take time to review how the requests are handled. She asked for clarity, especially when the record request is not fulfilled and why that happens.

Chairman Dean replied this was an opportunity to draft some policy on procedure. **Trustee Madsen** expressed her concerns there was a policy of destroying records every ninety days, and the program allowed the user to delete emails individually. Counsel and staff have been asked to create standards to allow tax payers access and compliance with the spirit of the law. **Trustee Sayles** made a motion to accept revisions to Policy Code No. 806.10. **Trustee Joki** seconded with a proposed

amendment to include the title of the statute. The amendment was accepted by Trustee Sayles and the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel

Interim Superintendent Joe Yochum recommended the placement of Khristie Bair as the principal of Hillsdale Elementary and Bret Heller as the principal of Victory Middle School. Trustee Vuittonet made a motion to accept the recommendation of staff as presented. Trustee Joki seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Investigative Findings Pertaining to the October 13, 2015 Executive Session

Breck Seiniger, district counsel, reviewed allegations by Trustee Vuittonet of a violation of the Idaho Open Meeting law that occurred during an executive session of the board on October 13, 2015. The investigation was undertaken by Elaine Eberharther-Maki, who conveyed the conclusions of the investigation, stated there was no violation of the open meeting law during executive session on October 13, 2015. **Trustee Vuittonet** commented on his disagreement with the conclusion, and belief the noticing of executive session needs to be more specific to the topics to be discussed. **Chairman Dean** thanked Ms. Eberharther-Maki and stated the meeting was noticed properly. Mr. Seiniger, provided more background regarding the open meeting law.

Trustee Vuittonet again stated his belief that choosing any topic or employee and adlibbing or adding a particular situation was a violation.

Trustee Madsen asked if additional training could be provided to the trustees since Trustee Vuittonet was unable to attend a previous training. **Ms. Eberharther-Maki** replied the legislature had provided funds to schools districts to use for governance training and either she or another group could arrange for that to happen.

Trustee Joki made a motion to approve the October 13, 2015 regular board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles. Trustee Joki voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Madsen voted yes, Chairman Dean voted yes and Trustee Vuittonet voted no. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote.

Agreement for conditions of annexation of the West Ada School District middle school site (Star Middle School) into the Star Sewer and Water District Tabled

Trustee Madsen asked to confirm the costs associated with the annexation were included in the budget. Mr. Yochum, replied he would look into the costs and bring information back to the board. **Chairman Dean** asked with the possibility with the addition of a road, do they have time to wait to make sure there are no additional costs. **Mr. Yochum** replied it could be delayed until the next board meeting as they are waiting for Star Water and Sewer to hold a public hearing in mid-January. **Trustee Joki** made a motion to table the further discussion on the agreement until the January meeting, the motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles, the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Trustee Sayles made a motion to move into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberation about staffing needs in general. The motion was

seconded by Trustee Madsen. **Chairman Dean** called the roll, Trustee Joki voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Madsen voted yes, Trustee Vuittonet voted yes and Chairman Dean voted yes. The board moved into executive session at 9:25 p.m.

Trustees in attendance: Chairman Tina Dean, Dr. Russell Joki, Dr. Julie Madsen, Carol Sayles, and Mike Vuittonet.

Discussions were held pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206 (1) (a) regarding the applications received from individuals interested in the superintendent position.

The board adjourned from executive session at 10:15 p.m. and reconvened in regular session.

Chairman

Temporary Clerk

Invitation to Tour District
to Applicant for
Superintendent Position
Approved

Trustee Sayles made a motion to invite Mary Ann Ranells to tour the district depending on her availability the following week. Costs associated with travel expenses will be covered by the district. The motion was seconded by Trustee Madsen. **Trustee Joki** stated they would still be accepting applications and should they find another candidate with equal qualifications, they would be invited to tour the district. **Chairman Dean** called for the vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Madsen moved, Trustee Sayles seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk