



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2015

Date, Place & Time	The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at the District Service Center, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian, Idaho.
Trustees in Attendance	Vice Chairman Dr. Julie Madsen, Dr. Russell Joki, Carol Sayles, Mike Vuittonet
Staff in Attendance	Trish Duncan, Joe Yochum, Eric Exline, Troy Stephens, Barbara Leeds, Alex Simpson, Dave Moser, Devan Delashmutt, Jackie Thomason, Teri Powell, Kevin Leishman, Gloria Rolland, Tammie Shappee, Lori Gash, Dennis Hahs, Eian Harm, Teri Powell, Angie Neal, Staci Low, Cheri Newbold, Colene Letterle, Geri Gillespy
Guests	Lisa Hahle, Bill Suggs, Rob McCarvel, Cooper Carlson, Jeni Carlson, Todd Carlson, Sue Darden, Karly Workman, Luke Franklin, Deborah Rowland, Jen Logan, Rob Lundgren, Matt Newton, Laurie Cavy, Raelynn Grant, Tanya Koyle, Michelle Storey, Jennifer Prudhomme, Brittany Mitko, Julie Robideaux Prince, Stephanie Little, Brooke DeMers, Lisa Austin, Stacey Morache, Rich Havey, Julie Havey, Katie Aube, Monte Palmer, Karen Harr, Gretchen Hart, James Buschine, Cory Johnson, Angie Hickman, Joni Leipf, Carol Jetton, Kevin Leishman, Leonard Mess, Allie Fitzpatrick, Tyler Davis, Gabi Touriel, Jill Wrem, Bret Heller, Jolene Gunn, Robert Zumbrun, Matt Christensen, Mike Hirano, Terry Beck, John Annala, Monty Hyde, Kylee Bendorf, Scott Curtis, Mary Ollie, Jennifer Shiflet, Anne Little Roberts, Jolene Bernal, Carla Phillips, Kacey Schneidt, Brittany Amos, Alicia Bullock, Nancy Viano, Ronda Hanson, Debbie Gourley, Chuck Winder, Marcus Myers

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Madsen

Amended Agenda
Approved

Trustee Sayles made a motion to table consent agenda item #11, revised Policy Code No. 504.91, Supervision and Evaluation (second reading). The motion was seconded by Trustee Joki and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Approved

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

Employment recommendations;

Requests for professional and activity leave for:

- Gay Lynn Erb, Lynnea Shafter, Melissa Webb, two (2) days to attend the 2016 Association of mathematics Teacher Educators Annual Conference in Irvine, California;
- Shannon Drum, Kris McGrath, Diane Oliva, Denise Shumway, three (3) days to attend the National Title I Conference in Houston, Texas;
- Terra Frei, two (2) days to attend the National High School Journalism Convention in Orlando, Florida;
- Rae Peppley, three (3) days to attend the US Naval Academy Educator Program in Annapolis, Maryland;

Consent Agenda – cont.

- Jackie Thomason, three (3) days to attend the Teaching, Learning, and Coaching Conference in Denver, Colorado;

Recommendation to seek Alternative Authorization – Content Specialist, from the State Department of Education for:

- Shaun Scrivner to teacher music at Idaho Fine Arts Academy;
- Laurie Maus to teach French at Centennial High School;

Request from Meridian High School to build a school garden;

Recommendation to approve the following easements between West Ada School District and the Ada County Highway District at Hillsdale Elementary:

- Permanent Easement;
- Sidewalk Easement;
- Warranty Deed;

Bid awarded for Sectional and Coiling Doors at Meridian High School to Crawford Door Supply in the amount of \$30,799;

Bid awarded for tenant improvements in the broadcast room at Eagle High School to Bar S Construction in the amount of \$35,111;

Bid Bond Forfeiture – Authorization to collect the bid bond from Quality Tile Roofing for bid #52510 (District Service Center reroof), reject all bids and rebid the project in the spring;

Request from Meridian High School to survey students as part of the Green Dot Program;

Request from Laurie Cavey from BSU to conduct a research project at Rocky Mountain High School titled “Productive Inquiry into Calculus Thinking”.

Discussion/Action

Supplemental Levy

Vice Chairman Madsen thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Several people have been invited to speak on the impact of the levy to the district and the community. Due to the Meridian City council meeting tonight, some of the invited speakers were unable to attend but have expressed their support of the levy. The board will respect everyone’s need for information and desire to be heard and asks they stay with the written outline that was provided. Those in attendance that are employed by the school district or elected representatives were asked to remember the only goal of this meeting is to provide information, not to take a position on the upcoming levy.

Alex Simpson, director of finance, provided an overview of the financial impact from the district standpoint. The supplemental levy is a local source of revenue that is used for General Fund school operations. The revenue is generated through the collection of property taxes and must be approved by the majority of voters every two years. The district has had authorization from voters to raise \$14M in supplemental levy revenue for the last four years, including this school year. The levy is used to pay for staff, utilities, bus transportation costs, materials, and supplies. When the current supplemental levy was first approved four years ago, the revenue was used to restore nine school days, retain staff covered by expiring one time funds, ARRA/Federal Jobs Bill/transfer from the School Plant, and other operational costs.

The \$14M has covered:

- \$6.3M = \$700,000 cost per day times nine instructional days;
- \$2.1M = 35 teachers (\$60,000 per teacher for salary and benefits)
- \$4.0M = transfer from School Plant (\$3,640,000.00 covered salaries and benefits and \$360,000.00 covered other expenses such as health insurance, utilities, building security contracts, software contracts, supplies, transportation services and fuel)
- \$1.6M onetime funds (i.e. Federal Jobs bill) covered certified and classified staff.

Salaries and benefits represent approximately 86% of the General Fund budget plus 5% for the transportation contract (which also represents salaries and benefits) for a total of 91% of General Fund expenses.

The property tax rate will not go up to pay for the supplemental levy. The total levy rate for the voter approved levies will stay the same at \$399.00 per \$100,000 of taxable value or may decrease depending on market values in 2016-17, or board action. The voter approved levies are for bonds, plant facilities and the supplemental levy.

Mr. Simpson showed a comparison of taxable rates between West Ada School District and surrounding schools districts stating we are just above Caldwell School District but lower than others.

Trustee Joki asked for clarification on whether more money can be transferred from plant facilities to offset the size of the supplemental levy. **Mr. Simpson** stated it was only allowed for two years and has expired. **Trustee Joki** expressed that he did not want patrons to assume they could go back and borrow again. **Mr. Simpson** stated the district would have to go back to the voters to do that. **Trustee Vuittonet** wondered if they could ask for it again if there was an emergency, stating he could not remember what triggered the request for the transfer originally. **Mr. Simpson** replied it was an emergency at the time, but the district had only asked to do it for two years. **Trustee Vuittonet** recalled that during that time, the legislature had given them different tools to get through the crisis.

Vice Chairman Madsen asked if the supplemental would be a new expenditure or if the taxes currently being paid would expire and this would replace the current levy. **Mr. Simpson** replied this would replace the current supplemental levy on their tax bill if this passes. **Vice Chairman Madsen** asked if she was correct in stating the levy will expire and the funds would be lost if the levy does not pass. **Mr. Simpson** stated that was correct, the levy would expire and those funds would go away.

Trustee Sayles asked if the levy were to pass, would we have the same levy rate; and if it were to fail, would we have the same levy rate. **Mr. Simpson** replied it would depend on market value, but most likely the levy rate would drop. The district could make adjustments on the bond side, the three levies equal \$3.99 per thousand and the district could pay from 12-21 months on the bond. That would not make up the difference you would lose on the supplemental and gain on the bond. He wasn't sure they would want to do that. **Trustee Sayles** asked if the levy rate a tax payer would pay would be the same. **Mr. Simpson** replied that was correct for those three levies, but it could go down, based on market value or board directive. **Trustee Sayles** stated the rate will not change even if your assessed value goes up, the rate stays the same. **Mr. Simpson** replied that was correct. **Trustee Sayles** asked if the assessed

value goes down, the rate stays the same. **Mr. Simpson** replied that was correct, in that instance you would pay less to the district.

Trustee Joki commented that bond funds cannot be used for the general fund. That money is dedicated to construction and other items that are on the bond. **Mr. Simpson** agreed the funds are to be used to pay the bonds back. **Trustee Joki** commented that forwarding the payment doesn't help the general fund.

Vice Chairman Madsen asked **Mr. Simpson** how long he had been the district finance director. **Mr. Simpson** replied since 2008 and state funds had been on the decrease since that time. The general fund was cut \$20M and then we lost the supplemental. There was a list of things they had to cut, they changed bus stops, and didn't fill positions. These things are still in place and the district can't cut anymore. The supplemental helped with the days, but they rely on the levy for operations and have been using the fund balance to balance the budget each year. The fund balance started at 9% of the budget and is now at 5%. There are savings during the year from health insurance or if an employee leaves and their position is not filled right away. That is why the fund balance looks flat but we are still using one to two percent each year.

Eric Exline, community relations director, reviewed historical data regarding the supplemental levies that have been run in the district since 1984. The levy in 2005 covered the cost of textbooks, school security staff, library aides, computer aides, school supply budgets and opening costs of Hunter Elementary, Desert Sage Elementary, Prospect Elementary and Pathways Alternative Middle School. Two years later a supplemental levy was run to cover the costs of Science textbooks, the creation of the International Baccalaureate program at Renaissance High School, classroom computers, and operating costs of Paramount Elementary, Heritage Middle School, Galileo and Rocky Mountain High School. Between 2008-09 and 2009-10, general fund revenue decreased by just under \$3M. The supplemental levy sustained ongoing expenses from the 2005 and 2007 supplemental levies. The supplemental levy run in 2011 was defeated and was run again in 2012 to restore nine (9) school days and to end further reductions in the budget. The renewal of the levy in 2014 maintained the nine (9) calendar days and staffing levels.

A survey was sent out September 2nd asking patrons if they support increasing state funding to eliminate the need for school districts to rely on supplemental levies. The community has stepped up to support us and the survey results indicated 83% agreed with the question. The second question asking if they agreed the supplemental levy was important to maintain school district operations received 67% agreement. On September 22nd another survey was sent out to 40,000 emails asking the following questions:

- 1- Do you plan on voting November 3rd ? (310 yes, 26 no)
- 2- Do you believe the supplemental levy is important to maintain current school district operations? (261 yes, 67 no)
- 3- How likely are you to support the supplemental levy on Tuesday, November 3rd ? (187 very likely, 48 likely, 44 not likely, 44 definitely not likely)

It appears the levy has a chance to pass but the sampling is too small to reflect what voters will decide. **Trustee Joki** asked if there was any way to track early voter returns. **Mr. Exline** replied he had not yet but would begin tracking by the end of the week. It seems a number of people have taken advantage of early voting at the Meridian City Hall. **Trustee Joki** asked if there had been an analysis of early voting

compared to the results of the vote. **Mr. Exline** replied historically early voting has been more negative than election day voting results.

Barbara Leeds, assistant superintendent, reviewed the educational and classroom impact reiterating the effect of the downturn on students, teachers and staff. During that time period, Ms. Leeds acted as the human resources director and was in charge of the mechanics of the cuts. Additionally, the IEA/MEA and district entered into interest based bargaining and worked together to make decisions to help the district move on. The entire system was shrunk in an effort to keep from eliminating entire programs. The staff stepped up and did a great job for kids. Ms. Leeds asked trustees to remember that not only teachers were affected, but nurses, counselors, para's and clerical who also support learning. Educational research varies in its assessment of the effect of class size in regard to student learning. We know through professional research that teacher clarity, teaching strategies, feedback and the student/teacher relationship outweighs the effect of class size. However, the loss of this revenue could negatively affect the learning environment as a whole through the loss of teachers, days of instruction and the loss of the ancillary support of administration, nurses, counselors, para-professionals, IT, and custodians. Cuts to days affect the teacher's ability to get through curriculum and if additional days are cut with the loss of the levy, kindergarten students could lose up to 1.5 years of instruction by the time they graduate. **Trustee Joki** asked that staff send their presentations to the board for factual information. **Trustee Vuittonet** thanked Ms. Leeds for the information. There are lots of negative things that can happen to the kids and our hard working employees, it is a very big deal and a most important issue at this time.

Vice Chairman Madsen stated they have done a fabulous job with the nuts and bolts, these are humans, little kids and adults and at the end of the day we are affecting lives. She understood it better when she realized her kids would lose a year of instruction if something didn't change.

Trustee Vuittonet reminded those in attendance the West Ada School District's per pupil expenditure is almost the lowest in the state, actually second from the bottom. We are 112 of 114 and per pupil expenditure is one of the lowest in the nation. He has seen our folks perform and the kids haven't suffered, they should be highly commended.

Vice Chairman Madsen invited community partners to discuss other aspects of the levy.

Nick Miller, representing Hawley Troxell, stated their firm has provided the district overview of bonds and overall financial health. They act as the bond law firm when the district has a bond issue, taking the bonds to the market place. Bond rating is done under the purview of Michael Keith, representing Piper Jaffray. Their law firm has three assignments of work in regards to a bond: 1-make sure the bonds are legal; 2- make sure the bonds are tax exempt; and 3- assist the district in financial disclosure to investors. One key to this is what the rating agencies think about the district bonds. There is a process in place to solicit a bond rating from the rating agencies. The rating agencies assign a quality rating before investors will purchase the bonds. The marketplace expects the agencies to provide a quality rating prior to the sale of the bonds. There are seven rating categories, the higher the rating, the lower the interest rate. Mr. Miller asked to have the following written into the record: Moody's asked, what can make the rating go up? One thing that will make the rating to up is a significant increase in reserves. What will make the ratings go

down? The ratings go down with a deteriorating financial position. One strength the district has is voter support for property taxes to support operating and capital needs. Standard and Poore's rating reflects their view that a more favorable state funding environment, continued population growth and restored maintenance and operation (M&O) levy creates conditions to balance operations and maintain good reserves. Given fluctuations in financial performance, the erosion of reserves could be a key credit risk and could lower the rating if reserves fall below the level they consider good, and they come to believe the district does not have a plan that would rapidly restore the balance. They do not anticipate raising the rating during the next two years given the district's challenges and recent performance. The district is monitored closely and the rating impact will be affected if reserves are lowered. If we lose the levy and invade reserves to maintain service or cut service to maintain the reserve, the rating is likely to go down.

Michael Keith, representing Piper Jaffray, believes they are partners with the district and have been with us for a long time. Over the last decade they have seen a great deal of growth, a lot of capital investment has been made and most recently they have seen what the financial downturn has done to district fund balances and ratings. The question is, how do we maintain capital facilities and keep up with growth and balance the district and patron's needs and wishes and the fund balance. Currently the district has a strong AA3 rating with Moody's, and Standard and Poore's is one notch lower at A+. As with an individual's credit score, any drop would affect risk and borrowing costs would increase and this could impact the district going forward. Mr. Keith continued with an explanation of how the agencies look at ratings. Moody's ratings are weighted with 30% based on the economy, which the district has no control over. Economic development in the area has contributed to that percentage staying strong and has helped out the district's rating over the years. Another 30% is finances and this is where the district has had its fair share of challenges over the last few years in terms of trying to maintain a fund balance level. At one point the district had 9% of the budget in their fund balance, but due to the downturn and changes in funding, the fund balance is closer to 5%. If you looked at districts across the country with the AA3 rating, most have around 14% dedicated to their fund balance. The rest is 20% management and 20% debt, both of which the district has had high scores. If the trend were to continue downward, it is likely the district would get downgraded. Going down one notch on a \$50M bond would cost the district \$250,000 in costs. The further the rating goes down the risk is greater and the cost goes up. The supplemental levy has become a substantial part of funding and the rating agencies would not want to see a drawdown of already limited funds. **Trustee Vuittonet** thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. Keith for their presentation. What would happen if the levy failed, can he assume that a drop in our ratings would occur? **Mr. Keith** replied that it would depend on how the district reacted. If the district used the fund balance to supplement and it was drawn down to zero, it would most likely lead to a downgrade. If the district found some other way through savings to protect the fund balance, the rating agencies would look at the financial health of the district on future payment of the bonds. There would be concerns with the district's ability to raise additional funds. **Trustee Vuittonet** commented that it could potentially affect the district as they go out for bonds in the future.

Anne Little Roberts, president and CEO of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce, and **Rob McCarvel**, president of the board of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce, stated they were pleased to be considered partners of the district and have had a long

standing relationship with the school district. **Ms. Little-Roberts** continued that it was definitely an economic development issue for their businesses and turned the time over to Mr. McCarvel. **Mr. McCarvel** echoed what Ms. Roberts stated and they are in strong support of the levy. As a chamber they are stating their support of the levy on their web site and trying to educate the public on what it means to them and the impact of the levy. They are emailing their six hundred members encouraging them to go out and vote and to support this levy. From a business perspective, the key asset is their employees and it is vitally important that we have a well-educated, well trained employee base. **Ms. Little-Roberts** stated this was not only for their current businesses but as they recruit other businesses, one of the first things they ask is about our educated workforce. Obviously they want to raise students that are successful and want to stay here in the valley and work for our current businesses and prospective businesses and are not having to go elsewhere to look for good jobs. It's a win, win situation to have a viable, good workforce. **Trustee Joki** thanked Ms. Little-Roberts and Mr. McCarvel for coming and making those observations. He has noticed a similar trend in home values with the quality of education, he asked if any member of their board made comment on that? **Mr. McCarvel** replied that no one had made specific comments about that but he thought that education not only impacts an employer, but from a home value perspective, kids that are better educated are the ones not having major issues in society. It is vitally important that we have an educated student. **Trustee Vuittonet** thanked the chamber, he has seen the collaboration and strong support for education and to have them speak to this means a lot. **Vice Chairman Madsen** thanked both Ms. Little-Roberts and Mr. McCarvel for taking the time to respond, to give their time and energy and stated they were valued partners.

Richard Osguthorpe, dean of the BSU college of education, focused on the growing teacher shortage at BSU. He spoke with students who will be graduating with teaching degrees this December and asked them to reflect on their experiences as K-12 students and to identify the teachers who inspired them to choose a career in education. Their stories and experiences positively reinforced the nobility of the profession and the important impact they will have in the future classrooms. The discussion also served as a reminder that these future teachers need to firmly hold on to these noble, positive reasons for choosing a career in teaching as they encounter negative, patronizing and demeaning perceptions of teaching in their communities, educational policy environments and even in their own schools and classrooms. Unfortunately for today's teachers the noble rewards of teaching are often very difficult to obtain because they are constantly barraged with negative messages regarding their work. These messages are sent in a variety of ways including cuts in already limited funding, student and parent disrespect, curricular and instructional mandates without teacher input, community rejection of bonds and levies and the list goes on. The fact is we too often hold up the teaching profession as a noble profession in our rhetoric but that rhetoric is patronizing at best, a fabrication at worst. Either way in our state and in our community, negative messages seem to outweigh the positive ones and it is time we turn the tide and give teachers access to the noble rewards of the profession that drove them to choose teaching as a career in the first place. He fully supports this levy and more like it, that will better support teachers in their roles as instructional leaders in the classroom and serve as a strong reminder that the community values their contribution to the academic, social and emotional and ethical development of our children. He also supports the levy because it sends the right message to students in both our K-12 classrooms and in our teacher education classrooms at the university

who we desperately need to fill the growing teacher shortage and aspire to make a real difference in their chosen vocation. **Trustee Joki** acknowledged Boise State as one of the strongest partners in terms of the dual credit program and the Go On efforts and stated his appreciation of Mr. Osguthorpe's appearance at the meeting tonight and his remarks. **Vice Chairman Madsen** thanked Mr. Osguthorpe for touching on the issue of the teacher shortage, which is to parents whose children are in great classrooms with great teachers every day underappreciated, but if we want that for the next generation of kids or even our younger kids, we are going to have to be competitive as a learning environment, a teaching environment and a well-funded district.

Robin Dobson, advisor to the academic dean at Idaho State University, spoke to his work as a founding member of the Meridian Medical Arts Charter school answering the question, can 16 and 17 year olds do the academic rigor to earn college credit and handle biological fluids? The answer to both of these questions was, yes they can. With that successful experiment, he worked with Dr. Clark to begin the program at Renaissance High School where they share a condo arrangement and the Idaho State University academic programs that had been in the valley since 1970. They graduate people that have very high incomes and they provide a real valued service to the community in health professions. They now offer an AA degree and a high school diploma at the same time. Not only do they do that, but they also share a laboratory facility so students have the ability to get a pharmacy tech while in high school which commands a salary of about \$17 to \$40 per hour. With the cooperation of the district, they have now developed an 18,000 square foot cadaver lab, bio skills lab and a three D cadaver station, which also add opportunities for high school students to engage with faculty from ISU. Their programs are about service and they have success stories of 18 years olds entering their pharmacy program and some students graduating with the pharmacy degree at 23 years of age. The Medical Arts Charter has shown a 95% four year degree completion rate in health professions. He was pleased to say the partnership has been so robust and valuable that students are prepared to do the academic rigor in the health sciences and they continue with the ISU programs, graduate and contribute to the community. This is a service to patrons, to students, and a service to the community. **Trustee Joki** thanked Dr. Dobson for appearing at the meeting. He had an opportunity to attend the Tech Fair and saw some of the technology Idaho State has brought to the program. It is an inspiration for any young person interested in the health field, and an incredible partnership. **Dr. Dobson** thanked Trustee Joki for the comment. Their position here has always been about service, and their partnership with the district is unique to the region. It has been a win-win situation and they are looking to build that even further. **Trustee Vuittonet** stated he has had the pleasure of working with Dr. Dobson and appreciated his vision and passion. The things they learned from the charters are what guided them in duplicating the success at Renaissance High School. He thanked them for the partnership between the district and the university.

Scott Curtis, senior vice president of the Treasure Valley YMCA. Mr. Curtis spoke to how their organization is committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, are strong supporters of robust public schools and they have no greater partners in their mission than the schools. They would encourage the support of this levy which supports students and teachers in a district that has shown to work in efficient and effective ways to maximize dollars. Mr. Curtis spoke to the partnerships they have enjoyed with the district and gave examples of ways this district has been extremely collaborative and innovative. One example is their

inclusion pre-schools that are operated in many of the district schools and is offered in joint partnership. These are pre-schools for youngsters that for developmental reasons have been tested and the district provides pre-school services to them. They also provide child care services at four district schools that serve surrounding schools with this service. They are looking to expand child care in the district to more of our schools and to expand the swimming program which provides free swimming lessons to the district third graders. During the economic downturn they have found creative ways to partner that include the YMCA helping to provide some of the athletic programs the district unfortunately had to cut. The patrons have stepped up to support the supplemental levies in the past and they see that as vital to continuing the quality of education and the ability for them to partner together to meet the needs of youngsters. **Trustee Vuittonet** expressed his appreciation of the collaboration with the district.

Drew Ranstrum, vice president of Moreton and Company. Mr. Ranstrum thanked the board for the opportunity to work with the district and provide the best possible benefits to the employees. Moreton and Company is currently the employee benefits consultant to the district and as stated by Mr. Simpson, benefits make up a large part of the district budget. The benefits are also a large part of recruiting talented employees to the district. The cost of health insurance is rising from individual policies to policies that are purchased through an employer. There has been legislation over the last couple of years that was put into place to try and curb some of the costs. At this point they have not seen much benefit from that, particularly here locally. Over the past five to six years, the average increase to groups has been anywhere from 8-10% on their benefit packages. Of the fifty clients he services, the majority of those will see a double digit increase to their benefit costs. They have worked very hard with the district to try to find solutions to this issue. They have evaluated every potential opportunity and they look at historical data to identify trends and to identify who will be impacted by changes they make. They have tried hard to maintain consistency in the benefits for the districts employees and they have been able to keep the renewals under 4%. In an organization this size, with 3000 employees, even a minimal increase results in additional costs between a half a million and a million dollars, which creates some challenges from a budgetary standpoint. As an alumni of the district, as a sibling of a teacher in the district, and as a father of three children who attend schools in the district, he understands the importance of the upcoming supplemental levy election and the importance to the financial stability of the district. He shared his hope the community would go out and support the levy, talk to their neighbors, family and friends and garner their support as well.

Vice Chairman Madsen thanked everyone for their patience and attention. This was the district's best attempt to encapsulate a lot of the issues they thought folks would want to hear about and would help inform as to why the levy and what are we doing to minimize tax payer costs. Vice Chairman Madsen invited those with questions to come forward.

Miih Brown, 12064 Fiddler Drive, Meridian, Idaho. Mr. Brown's first question was to Ms. Leeds. When she talked about the last levy that didn't pass, some of the teachers ended up taking retirement or early retirement because they were worried about their salary dropping, how does the low funding we are getting from the state now and a reliance on supplemental levies affect teacher retention and hiring. **Ms. Leeds** replied that we have been lucky in our district, partly because of the

partnerships we have with a variety of universities and we work closely with BSU to recruit their student teachers. We have three or four different schools in which we have a partner which teachers and principals to interview candidates and self-select the student teachers. They have also been working with NNU to get teacher candidates to apply. Because we are the largest district in the state, we have not had a problem with a teacher shortage, except in specific areas such as special education, math, science and family consumer science. When she talked about people taking early retirement, they were concerned with their PERSI retirement. When they saw their pay would be cut and were at the rule of 90, it would be better for them to leave at that point. One other thing she would say, while we shrank the system and everyone took the same cuts, part of the reason it was done that way, was to protect the daily rate of pay for staff. The daily rate of pay is used to calculate insurance purchase after retirement. **Mr. Brown** asked Mr. Exline how many of the 40,000 survey emails he sent were responded to. **Mr. Exline** replied the first survey received slightly over a thousand replies but the second one was not as good with 339 replies but was not out to the public as long. Normally the survey is out for a couple of weeks and reminders are sent out. The second survey was only out a couple of days and if it had been longer, there would have been more responses. **Mr. Brown** asked Mr. Exline what the average voter turnout has been over the last five years. Mr. Exline explained the highest was in the 2011-12 supplemental levy vote that had about 20,000 voters. **Mr. Brown** asked if PTO/PTA organizations are allowed to endorse the levy and send emails out to their email lists saying they should support the levy. **Mr. Exline** replied they can advocate for a measure but they cannot advocate for a candidate. **Mr. Brown** asked if they can't advocate on school grounds is there a distance limit that they are allowed to advertise. **Mr. Exline** replied 100 feet, and suggested they not advocate on school grounds. **Mr. Brown** asked Mr. Simpson if the population increases, doesn't that decrease the amount you pay. **Mr. Simpson** replied the district's rate would be the same but with more people, there is a possibility you could pay less. **Mr. Brown** talked about impact fees in the state of Idaho and that currently everyone has them except libraries and schools. **Mr. Exline** agreed there are all kinds of impact fees that pay for all kinds of growth, except libraries and schools. There is a group that has been meeting and trying to come up with some new ideas on how to meet the needs that Mr. Brown has talked about. Currently the only means we have to build new schools is to ask our patrons to pass bonds. The coalition group includes representatives from cities, counties, realtors and they are looking at other states to see what they have down that can be replicated to at least pay for a portion of the costs. They hope to have their work done by the start of the legislative session.

Nancy Viano, grandparent. Ms. Viano stated her concern about the passage of this levy and the understanding of how important it is to continue the educational value for society as a whole. One concern she has is due to the issues that are going on in the district, there may be a bigger turnout than normal. The levy needs to be presented to the public and to some groups that don't always go out and vote. The information that was given tonight shows how important this is and how this should be held separately from any feeling they might have about anything else that has taken place. She asked if someone could explain what is being proposed and what they could do as concerned citizens to help get this levy passed. Mr. Exline replied they are doing a number of things. There is an email distribution list of about 42,000 people, they are working with the business community including the Boise Chamber, there is a mailer that will be delivered to about 74,000 mailing addresses starting on the 28th of October, and as they get closer to the date of the election, they will use the

email system to remind people to vote. Ms. Viano asked if anything had been done with senior groups. **Mr. Exline** replied that he does talk to some community groups, but it is difficult because the groups are very small. He can't say they are getting to the people she might be concerned about. In the end, the way these elections work is that the people who believe that education is a vital service, need to come out and demonstrate that. **Trustee Joki** spoke to Ms. Viano's question of what she can do, there are neighborhood associations and she could talk to them to see if they are having an annual meeting. Secondly, there is a program called My Neighborhood and as a member of that neighborhood, you could send a statement to others that have signed up. One thing that he does is to walk the neighborhood and talk to neighbors. He encouraged everyone in the room to think about their immediate neighborhood and if they talked to five families on each side of where they live, the word can go out in that fashion. There are some phone banks being organized and he can get her in touch with them.

Vice Chairman Madsen stated that if there was anyone in the room that is a member of a group meeting in the next week, they can let Mr. Exline know and a trustee will come and speak to the group.

Trustee Dean joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Monte Palmer, 6128 Spurwing, Meridian, Idaho. As a father and a mayoral candidate, his intention is to support the levy. He is doing everything he can on social media and is answering questions on why people should vote for the levy. There are Facebook groups for subdivisions and plenty of other avenues to get the message out. His personal concern with the support of the levy is the issues that have happened with the board and the district lately. He would recommend that possibly the board and the district release a statement saying they are unified for the kids regardless of what has happened. This is not about egos or about pride, it is about our community. The perspective of the community is this will raise taxes, and that it will be a never ending tax situation every two years.

Luke Franklin, former teacher, former president of Meridian Education Association and currently employed by Idaho Education Association, stated the Meridian Education Association supports the levy, the students, and the teachers of this district.

Jill Wrem, 1295 North Mirror Creek Place, Meridian, Idaho. Ms. Wrem has a son in the district and thinks it would be catastrophic for students to lose nine days of instruction and what that cut over the course of a child's education would mean. As an employee that works at a Title I school has free breakfast for the whole entire school and gives out food bags, this impacts those children immensely. They are missing nine days of school, which might not seem a lot to some, but nine days of hot meals means a lot and the schools serve as their sanctuary and safety. This levy needs to be promoted by the board and by our patrons.

Trustee Dean apologized for her tardiness. The sentiment of most of the board is that once the state restores funding for a full school year and teachers in the classroom, they will discontinue asking for levies. They do not like asking the voters for more sources of funding. Nine school days is important, particularly if you are in the more advanced courses and it is difficult to get the curriculum covered and the assessments given and scored in that amount of time. We are asking our children to

take on more responsibility with higher level classes, AP classes, IB certificates, and we are putting undo pressure on them by cutting the school year short. When we have to lay off or reduce the teacher workforce, which means more students in each classroom waiting in line for the teacher. As trustees, they think long and hard before asking for money.

Trustee Joki picked up on Trustee Dean's comment about the state increasing funding for schools, it motivates you to talk to your legislator. There is a way for the state legislature to solve its funding of K-12 education as required by the Idaho constitution and that way is to revise the sales tax exemptions. Over the years the legislature has increased the number to over a hundred. If the sales tax exemptions would simply be rolled back by the legislature and everyone paid their fair share, that money could be dedicated to education. There is over \$400M that would come into the state coffers with the rollback of the exemptions on sales tax.

Trustee Vuittonet stated that everyone here has a stake in what is going on. If everyone had a mind to, they could step out and talk to two or three neighbors about the levy. He appreciated those that participated during the evening and is grateful to live in a community that loves and supports education for many years.

Trustee Sayles commented the vote for sales tax in 1965 was just for schools. A few years ago, Governor Dirk Kempthorne raised the tax by one cent and that was to go to the schools. That has eroded over the years and the money has been split to cover other things. She thanked everyone for coming and participating in the forum.

Vice Chairman Madsen thanked everyone who came and participated. The final note she will share is that we often look at these things as a tax increase or a new tax. Realistically what this levy has become, by virtue of the fact that we rely upon it for every bit of the mundane day to day work we do educating kids, it is essential and it expires, so we are not asking to add more money onto your tax burden, we are asking for these children not to have a \$14M slashing of their budget.

Discussion/Action

Policy Code No. 504.91,
*Emergency Administration
of Medication*, Approved

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Dean seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve revisions to Policy Code No. 504.91, *Emergency Administration of Medication*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Date, Place & Time

Trustee Dean made a motion to move into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code sections 74-206 (1) (a), (b) and (f). Trustee Joki seconded. A roll call was held and all Trustees voted "aye." The motion passed unanimously.

The executive session of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, at 7:35 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, and Mike Vuittonet.

Discussion was held regarding personnel matters, threats of litigation received by the District, and discussion with legal counsel pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 74-206(1)(a), (b), and (f).

Executive Session ended at 9:25 p.m. and the regular session resumed

Temporary Clerk Eberharter-Maki

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting made by Trustee Sayles and Seconded by Trustee Joki. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk