



# West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2016

Date, Place & Time	A special meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened at 6:01 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016 at the District Service Center, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian, Idaho.
Trustees in Attendance	Chairman Tina Dean, Dr. Russell Joki, Carol Sayles, Mike Vuittonet (by phone) and Dr. Julie Madsen (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Staff in Attendance	Dr. Mary Ann Ranells, Joe Yochum, Eric Exline, Troy Stephens, Cheri Newbold, Trish Duncan
Guests	Elaine Eberharter-Maki

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE** Chairman Dean explained the meeting was necessary to be in alignment with Idaho State Statute 34-1707 regarding the trustee recall. The first action item is a recommendation to approve or deny the extension of the superintendent's contract. The board would be unable to move into executive to discuss this item if there are less than four trustees present. Chairman Dean thanked Trish Duncan for the outstanding job serving as Clerk of the Board, and welcomed Cheri Newbold as the new clerk.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** **Trustee Sayles** made a motion to move into executive session to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, individual agent or public school student. **Trustee Joki** seconded the motion and Chairman Dean took a roll call vote of the board at 6:08 p.m. to move into executive session. Trustee Joki voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Madsen voted yes, Trustee Vuittonet voted yes and Chairman Dean voted yes.

In attendance: Chairman Tina Dean, Dr. Russell Joki, Carol Sayles, Mike Vuittonet (by phone). Dr. Julie Madsen joined executive session at 6:15 p.m.

An evaluation of the superintendent was conducted pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b)

At the conclusion of executive session, the board reconvened in regular session at 6:43 p.m.

**Action** **Trustee Sayles** made a motion to offer Dr. Mary Ann Ranells a limited one year contract July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. **Trustee Joki seconded** the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Chairman Dean expressed her pleasure with the organizational chart provided by Dr. Ranells that prioritizes students at the top and the superintendent and board at the bottom of the chart.

## **Discussion**

### Response to Recall Certification

Elaine Eberharter-Maki, district counsel-reviewed code requirements regarding the recall and explained her analysis in regard to individual choices.

Trustee Sayles asked if the statute spoke to what the qualifications are for an applicant. Ms. Eberharter-Maki replied they must meet the same qualifications as each trustee did.

Trustee Vuittonet asked if the statute was silent on whether the board would need to certify a special election for each trustee being recalled individually or if the certification could be done for all at one time. Ms. Eberharter-Maki replied they could do it either way. Trustee Vuittonet reiterated there is no timeline to order the special election and Ms. Eberharter-Maki agreed but the information needs to be sent to the county 45 days prior to the May election date.

Trustee Joki stated that if the appointment of a new trustee isn't done during the next regular meeting scheduled for February 23, 2016, then the new-trustee could not take the oath of office until the regular meeting on March 15, 2016. There is a need to schedule a special meeting prior to February 23<sup>rd</sup> to interview candidates. Ms. Eberharter-Maki replied the board would need to declare a vacancy first. Trustee Joki understood the West Ada web site included a statement-of interest and several people have expressed interest if a vacancy should happen.

Chairman Dean replied applications have been received but it is not known for what Zones. She asked the board to consider scheduling a special meeting to review the process if we have a resignation.

Trustee Vuittonet stated concern about the process and the posting being up for only one day.

Chairman Dean indicated there has not been a resignation so, no more questions or comments would be taken. As chairman of the board, she had received a letter from Phil McGrane regarding the certification to recall four trustee zones and had responded to him about the letter. Trustee Madsen indicated she had received her recall notification and as today is the fifth day, offered her letter of resignation effective immediately. In making her decision, Trustee Madsen took into consideration what is best for kids, noting that a long recall would put attention on the adults instead of educators and what happens in the classroom. The community needs to come together to support the district and children.

Chairman Dean asked Trustee Vuittonet continue with comments regarding local community involvement in the interview process of a new trustee and the time line. Patrons need time, and notice to consider if they want to apply for Zone 4.

Trustee Vuittonet stated his concern with rushing the process and not allowing time for interested patrons to submit an application, and asked what would happen if there were twenty applicants for Trustee Madsen's seat?

Chairman Dean commented she was committed to take the time and do whatever it takes.

Trustee Sayles stated the fifth day to respond to her letter is Monday, February 22, 2106. She did not want to leave the board without a quorum or the ability to go into executive session, and felt it was paramount for the District to be able to do business as usual. Since the media has been on top of the recall, the public is aware of the possibility of a vacancy in one of the zones. It would be better to start the process as soon as possible.

