



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES **February 9, 2016**

Date, Place & Time	The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened at 5:36 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 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. Mary Ann Ranells, Joe Yochum, Dr. Mandy White, Dave Roberts, Trish Duncan, Troy Stephens, Eric Exline, Cheri Newbold
Guests	Bret Heller, Khristie Bair, Laura Rutter, Marcia Burton, Cassie Shelton, Justin Perez, Katherine Carney, Rachel Simpson, Shelly Hiner, Sue Darden, Tanner Stimpson, Abby Stimpson, Stacey Hill-Perez, Lori Mundy, Jennifer Hale, Camille Cooper, Brittany Amos, Craig Randall, Shannon Halpin, Tamara Price, Jodi Pill, Jake Naylor, Rob Lundgren, Mary Ollie, Nichole Wilkinson, Jake Price, Suzette Ginther, Lesa Awes, Karen Duff, David Gardner, Fernando Castro, Mark Fitzgarrald, Lesa Awes, Andrea Berry, Don Hallege, Jason Howell, Steven Yearsley, Stephanie Little, Christy Smith, Wendell Welch, William Jung, Craig Randall, Doni Davis, Stacy Martinez, Laura Pearce, Jason Woodward, Shannon Flatter, Heather Meck, Kelsey Bonewell, Cassandra Campbell, Edith Ortega, Melissa Cans, Richard Little, Rachel Moorhouse, Elaine Eberharther-Maki, Jeanette Ockerman

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE	Chairman Dean
Amended Agenda Approved	Trustee Joki made a motion to move item #7 (non-resident student enrollment requests for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school year) to discussion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles and the motion passed unanimously.
Consent Agenda Approved	Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee Vuittonet seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the consent agenda as amended. Approved items are as follow: Payment of bills dated January 1-30, 2016; P-card payments dated December 1-31, 2016; Monthly budget report; Associated student body reports;

Consent Agenda – cont.

Employment recommendations;

Requests for leave without pay for:

- Trudi Clark-Cochrane, teacher, one-half (.5) day;
- Erika Griffin, teacher, thirty-one (31) days;
- Jenny Hanson, paraprofessional, one (1) day;
- Patricia Katucki, teacher, three (3) days;
- Samuel Parry, teacher, three (3) days;
- Steven Trickey, paraprofessional, nine (9) days;

Requests for professional/activity leave for:

- Daniel Herdigan, off contract, to attend the Cowin Financial Literacy Summer Institute Conference in New York City, New York;
- Dan Howell and Aaron Maybon, four (4) days, to attend the International DECA Competition in Nashville, Tennessee;
- Ramona Lee, four (4) days, to attend the National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities in New Orleans, Louisiana;
- Julie Hill, five (5) days; Jeanne Paseman, four (4) days, to attend the National Business Professionals Competition in Boston, Massachusetts;
- Eric Taylor, four (4) days, to visit the University of Nevada Athletic Training Education Program and University School of Medicine in Reno, Nevada;
- Jessica Waldbillig, one (1) day, to attend the American Sign Language Winter Workshop in Logan, Utah;

Resolution to change the start time of the remaining board meetings of the 2015-2016 school year to 6:00 p.m.;

Recommendation to approve student tours, excursions and overnight trip requests;

Recommendation to approve early graduation requests;

Special services contractual agreements for the 2015-2016 school year;

Recommendation to request the Meridian Education Association provide written documentation they represent a majority of certificated employees;

Recommendation to approve a Warranty Deed between West Ada School District and the Ada County Highway District at the Star Middle School site;

Recommendation to approve a water main easement with the City of Meridian at Mary McPherson Elementary.

DISCUSSION

Overview of Boundary Committee Recommendation

Jeanette Ockerman, presented an overview of the boundary committee's recommendation for realignment of attendance areas.

In response to a question from Trustee Vuittonet regarding a change to the attendance areas for River Valley Elementary, Mr. Exline explained the committee had decided to leave the boundary as it was due to the disconnect of the northern boundary and that most students live on the west side of Eagle Road. A small group that live across Eagle Road were slated to go to Ustick Elementary but will now stay in River Valley. The board would have the option to move the students living on the east side of Eagle Road if they see a need to move additional students.

Trustee Joki asked why middle school students are not grandfathered in their proposal. Mr. Exline explained it had never been done in the past and another issue would be the volume of students at Lake Hazel Middle the committee was trying to reduce.

Chairman Dean and Mr. Exline discussed the middle school students in a two mile block bordered on the north by Ustick, to the east by Eagle Road, on the south by Franklin Road and to the west by Locust Grove Road, (referred to as area 19 & 119) who will be shifted from Lewis & Clark Middle (LCMS) to Meridian Middle (MMS). Chairman Dean stated concerns about moving students from one overcrowded school to another and asked if they had received feedback from parents. Mr. Exline explained the committee had worked to correct the split at LCMS to three separate high schools with the proposed move and the community had expressed interest in correcting that situation. Some families have suggested moving those areas to Centennial High School, but that would have caused a domino effect as the committee worked to balance enrollment.

Trustee Sayles stated parents in the Crossroads Subdivision east of Eagle Road did not support the proposal to move their students from River Valley to Ustick. Mr. Exline replied the committee had decided to remove that area from the proposal.

Trustee Vuittonet asked what would happen if they moved the middle school students in areas 19 and 119 back to LCMS and onto Centennial for high school. Mr. Exline explained it would cause additional adjustments to each boundary and the committee would have to redraw their plan.

Chairman Dean asked about future growth in the Meridian High School attendance area. Mr. Exline explained the growth in the north has already begun with houses selling as fast as they are built. Chairman Dean commented on the size of the Meridian High School footprint, and stated it could create a long commute for students. She didn't want to see that boundary changed if most of the growth is going to occur on the south side of the freeway. Mr. Exline replied the city sewer is already in the northern development areas, but is just now going down Ten Mile south of the freeway, which has slowed growth in that area. Chairman Dean asked if Meridian High can accommodate all of the 9th graders that have the option to move there in the fall if they accept the high school

proposal tonight. Mr. Exline replied they could accommodate the students, by fall they will be completing the last third of the project. If busing was provided, the numbers could increase since the 9th graders who live south of the freeway would need transportation since they do not drive yet.

Trustee Madsen asked if the cohort numbers had been based on current actual enrollment or included growth projections. Mr. Exline explained they were based on currently enrolled students. Trustee Madsen felt it was difficult for her to interpret or validate the numbers and this way of estimating was somewhat nonsensical since enrollment could explode anywhere in the district at any time. Trustee Madsen asked how Mr. Exline would answer the question of grandfathering 8th graders to future high schools. Mr. Exline replied if that were to happen, they would have the same numbers of students at the overenrolled schools as they do now.

Trustee Vuittonet asked why the Eagle area had been left out of the process. Mr. Exline replied they would need to form a new committee in the fall of 2016 or the following year to address the attendance area for the opening of Star Middle School. They will have an opportunity to relieve overcrowding at Eagle Middle and Heritage Middle Schools at that time.

Dr. Ranells thanked those in attendance and spoke to the current ten year facilities plan. To help project for the future, the committee, which includes patron volunteers, will be reconvened and will take the next several months to make sure the plan is accurate.

Chairman Dean reviewed the order for public comment stating they would hear comments on the elementary proposal first, followed by the middle and high school proposals. Students were invited to speak first, then representatives for groups commenting on the same issue. The floor was opened to public comment.

Elementary proposal:

Kelsey Bonewell, a parent of two River Valley students, spoke to an earlier proposal to move the Crossroads Subdivision from River Valley to Ustick Elementary. Citing their proximity to River Valley, lower test scores at Ustick and increasing the population of an already struggling school, she asked the board to allow their subdivision to stay in River Valley. Mr. Exline confirmed the committee had already revised the proposal to keep this subdivision in the attendance area for River Valley.

Richard Little stated the Hillsdale Elementary location was illogical, the district had been in cahoots with the YMCA and there was a better location to build the school. He felt the committee should have more information and proposed the board hold off on its decision until they could look at future growth and where the school sites are.

