



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES **October 25, 2016**

Date, Place & Time The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at the District Service Center, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian, Idaho.

Trustees in Attendance Trustees: Chairman Phil Neuhoff, Mike Vuittonet, Rene Ozuna, Ed Klopfenstein, and Steve Smylie

Staff in Attendance Dr. Mary Ann Ranells, Cheri Newbold, Eric Exline, Joe Yochum, Devan Delashmutt, Debbie Arstein, Staci Low, Don Nesbitt, Eian Harm, Cindy Sisson

Guests Shana Hawkins, Jeff Blazer, Mary Ollie, Tanya Koyle, Sue Darden, Rob Lungreen, Amanda Kocon

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE Chairman Phil Neuhoff

SPOTLIGHT Director of the Career Technical Programs, Staci Low, presented the district's CTE programs. Ms. Low included an introduction of the CTE staff, Angie Neal, Dena Pengilly, Amy Brown, and Cindy Breckel. She covered the state and federal funding that supports the CTE programs offered at West Ada. The CTE programs exist at two levels in the district: school-based programs and the magnet programs that are offered at Renaissance, Meridian, and Centennial high school. A total of 7,912 students enroll in the CTE programs district-wide from the district's high schools. The career and technical school add to this total enrollment. These programs - culinary arts, firefighting, health professions, law enforcement, computer programming, web design and others are housed at the CTE center. Students travel for CTE Magnet classes for a half day every other day. Some students take a two period CTE class whereas others, must take two classes when traveling and are bused in for either one period or for two periods. More than 2,000 students participate in these programs, for a total of 10,134 students enrolled in CTE courses during the first semester of this year. The go on rate for students participating in the CTE class overall is 78%.

Trustees Ozuna questioned the space available for students and if we have a lottery system or wait list. Ms. Low stated some students have to make a choice what career path to follow. Vice Chairman Vuittonet asked how parents and students receive information about CTE

programs. Ms. Low stated parent's information a variety of ways. Letters go home with students, presentation to the students, web site information, advanced opportunity nights and Dena Pengilly goes to every middle school and gives a presentation to all 8th grade students. Trustees thanked Ms. Low and her staff for the outstanding commitment to students and the CTE program.

Amended Agenda

Trustee Smylie made a motion to remove item #3, Recommendation to approve the amendment to the Commercial Lease agreement for 1450 E. Watertower St. **Trustee Ozuna** seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to remove from consent agenda and place under discussion as item #7 and action Item # 2.

Consent Agenda

Vice Chairman Vuittonet made a motion, **Trustee Klopfenstein** seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the amended consent agenda. Approved items are as follows:

Employment recommendation

Summary of Leave Request

Recommendation to approve Mandi Horning for an Alternative Authorization-Teacher to New to teach Health for Victory Middle School in West Ada School District

Recommendation to approve guidelines for proposed RFQ Procedure-Landscape Architect Services for Projects with a Service Fee Under \$25,000

Disposal of surplus equipment

Disposal of surplus personal property

Recommendation to accept bid documents from Kreizenbeck Construction for the new Pathways Middle School project site to various contractors

Recommendation for student expulsions

Discussion

TNTP Signature Research Proposal: What are students doing in school?

Dr. Eian Harm, research Administrator, presented the process for approving research in the West Ada School District.

Assistant Superintendent, Don Nesbitt, introduced Amanda Kocon for TNTP to field questions regarding the proposed research project in West Ada. Chairman Neuhoff asked how the research will look in a classroom. Over three, three-week periods, the research will look at student work (assignments; grading) teacher observations and

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instruction, and ESM (real time student surveys) to measure student engagement. The goal of the survey will be to give specific points on how to improve student achievement, and will also provide the district with a large collection of data that the district can use to make improvement plans around student achievement. The study would be done in 6 schools with 10 teachers in each school. Vice Chairman Vuittonet asked if the study would show best practices within our district. Ms. Kocon answered that the district would be able to see where instructional practice is most effective. Vice Chairman Vuittonet also asked about the EMS portion of the study. At the secondary level, students would be notified to take a very short survey (which takes less than 2 minutes) that the student takes at that moment in class that asks the student what he or she is working on and if they are engaged. Trustee Smylie asked about TNTP, its origin and how it is funded. Originally, TNTP was an alternate-authorization certification organization. About 10 years ago, the organization got involved in teacher effectiveness and teacher retention. These research reports are aimed at informing practitioners in education. Today, the organization does a lot of consulting work with school districts and states around the country. Trustee Smylie also asked about the organization's thoughts on past school reform. Ms. Kocon responded that the concern is understandable. Ms. Kocon answered that TNTP works directly with school districts not from afar, so the goal of the organization is to understand how schools work based on what they learned working with school systems. Trustee Smylie asked how a study can really measure student engagement. Ms. Kocon answered that TNTP has spent a lot of time norming the research rubrics used to observe instruction and the methodology for measuring student engagement. TNTP has developed tools to look at the other side of that equation, which is whether what is being taught is being absorbed by students. Trustee Klopfenstein asked what TNTP's policy advocacy track-record has been over the last 20 years. Ms. Kocon answered that mostly this policy trajectory is at the state level. The TNTP policy positions have largely been about hiring and staffing policy. Trustee Klopfenstein asked about the time cost of the research project, and who controls the data. Ms. Kocon answered that TNTP will have the data. Schools, teachers, and district staff will receive the data. TNTP will then create the analysis of the data and write its report and then will destroy the raw data. Chairman Neuhoff asked if someone in particular is funding this research project. Ms. Kocon answered no, the organization is funding the project. Chairman Neuhoff asked why TNTP chose West Ada. Ms. Kocon said that when doing a national study, you want diversity, but how the organization came upon West Ada was because of a staff member who came to Idaho and was interested in the conversations about education going on in Idaho. In addition, the study needed a mid-sized district, wanted a district in the West, looked at the gap between the state standardized test scores and go-on rates, and how West Ada fits into the demographics of the other districts included in the study. Chairman Neuhoff asked about bias in the study because teachers will be volunteering to participate. Ms. Kocon said that the sample set that is included in the entire study will reduce this

Discussion/Cont.

bias. Finally, Chairman Neuhoff asked about the use of teacher evaluation data. Ms. Kocon answered that it will only be used in the context of what else is found, most importantly curriculum, student engagement, and to triangulate as many data points as possible. Dr. Ranells thanked Ms. Kocon for coming to Idaho to discuss student achievement. Dr. Ranells agreed the data from the TNTTP Study could be used to improve student achievement, and will also provide the district with a large collection of data that the district can use to make improvement plans around student achievement.

Revised Policy Code No. 902.20, Building and Sites

Assistant Superintendent, Joe Yochum, presented the proposed policy change to by adding clarification to individual projects. Trustees had no questions for Mr. Yochum.

Revised Policy Code No. 802.52, Business Travel

Chief Budget Officer, Debbie Arstein presented the changes to Policy 802.52. The per diem amounts provided would be tied to current costs for the area of travel as outlined in the Idaho State travel policy. Ms. Arstein also recommended the approving of travel be placed in the control of the supervisor that controls the budgets and funds of their department. Ms. Arstein will bring back the policy for a second reading. Trustees thanked Ms. Arstein for reworking the policy to meet Federal and State procedures.

Revised Policy Code No. 501.90, Student Transfers

Assistant Superintendent, Don Nesbitt, presented the third reading of the Student Transfer policy. The policy addition was line 104 that included the addition of student safety. Trustee Ozuna appreciated Mr. Nesbitt's work and time he put into the revisions. She also thanked him for meeting with her to discussion options.

Revised Policy Code No. 501.80, Foreign Exchange Students

Assistant Superintendent, Don Nesbitt, present the extensive changes to the policy. The policy has been review by counsel to make sure it complies with federal and state laws. The changes are intended to make the vendors who bring foreign students to the United States more accountable for those students. The district values the exchange with other countries. The revision outlined placing students in the future if they violated placement requirements. This policy will return for a second reading.

Revised Policy Code No. 602.10, Curriculum & Learning Resources

Chief Technology Officer, Devan Delashmutt, presented minor changes in the policy to include all resources used by teachers to instruct students. Trustee Klopfenstein, who is on the technology committee, appreciated the efforts in revising this policy. The policy will return for a final reading.

Recommendation to approve the amendment to the Commercial Lease agreement for 1450 E. Watertower St.

Discussion/Cont.

Trustee Smylie questioned the increase in the lease payment for the space used by Rebound School of Opportunity. Assistant Superintendent, Joe Yochum compared the rate to other office space in the Meridian area, and the rate varies from \$8 to \$13.15 per square foot. Outlying areas have rental rates up to \$21 per square foot. Vice Chairman Vuittonet suggested that the district look at a permanent solution for a facility for Rebound. Mr. Yochum indicated the building location of Rebound is centralized in our district. Students of Rebound are asked to provide their own transportation and the Rebound program is very successful providing our students with an opportunity to receive a diploma.

Action

Approve or deny revised Policy Code No. 501.90, Student Transfers

Trustee Klopfenstein made a motion, **Vice Chairman Vuittonet** seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve Policy Code No. 501.90, Student Transfers.

Approve or deny the amendment to the Commercial Lease agreement for 1450 E. Watertower St.

Vice Chairman Vuittonet made a motion with consideration to discuss future options for Rebound which is located at 1450 E. Watertower St. The vote was seconded by **Trustee Ozuna** and the vote was as follows: **Trustee Klopfenstein** voted yes **Chairman Neuhoff** voted yes, and **Trustee Smylie** voted no. The motion passed a 4-1 vote.

**Board Reports/
Assignments**

Trustee Klopfenstein attended the YMCA groundbreaking ceremony. He also attended Meridian High School parent teacher conferences and his positive experience hearing about students that want to transfer in Meridian High School.

Trustee Ozuna appreciated the work teachers put into parent teacher conferences.

Vice Chairman Vuittonet reported he had attended the YMCA groundbreaking ceremony with the other trustees. He reminded the Board of the Foundation Gala and Foundation golf tournament.

Chairman Neuhoff reported he also attended the YMCA groundbreaking ceremony project. He also reported on the ways the PTA, PTO's and West Ada Foundation are finding ways to actively fund raise money for field trips. He appreciated the community support for these programs.

Trustee Smylie reported the Phi Kappa Delta will be holding a seminar on issues facing education in Idaho. All educators are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Vuittonet made a motion, **Trustee Smylie** seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:17p.m.

Chairman

Clerk