Elaine Eberharter-Maki offered the timeframe allowed for a Monday Special Meeting would be to post 24 hours, she urged the board not to consider weekend but workdays within the 24 hours of a posted Special Meeting.

Trustee Vuittonet stated his opposition to the time frame, repeating that interested patrons need more time and notice if they are considering the empty seat in Zone 4 and he will be out of town on Monday evening.

Chairman Dean agreed with Trustee Vuittonet but expressed concern about the difference in dates each trustee received their notification of recall and how their ability to do business could be affected by the time frame required to make a decision.

Elaine Eberharter-Maki addressed the individual dates the trustees received the recall notification. The trustees can resign without a meeting. The trustee has 5 business days to accept or resign on the day the recall notification is offered.

Trustee Sayles understand Trustee Vuittonet's concern but thought it was imperative to have a special meeting on Monday.

Trustee Vuittonet expressed his concern about the process moving too fast just to appoint someone. It isn't wise or fair to the patrons of the district. Interviewing over the phone is hard, and this is too big of a decision to move this fast.

Chairman Dean responded there is a short timeframe to respond to the notification letter, and all trustees should have the opportunity to

comment to the public and media about the recall notification and their decision.

Trustee Joki stated the fifth day for him to respond to the notification of recall letter will be Monday February 22, 2016. If there is a meeting on Monday, it doesn't mean we would appoint anyone. He and Trustee Sayles could make public the response we have to the recall notification letter. Additional special meeting are appropriate to maintain the ongoing operation of the District. **Trustee Joki** made a motion to call a special meeting on February 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. **Trustee Sayles** seconded the motion. Ms. Eberharter-Maki advised the board to first amend the agenda and add as an action item. **Trustee Joki** withdrew his motion and **Trustee Sayles** withdrew her second. **Trustee Joki** made a motion to amend the February 19, 2016 agenda to include an action item to schedule a special meeting due to the resignation of Trustee Madsen earlier in the meeting. **Trustee Sayles** seconded the motion and the vote was three to one in favor with **Trustee Vuittonet** casting the opposing vote. Trustee Vuittonet asked for verification that Dr. Madsen was no longer voting on motions.

Chairman Dean confirmed Dr. Madsen had not voted since she announced her resignation.

Ms. Eberharter-Maki reminded the board they would need to amend the agenda and declare a vacancy in Zone 4.

**Trustee Joki** made a motion to amend the agenda to add the acceptance of a resignation in Zone 4 under action items. **Trustee Joki** withdrew his motion.

**Trustee Joki** made a motion to amend the agenda to include action items to accept the resignation of Trustee Madsen and to declare a vacancy in according to Idaho Code and board policy. **Trustee Sayles** seconded the motion.

Trustee Sayles asked when they would have to appoint a Co-Chair.

Ms. Eberharter-Maki replied the board would need to fill the position in the near future.

Chairman Dean called vote a vote and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

**Trustee Sayles** made a motion to accept the resignation of Trustee Madsen. The motion was seconded by **Trustee Vuittonet**. The motion was then amended to accept the resignation of Trustee Madsen and declare a vacancy in Zone 4. The second was confirmed for the amended motion.

Trustee Joki stated the Board of Trustees and District will be losing a valued trustee who brought to this board an intellectual insight and

commended Dr. Madsen for her commitment and service to the children of this school district.

Chairman Dean concurred with Trustee Joki's statement.

Chairman Dean called for the vote and the motion passed three to one with **Trustee Joki** casting the opposing vote.

**Trustee Joki** made a motion to amend the agenda to add an action item calling for a special meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016 to hear the trustee response recall certification for Zone 5 and Zone 3 and consider any qualified elector who may have expressed interest in the vacancy in Zone 4. **Trustee Sayles** seconded the motion. **Trustee Vuittonet** commented that for them to consider appointing a trustee at this meeting would absolutely be wrong for anyone that wants to apply, and declared he would vote no on the motion. **Chairman Dean** called for the vote and it passed three to one with **Trustee Vuittonet** casting the opposing vote.

Trustee Joki stated the board clerk will have to set the time of the special meeting according to statute and it appears it would need to be posted for 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2016.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Joki** moved and **Trustee Sayles** seconded a motion to adjourn. Chairman Dean asked that the survey and statement of interest be reposted on the website and that interested parties contact the Clerk. Chairman Dean called for the vote and it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:41.

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Chairman

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Clerk