Mark Fitzgerald, representing the Green Valley neighborhood, supported the proposal with reservations. He felt the committee had done an incredible job, but had concerns about the future, stating they would be back to this every three to five years. No system will eliminate

stress or turmoil, the district needs to look at development and plan to deal with growth so the community is not split apart.

Middle School proposal:

A 7th grade student from Lewis & Clark Middle, who resides in area 172, shared his dreams of running for student council for 8th grade. If this area is moved to Meridian Middle, he feels he will not be given a fair opportunity to excel in fulfilling the dreams and aspirations he has been working so hard to achieve.

Heather Meck, representing the area bordered by Cloverdale, Amity and Eagle Road (32) thought the committee had done an excellent job. She voiced her frustration with the Star Middle School site in the north eastern corner of the district when they can see the need for a high school south of the freeway. As a voter in the district, Ms. Meck stated she would be more willing to approve bonds in the future if common sense is used to make decisions. They need a long term plan to assure stability for parents. This proposal is a temporary fix that will have to be done again in a couple of years.

Shelly Hiner, representing area 119, advocated for her children to go to Centennial High School. She felt sending the students from this area would cause overcrowding at Meridian Middle and they would have a better shot at a permanent fix with a long term plan. Mr. Exline explained those students would remain at Lewis & Clark but would be slated to attend Meridian High. Allowing them to attend Centennial High School would cause the committee to draw more students from south of the freeway to keep the enrollment numbers balanced between the schools.

Brian F., representing area 69 (bordered to the north by the freeway, west near Meridian Road, south near Victory Road and east by Locust Grove Road), attended a boundary meeting where this area was slated to attend Victory Middle School, now the proposal says they will be attending Lewis & Clark Middle. Mr. Exline explained the committee had responded to public input regarding the schools this area would be attending. It would be possible to include this area and the area directly east in Victory Middle's attendance area if the board desired.

Carol, a parent from Eagle Middle, spoke to the three way split that currently exists at Andrus Elementary and hoped this would be considered in an attendance area committee's work in the future.

The board took a recess at 7:13 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

High School proposal:

Justin Preze, representing area 115 (bordered by Overland Road on the north, Cloverdale Road on the west, Victory Road on the south and the district boundary on the east), felt the committee was close to a proposal that would best meet the needs of everyone. Citing a number of safety issues with the roads students would be driving each day, Mr. Preze

suggested the board have another meeting to look at the proposal again and move Tuscany Village to Meridian High School.

Cassie Shelton, a teacher at Mountain View High School, spoke to the students from area 115 who currently attend MVHS and have been able to use a walking path to reach the school. She felt moving this area to Centennial High School would disrupt the sense of community and felt the suggestions to move another area into Centennial would be a better solution.

Stacy Martinez, representing area 115, stated she had developed a proposal that was sent to the committee but was never addressed. Her proposal would address serious safety concerns with students driving on Cloverdale Road and addressed future "bumping" of students when a new high school is built.

Karen Duff, representing an area slated to attend Rocky Mountain High School, encouraged the board to accept the proposal. This has to happen to relieve overcrowding and give students a voice in their school.

Craig Randall, representing area 172, suggested the best proposal would be to send students from River Valley to Lewis & Clark Middle and then onto Centennial High School. This will eliminate the problem going forward as attendance in the Centennial area continues to decline.

Rachel Moorhouse, representing area 81 (bordered by Lake Hazel Road on the north, Cloverdale Road to the west, the district boundary to the south, and Five Mile Road on the east) expressed her concern the maps had not been changed since the first meeting. She felt there was a problem with the purpose of the committee and the process to balance enrollment and reduce overcrowding. A solution to the proposal was emailed to each trustee, it was fair and made sense, which was the goal.

Bobbie M., who lives in Bear Creek, spoke about the number of plats in subdivisions and apartment buildings in this area and asked the board to pause until they know about growth and there is a long term plan in place.

Trustee Madsen asked Mr. Exline if he could give them a broader picture of how the numbers in this area were calculated. Mr. Exline replied the numbers were pulled in September when the process began, but there has been significant expansion since then. It is difficult to calculate how long it will take for the developments in this area to build out.

Lisa Haws, Pepper Ridge area, discussed whether the occupancy of the portables at Mountain View High had been included in enrollment numbers and if that created 500 seats, why they were being asked to move to Meridian High School and travel across the freeway on dangerous roads.

Stephanie Little, was a member of the attendance area committee until she resigned because she did not have the information she needed to make a decision which would affect home values and the stability of their lives. She felt a long term plan is a priority and would keep the district

from making costly mistakes. Mrs. Little expressed her appreciation for the work the committee had done and asked the board not to give up on children and make a decision that would make sense to them.

Steven Yearsley expressed he was in favor of the proposal. The board does not need to push the decision down the road, schools are overcrowded, traffic is bad, hallways are overcrowded and something needs to change. The district has spent \$30M on Meridian High School and they need to utilize the school.

Camille Cooper, representing area 91 (bordered by Ustick Road to the north, near McDermott Road to the west, Cherry Lane to the south and Black Cat Road to the east), suggested to alleviate overcrowding at Rocky Mountain High School they should move more students from Sawtooth and Heritage. In the area where she lives, there will be a small percentage of students moved to Meridian High School leaving behind friends and she would like the board to consider letting them continue their path to Rocky Mountain High School.

Laura Pierce, who resides in the Mountain View attendance area, stated there is no right answer, there is overcrowding and no one wants to change or have the decision affect them. Parents need to promote the positive sides of the proposal and she encouraged the board to approve the changes.

Tammy Price asked the board to hold onto the proposal to allow juniors to stay at their high schools, stating this was a huge year academically and they need to stay where they are comfortable. The board needs to have a long term vision stating which grade levels are grandfathered to stay at their school so a decision doesn't have to be made each time they shift the boundaries.

Chairman Dean asked Mr. Exline for clarification on where this year's sophomores will attend. Mr. Exline explained the idea behind their proposal was to have every student finishing in the high school where they started.

Jake Price, representing area 36 near the intersection of Eagle and Franklin Road, suggested their area stay at Mountain View. Students use the walking path that connects with Locust Grove and sending them to Centennial disrupts their community and causes social anxiety. Their second preference would be to attend Meridian High School.

Judy McKay, representing area 117, off Meridian/Kuna highway between Overland and Victory Road, has a daughter who will attend high school next fall and asked what percent of students will move with her to Meridian High School. She questioned how often families are asked to show proof of residence and whether there could be families attending Mountain View that shouldn't be going there.

Stacia Morgan, representing an area within Mountain View's boundaries, expressed concern that the footprint of Meridian High School would go from Locust Grove to Can-Ada Road and there would be no sense of community. She is satisfied with the boundaries for her area

but feels the district needs to come up with a long term solution to the problem.

Janelle H., representing area 269 in the Mountain View attendance area, came to support the plan, which gives everyone an equal learning opportunity. There needs to be a new high school south of the freeway and she felt that many people would support a bond to build the school.

Elizabeth Stewart, had attended the committee meetings and felt like the committee hasn't had their back. It doesn't matter if they speak, this has been a frustrating process and although she appreciates the committees work, she feels voiceless.

Natalie Christensen, representing area 172 which will attend Meridian High School, explained that her kids did not feel like they were wanted at Meridian High. They do not feel like they are part of the community at the school and she suggested their attendance area flow from Lewis & Clark Middle to Centennial High School.

Dave Garner stated he had attended the first public meeting at Mountain View where lots of concerns were voiced. He felt the committee listened and issues were resolved. Changing the proposal would bring other groups forward and the committee would be answering the same questions again. He suggested the board get this done as is and thanked the committee for their work.

Jason Woodward, a member of the committee, stated the committee did not have a consensus on their decision, which is a problem. He advocated for a new school south of the freeway and thanked the committee members, their spouses and Eric for conducting the meetings. This is not a perfect plan and he felt bad for areas 172 and 4 because they were underrepresented on the committee. He asked the board give them a new high school by passing a bond, reconvening the committee and doing these changes all at once.

Nicole Wilkinson, volunteered to be on the committee but was not chosen. She would like to see a five or ten year plan developed and students moved from the north to fill Meridian High instead of south of the freeway. The proposal does not balance enrollment and she felt those who supported the proposal thought there would be a new high school on the south side of the freeway.

Christie Smith stated her children are attending Meridian Middle and Meridian High School by choice and would like to see her area included in their attendance area. Parents who suggest their students wouldn't get the same education at Centennial or Meridian High are wrong, these schools are exceptional.

Eric Richardson, representing area 13 in the southwest corner of the district, toured Meridian High School and was impressed with the changes being made. He is not opposed to the change but is concerned about having students at two different schools.

Jeff A., representing area 36 near the corner of Eagle and Franklin Road, stated it would make more sense for them to stay in Mountain View. The

move would disrupt their sense of community and his daughter would not attend the same school with her friends. He asked what would be accomplished by the move and putting students in peril on the roads and inconveniencing the parents.

The board recessed at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

ACTION

Elementary School Attendance Area Recommendation

Trustee Joki made a motion to approve the boundary committee's recommendation to realign elementary school attendance areas. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vuittonet and passed unanimously.

Middle School Attendance Area Recommendation

Trustee Joki made a motion to approve the boundary committee's recommendation to realign middle school attendance areas with an amendment that would allow next year's 8th graders to continue at their current school. The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Vuittonet made a motion to approve the boundary committee's recommendation to realign middle school attendance areas as presented. The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Madsen spoke about conversations she had with patrons regarding the committee process appearing less than transparent. She suggested the next committee use a process similar to the one used for the superintendent search so that families wouldn't have to attend several meetings to understand what changes were being discussed.

Trustees discussed several modifications to the plan and the impact on both the middle and high school enrollment numbers. The issue of "bouncing" students when Star Middle School's attendance area is established was reviewed as well as the optimal use of classroom space in the eastern side of the district.

Trustee Sayles made a motion to accept the middle school proposal with the exception of a two mile block bordered on the north by Ustick, to the east by Eagle Road, on the south by Franklin Road and to the west by Locust Grove Road, (referred to as area 19 & 119). The motion was seconded by Trustee Joki. Chairman Dean called for the vote and the motion was approved on a four to one (4-1) vote with Trustee Vuittonet casting the opposing vote.

High School Attendance Area Recommendation

Trustee Sayles stated that since the board had approved the middle school attendance areas with the inclusion of area 19 & 119, she felt the board should include those same areas in the attendance area for Centennial High School rather than Meridian High School. In addition, she believed it would be in the best interest of students south of the freeway to have sections 24, 38, and 115 remain at Mountain View High School in anticipation of the construction of a new high school in that area.

Trustee Vuittonet believed the board could make assumptions about how the north and south are going to grow, but in reality, they just don't

know. He didn't feel the board could come up with a better plan than the committee had spent so many hours working on.

Chairman Dean asked Trustee Vuittonet to review the reasons why a previous board had not addressed the issue of attendance areas and setting a bond for a new high school. Trustee Vuittonet replied they were uncertain of where growth would occur around the Ten Mile interchange and when the bond failed, the committee removed the purchase of land before it was run again. Safety was also an issue considered at that time.

Trustee Madsen stated her belief that the numbers being used to identify students are an estimate. The board needs to look at preserving family and community relationships.

Trustee Joki commented there was a group of six or seven parents that had contacted the board and they have a proposal that has not received consideration. He asked if the proposal could be brought back to the February 23rd board meeting, which would give this group and the committee time to discuss the alternate plan.

Trustee Vuittonet asked to delay the decision for a couple of days so the committee would have time to evaluate how keeping some areas south of the freeway at Mountain View would affect the plan.

Dr. Ranells stated her appreciation of the caution and desire to vet the possibilities, but the schools are against the wall in terms of registration and she asked the board to consider the committee's recommendation.

Trustee Madsen stated she was not in favor of the two day delay, the board needs to take action to improve the plan or make a decision about the one presented.

Trustee Sayles made a motion to accept the high school attendance areas with the exception of area 172 and 4 going to Centennial High School and areas 24, 38 and 115 staying in the Mountain View High School attendance areas. The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Vuittonet asked what affect there would be to enrollment numbers if those areas were moved. Mr. Exline was unable to provide exact numbers but expressed his concern with grandfathering juniors and seniors and what the move might cause.

Trustee Joki made a motion to table the high school boundary proposals and have the committee come back with a revised proposal at the February 23rd meeting or whenever it was convenient for the board. The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Vuittonet commented on the domino effects that would occur if more students stay at Mountain View. The quality of education would be affected and they would not be taking into consideration the work of the committee. He continued by making a motion to approve the boundaries as recommended by the committee to alleviate Mountain View overcrowding. The motion was seconded by Trustee Madsen.

Trustee Sayles didn't believe the few children that would remain at Mountain View would impact a school that is already so large and sending some students to Centennial would keep the community they so desperately want to keep.

Trustee Joki felt there were improvements that could be made to the proposal, so the committee should get together, have a discussion, and come back with a new proposal.

Trustee Vuittonet reminded the board of a comment made by a patron that changing the recommendations at this point could bring three or four hundred other patrons to a meeting since they would not have had an opportunity to hear the new proposals that could affect their families.

Trustee Joki stated they have heard two sets of opinions in the room and asked what the problem would be to sort this out. He urged the board to give the gift of time so the two groups could work through their disagreements and talk about the proposal.

Chairman Dean called for a vote on the motion on the table. Trustee Madsen voted no, Trustee Joki voted no, Trustee Sayles voted no, Chairman Dean voted no and Trustee Vuittonet voted yes. The motion failed on a four to one vote.

Trustee Joki made a motion to ask the committee and members of the parent group to sort out the other alternative and return to the board as soon as possible. The board would respond with a special meeting as soon as they hear there is a recommendation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles.

Trustee Vuittonet asked if the committee was willing to make small tweaks and come back to a special meeting on Thursday. That would be the only way he would want to move forward and meet the administrations timeline.

Following a brief recess, the committee spoke with trustees in depth about the proposal, walk zones, safety issues on Cloverdale and crossing the freeway.

Trustee Madsen suggested an option where the board and administration would accept the work of the committee, spend a week reviewing to see if there are some small changes that could be made following a meeting with patrons who feel their needs have not been addressed.

Chairman Dean called for a vote on Trustee Joki's motion. Trustee Sayles voted no, Trustee Madsen voted no, Trustee Vuittonet vote no, Chairman Dean voted no and Trustee Joki voted yes. The motion failed with a 1-4 vote.

Trustee Madsen made a motion the board accept the work of the committee to date, the board and administration would evaluate the

small concerns that remain to determine if they feel there is a more palatable solution or accept the proposal as it stands.

Trustee Vuittonet stated small tweaks will not solve the disagreement.

The committee stated they assumed they were the board's eyes and ears on the ground. The purpose of the committee was to meet with a variety of people and individual communities and to have the board say they need to review is very disheartening. There is no crystal ball to tell them what the perfect plan would be, they worked with the information they had and came up with this recommendation.

Trustee Sayles made a motion to accept the recommendation as it stands. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vuittonet and the motion passed unanimously.

The committee was thanked for their hard work and Trustee Vuittonet stated his confidence in what they had done.

Non-resident Student
Enrollment for the 2015-16
School Year Approved; Non-
resident Student
Enrollment for the 2016-17
School Year Tabled

Trustee Joki made a motion to accept the non-resident student enrollment requests for the current year and to table for future discussion the requests for the 2016-17 school year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Madsen. Trustee Vuittonet asked for clarification on why they wouldn't approve next year's requests. Trustee Joki replied he was concerned with growth and was asking administration to give more information on whether the board should consider requests for the next school year. Chairman Dean called for the vote and the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Madsen seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk