



# West Ada

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 24, 2014**

Date, Place & Time	The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Joint School District No. 2, convened on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 5:30 p.m., at the District Service Center, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian, Idaho
Trustees in Attendance	Chairman Anne Ritter, Janet Calinsky, Carol Sayles, Mike Vuittonet
Trustee Excused	Tina Dean
Staff in Attendance	Dr. Linda Clark, Dr. Bruce Gestrin, Trish Duncan, Joe Yochum, Alex Simpson, Gloria Rolland
Guests	Loraine Hand, Brian Leisten, Sue Darden, Layne Saxton, Lynda Learsch, Bob Learsch

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Ritter

**Amended Agenda Approved** Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Calinsky seconded and the vote was unanimous to delete #3, *Idaho Fine Arts Agreement*, from discussion/action for consideration at another meeting.

**Consent Agenda** Trustee Calinsky moved, Trustee Vuittonet seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the consent agenda as proposed. Approved items are as follow:

Minutes of the June 10, 2014 regular board meeting;

Employment recommendations;

Requests for leave without pay for:

- Sarah Pallister, teacher, the 2014-2015 school year;
- Marin Wheeler, teacher, the 2014-2015 school year;

Requests for professional leave for:

- Bea Allen, Gloria Rolland, Teresa Urvina five (5) days; and Debra Nordquist, Kim Rhoades off contract, to attend the National Association of Education Office Personnel Conference in Portland, Oregon;
- Dr. Linda Clark, four (4) days, to attend the League of Innovative School Meeting in Washington, D.C.;
- Eric Escandon, off contract, to attend Project Lead the Way STEM Training in Ogden, Utah;
- Dr. Jerry Reininger, two (2) days, to attend the Organization for Educational Technology and Curriculum meeting in Portland, Oregon;

**Consent Agenda – cont.**

- William Suggs, five (5) days, to attend the College Board Summer Institute for AP Government and Politics, U.S. in Spokane, Washington;

Bid awarded to DAS-CO, Inc. for trenching, boring, and installation of duct for fiber between Eagle High School and the Idaho Fine Arts Academy in the amount of \$49,120.00;

Purchase of floor cleaning machines, for use by the maintenance department, from Brady Industries through the 1GPA contract in the amount of \$293,636.44;

Purchase of HVAC controls for Eagle Middle School from sole source vendor Clima-Tech Corporation in the amount of \$86,250.00;

Bids awarded for:

- Electrical work for portable install at Desert Sage Elementary to Commercial Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$32,305.00;
- Electrical work for portable install at Rocky Mountain High School to Tri-State Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$36,775;
- Meridian High School Phase 2b,3a, 3b:
  - Landscaping to Franz Witte in the amount of \$51,300.00;
  - Audio visual equipment to Audio Enhancement in the amount of \$67,614.00;
  - Window covering to Northwest Sales and Distribution in the amount of \$5,131.00;
  - Aluminum windows/glass o Aluma Glass and Glazing in the amount of \$163,720.00.

**Discussion/Action**

2014-2015 Proposed  
Budget Approved

Alex Simpson, budget director, reviewed the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 school year. Highlights of the presentation include:

An estimated increase of \$7.095 million in state funding:

- This amount is based on a projected increase of 650 students for fall 2014
- An estimated increase in support units of 24.8
- Discretionary revenue up \$2,401.15 per support unit
- The total attendance average is close to 95.8%
- Administration, certified and classified employees will see a 1% increase to the base salary
- The certified minimum increased to \$31,750 from \$31,000

The estimated fund balance carryover from the 13-14 budget is \$6.65 million (this includes a savings of \$3.5M)

The emergency levy is projected to the same as 2013-14

The supplemental levy passed in March for \$14 million (expires after 2015-16)

Other funding sources for 2014-15 are:

- State professional development fund - \$765,750
- State leadership fund - \$1,946,656
- School net support - \$238,050
- Safe & drug free - \$226,250
- Technology staffing - \$211,600
- Content and curriculum - \$491,739
- Classroom technology - \$1,018,603

Estimated changes in general fund expenditures include:

- Addition of 33 FTE (certified staff) - \$1,989,430
- Addition of 2.5 FTE (administrative staff) - \$266,866
- Addition of 3.5 FTE (classified staff) - \$132,842
- Increase of 1% to base for all staff - \$1,303,386
- Step for all staff - \$1,985,132
- Career enhancement (one step for all staff – 1 year) - \$45,000
- Increase for student resource officer - \$25,000
- Health insurance premium increase of 4% - \$860,078
- Utility increases - \$52,878

Cost savings to the budget are \$367,304 for the elimination of the early retirement incentive and \$41,810 for the decreased premiums for short term disability insurance (12%)

The district's fund balance was at its peak of \$18.5 million in 2008-09. Since 2009, the district has been using the fund balance to balance the budget. One time monies from the Federal Jobs Bill and the State Maintenance Money helped replenish the balance in 2011 and 2012 but since these were one time funds, the supplemental levy<sup>7</sup> was necessary to cover on-going costs of personnel in those funds. The district has been using the fund balance at an unsustainable rate. Unless we have more growth unit funding from the state or budget savings, the district may need to remain flat or even cut expenses in 2015-16 in order to balance the budget. Cuts would have to come from salaries and benefits in furlough days, reduced benefits, and a reduction in force.

Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee Vuittonet seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the proposed 2014-2015 budget as presented.

2013-2014 Amended  
Budget Approved

Trustee vuittonet moved, Trustee Calinsky seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the amended 2013-2014 budget as presented.

Change of District Name to  
"West Ada School District"  
Approved

Eric Exline shared a power point on rebranding and changing the name of the district. The use of the name "Meridian School District" is causing issues with patrons who don't know the district is comprised of students from six municipalities and often ask how to enroll in Star or Eagle school district. The name also confuses patrons during elections, some have commented they don't vote because they live in another district. A new district web site is set to launch in August and changing the district name to West Ada School District could coincide with that launch.

Chairman Ritter asked if Mr. Exline had received any feedback on the proposal. The only feedback at this time has been internally.

Trustee Vuittonet stated there has been confusion with new patrons to the district with the name and where they reside. He asked how long it would take and what the cost would be. Changing the name can start immediately and the biggest expense to the district will be signage. That project will be done over the course of a couple of years and plant facility monies will be used for those projects. Individual schools do not use the district name in their signage so we are just looking at signs at the District Service Center signage. Mr. Vuittonet likes the name, it is easily relatable to patrons.

Chairman Ritter stated the name would address the issues of the "orphan" cities. She gets calls all of the time from patrons and parents that have no sense of association with the Meridian School District. Ms. Ritter asked what the negatives would be. Mr. Exline stated that one municipality has had the pleasure of owning our brand name. The district serves more than one city and we need all of patrons on board to help out when asked.

Lorraine Hand (patron) – in her current role as co-chair for the bond committee, there is a big issue with people feeling they are not part of the district. The new name is easily recognizable.

Shane Duncan (employee) – asked if the "s" could be removed from the logo. The WA works much better and there will be no negative connotation's associated with logo.

Trustee Sayles also stated the WAS is hindering her thoughts and wasn't this a conflict with the Washington university?

Trustee Vuittonet made a motion to adopt the rebranding and renaming of the Meridian School District to the West Ada School District. The motion was seconded by Trustee Calinsky. Trustee Sayles does not want critics to think the board rushed into this decision too quickly and without enough thought. Dr. Clark stated she would contact the mayor and the chamber to let them know before she left for the day. Trustee Vuittonet voted yes, Trustee Calinsky voted yes and Trustee Sayles voted no stating it wasn't because she didn't like the idea but felt extra time to consider the change was always good.

REVISED Policies Approved

Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee Vuittonet seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve revisions to Policy Code No. 303, *Supervision and Evaluations – Administrators/Supervisors*.

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Calinsky seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve revisions to Policy Code No. 401.16, *Certificated Personnel Problem Solving Mechanism*.

Trustee Sayles moved, Trustee Calinsky seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve revisions to Policy Code No. 401.30, *Supervision and Evaluation*.

Board Reports and  
Assignments

Trustee Vuittonet reported his attendance at the career and college readiness conference in Chicago. There were good speakers and a lot of what they talked about is already being done in our district.

Trustee Sayles attended the Medical Arts board meeting. They will be doing a self-evaluation September through March in preparations for the state review cycle next March.

Chairman Ritter attended two governor's task force meetings and would like okay to bring a resolution to the board regarding impact fees for new construction. The resolution will be presented and discussed at the next board meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Clark's work continues with the committee on the career ladder and tiered licensure. She participated in a ribbon cutting at Idaho State University for a new lab. Transportation continues work on their financial solution and will get the information to Dr. Clark prior to tomorrow night's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Calinsky seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk