



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 10, 2017

Date, Place & Time The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 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, Mandy White, Don Nesbitt, Geoff Stands, Dave Roberts, Dave Moser, Troy Stephens, and Ramona Lee

Guests Buzz Splittgerber, Sue Darden, Holly Beech

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE Chairman Phil Neuhoff

Amended Agenda **Trustee Ozuna** made a motion, **Trustee Smylie** seconded to move item #12 to the discussion and action sections of the agenda. The vote was unanimous to place item #17 to be placed as discussion item #5 and action item #3, and move item #18 to place as discussion item #5 and action item #4. Reason for change is to address additional school closure day, school calendar changes and movement of semester.

SPOTLIGHT Teaching and Learning (Don Nesbitt)
Assistant Superintendent, Don Nesbitt gave a presentation designed to demonstrate the alignment of educational initiatives in the district, including the work of Knight, Hadie, Marzano, DuFour, PLCs, career and college success and other initiatives. The purpose of aligning our system is to make what is being done academically in West Ada easier to understand, less cumbersome, and more successful for students and teachers. Mr. Nesbitt discussed the process of studying the system starting last January, reviewed the district's mission statement, Preparing Students for Tomorrow's Challenges. He reviewed the role of curriculum, and the difficulty of having more standards that can be taught in a year. The standards need to be prioritized to allow teachers to focus on instruction. At the same time, staff development should also help staff teach the soft skills that students need to be college and career ready.

The process of prioritizing will begin with math, largely because part of

this work has been done because the Idaho Standards have already been “clustered.” Another reason is because of the goal to improve the math performance of our students. An important question in this process will be to answer the question, what are the skills in math that the school district’s system will guarantee that a student knows when they leave one grade and move on to the next level.

The next area to prioritize will be English Language Arts, in particular literacy. Another part of this process is to take the standards and then develop the curriculum to describe what should be taught. This curriculum will be designed with career and college readiness as the basis of what is supposed to be taught.

Mr. Nesbitt presented how West Ada will focus its efforts on what helps students succeed, while remaining compliant with any other outside requirements, but reiterated that these initiatives will not be the focus.

The Trustees thanked Mr. Nesbitt for his presentation. Trustee Smylie expressed his appreciation for the work focusing on making the tasks easier and less burdensome. Vice Chairman Vuittonet asked about realigning the standards-based report card. Mr. Nesbitt answered that as a Region Director that there are too many standards on the current report card. As the district works on focusing priority standards, the number of standards on the report will be aligned with the priority standards. The work of narrowing the standards has been done by a committee of elementary teachers. Vice Chairman Vuittonet asked about the progress of the revision of the report card. Mr. Nesbitt answered that most of the revision has been done, and the report card will be rolled out with the new PowerSchool grade book for next year.

Chairman Neuhoff asked about how overwhelming the educational process can be for students. He also commented on the learning that happens with students outside of school, and asked how that learning fits in with the instructional strategy that the West Ada is working on. Assistant Superintendent Nesbitt answered that the classroom is broader than just the four walls in a West Ada school. Where the district contributes to what happens for a student outside of school, however, happens between a teacher and his or her students.

Dr. Ranells repeated a question that she heard from students: “what does this mean for us?” She reflected on how this dream is designed to make sure that students can leave our system and go on to make a living wage. Years ago, that didn’t require anything beyond a high school diploma, or maybe didn’t even require a high school diploma. In the 1960s, 60% of students dropped out and only 15% of students went on to college. The economy began to change in the 1970s and 80s, and the educational requirement to have a comfortable life went up. Today, earning a living wage requires some education beyond high school, whether that is a college degree or a professional certification.

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:

Payment of bills dated December 1-31, 2016

P-Card Payments dated November 1-30, 2016

Monthly Budget Reports

Minutes of December 13, 2016 regular board meeting

Associated Student Body Reports

Employment Recommendations

Summary of Leave Request

Non-resident student enrollment request for the 2016-2017 school year

Memorandum of Easement agreement between Joint School District No. 2, and Verizon Wireless on property located at 1900 W. Pine Avenue, Meridian, Idaho

Recommendation to award Hutchinson-Smith Architect Services for Meridian High School bus loop and expanded parking lot

Recommendation to approve subrecipient agreement between City of Meridian and West Ada School District for PY 2015 Community Development Block Grant Funds

Recommendation to approve agreement for joint use of sports facilities between West Ada School District and the City of Meridian

Recommendation to approve Interagency Governmental Agreement for waiver of costs and fees

Recommendation to approve land lease agreement located at 574 Park Lane, Eagle, ID, with Verizon Wireless and West Ada School District

Recommendation to approve Golden West Signs in the amount of \$29,529.76 for construction of an Exterior Sign at Rocky Mountain High School

Recommendation to approve amendment to the Rebound lease agreement

Recommendation to approve Emergency Closure Report for January 4-

Consent /Cont. 6 2017 due to snow and road conditions

Recommendation to approve Traditional/Modified Calendars to change January 16, 2017 from No School to a regular school day per Policy 601.20

Discussion

Revised Policy Code No. 704, Building Safety Program

Joe Yochum, Assistant Superintendent stated there were no changes to the policy since the first reading and Policy 704 would return for final third reading for approval.

Plant Levy Election Resolution results

Eric Exline, Chief Communication Officer, presented the proposed bond resolution. This resolution would set a Plant Levy Election for March 14th in the amount of \$16 million dollars a year for the next ten years. School Plant Levy if for the purposes for acquiring, purchasing, or improving school sites; adding to, remodeling, improving or repairing any existing buildings; and furnishing and equipping any building, including all lighting, hearing, ventilation, and sanitation facilities and appliances necessary to maintain and operate the building of the District. Trustees thanked Mr. Exline for his work and agreed this would be a good amount necessary to maintain and operate the buildings in the District.

Attendance Area Survey results

Eric Exline, Chief Communication Officer presented the results of a survey regarding the problem by the three-way split of students from middle school to high school. The survey asked the asked families in the area preference for a solution to this issue. The survey had four possible solutions: Move this area to Centennial High School; move this area to Meridian Middle School; allow students to choose Centennial or Meridian High School; leave the attendance area the way it currently is. The most popular response according to Mr. Exline's survey was to change the attendance area so that students would attend Centennial High School with the second popular response was to change the attendance area so that students could attend either high school. The next step will be to hold a public hearing before taking a proposal back to the Board of Trustees. Trustees wanted to know the cost of transportation for the solutions. Mr. Exline would need to consult with Maranda Carson, Transportation Liaison. The Trustees thanked Mr. Exline for the report.

Set a date for Superintendent evaluation of the 2016-2017 school year

Chairman Neuhoff presented a plan to complete the annual evaluation for Superintendent Ranells. Trustees discussed doing the evaluation in January or February. Clerk of the Board, Cheri Newbold, provided Trustees with an evaluation form. Trustee Ozuna asked if the Board has met in the past to discuss the evaluation. Vice Chairman Vuittonet indicated that the Board has done this in the past. The Board wanted to

Discussion/Cont.

make sure the evaluation is scheduled at a time when the Board has enough time to spend doing a thorough evaluation.

Recommendation to approve Emergency Closure Report for January 4-6, 2017 due to snow and road conditions

Chairman Neuhoff stated the reason to pull the item off the consent agenda was to amend the content of the form because two recent school closures were added after the agenda was posted. The item need to be amended to conform with open meeting laws. Assistant Superintendent, Joe Yochum, presented the Emergency Closure report that is required to be provided to the state in the case of a school closure due to snow. The form indicates the number of days and hours school was not in session. The report must be certified by the Board and a copy of the minutes from that meeting must be submitted to the State Department of Education.

Recommendation to approve Traditional/Modified Calendars to change January 16, 2017 from No School to a regular school day per Policy 601.20

Assistant Superintendent, Joe Yochum discussed policy 601.20, which delineates the meaning of this policy. The policy indicates that after three closures, school will be held on January 16, 2017, Martin Luther King Day/Human Rights Day. The policy also states that when under the required hours, President's Day will also be a school day. The request to change the calendar at this meeting did not include adding President's day as a school day. This request would come at a later meeting. Chairman Neuhoff asked if the Board should amend the request to include President's Day. In addition, the change in the calendar requested changing the start of the first semester finals. Currently, the finals are scheduled to start next Tuesday, January 17. Instead, the four-day final schedule would begin January 19. Trustee Smylie indicated that he believed that the communication should be as clear as possible to parents, patrons, and staff about the nature of this decision. Chairman Neuhoff acknowledged the concerns expressed by the community and staff. The notice of changing Martin Luther King Day came out with short notice. Chairman Neuhoff also spoke to the challenges for students and teachers with five days of instruction lost. The upcoming finals were a concern to students, parents, and teachers. Adding two days before the start of the exams will help those concerns. Chairman Neuhoff acknowledged the concerns about Martin Luther King Day, but indicated that the district has consistently recognized Dr. King, and pointed Dr. King's strong support for education. Trustee Ozuna asked about concerns of staff. Vice Chairman Vuittonet asked a clarifying question about what type of motion would need to be make on this item. Dr. Ranells indicated staff's desire to revise the policy to make it more clear. Chairman Neuhoff expressed thanks to the staff that drive the roads in the early morning check on roads for the sake of the safety of kids. Trustee Ozuna and Trustee Smylie expressed a desire to communicate clearly how the goal of this decision is to restore learning and teaching time to students. Dr. Ranells stated the decision to make

Discussion/Cont.

up days was all about kids.

Action

Approve or deny Plant Levy Election Resolution

Trustee Ozuna made a motion, **Vice Chairman Vuittonet** seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve Plant Levy Election Resolution.

Approve or deny to set a Special Board meeting to evaluate Superintendent

Vice Chairman Vuittonet made a motion, **Trustee Smylie** seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the to evaluate the Superintendent on February 14, 2017 at the regular scheduled board meeting.

Approve or deny the Emergency Closure Report for January 4-10 2017

Trustee Smylie made a motion to approve the amendment to add extra days to the Emergency Closure Report and to approve the report, **Trustee Klopfenstein** seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the amended report and add the additional days of school closures.

Approve or deny to approve Traditional/Modified/ Renaissance Calendars to reflect the addition of Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day and the movement of the semester.

Reason for the amendments to include additional school days and movement of semester and adhering to Policy 601.20. **Vice Chairman Vuittonet** made a motion, **Trustee Klopfenstein** seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve Administrations recommendation.

**Board Reports/
Assignments**

Trustee Klopfenstein appreciated the efforts Administration efforts to keep students safe during the winter storms. He also wanted to acknowledge the AP achievement awards posted on the web site.

Trustee Ozuna thanked the maintenance staff and all those that prepared the school parking lots so students and staff would be safe.

Vice Chairman Vuittonet reported the work on school bonding legislation. He asked if the Board could have a work session on all the requirements of teacher evaluation.

Chairman Nuehoff wanted to thank the custodial staff that worked to get the parking lots and repair the damage caused by water at Heritage Middle School and Meridian High School.

Trustee Smylie agreed the need to talk to legislators about what the needs of public schools are.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ranells thanked all the crew that drives the road in the early morning hours during the winter month, and also Don Coberly and the Boise School District for the coordinated efforts to keep students safe. Dr. Ranells expressed appreciation for the support and the dedication the Board had for student's safety and academic achievements during this unusual school closure.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Vuittonet made a motion, **Trustee Klopfenstein** seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:25p.m.

Chairman

Clerk