



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

Date, Place & Time	The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 5:30 p.m., at the District Service Center, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian, Idaho
Trustees in Attendance	Chairman Mike Vuittonet, Tina Dean, Anne Ritter, Carol Sayles
Trustee Excused	Janet Calinsky
Staff in Attendance	Dr. Linda Clark, Dr. Bruce Gestrin, Trish Duncan, Eric Exline, Joe Yochum, Cindy Sisson, Laura Gilchrist, Missy Nida, Tammy Bevel
Guests	Kristin Galloway, Jan Ramirez, Val Tidwell, Lynn Fouts, Elizabeth Hume, Heather Smith, Amy Armstrong, Tracy Poff, Kristina Haasakker, Misty Callens, Robin Crawford, Shawna Schneiderman, Vicki Munson, Julie Hatcher, Shelbie Pope, Stacy Lacy, Gena Marker, Loraine Hand, Lisa Hatfield, Sue Darden, Maria Loruter, Christine Smith, Cody Derheim, Rob Kelley, Sharon Blair, Ray Blair, Christy Ho, Heather Smith, Rachel Moorhouse, Bonnie Stiles, Melinda Bodine-Stevens, Kellam Ludlow, Katie Hitchcock, Christie Nichols, Sara Newman, Chad Davis, Chris Housel, Bill Roberts
CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Vuittonet
Good News	Dr. Clark recognized Chris Housel, principal at Eagle Elementary School of the Arts, who responded to a critical need by opening his building on a Saturday evening to house senior citizens displaced by a fire near the school. Mr. Housel helped about 40 people and stayed until the last person was taken care of.
Consent Agenda	<p>Trustee Ritter moved, Trustee Dean seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the consent agenda as proposed, noting the list of bills was incomplete and the remaining expenditures will come to the next board meeting for approval. Approved items are as follow:</p> <p>Payment of bills dated August 1-31, 2014 (note this was a partial list and remaining expenditures will be approved at the next meeting in September);</p> <p>Minutes from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular board meeting June 24, 2014;• Special board meeting June 25, 2014;• Special board meeting June 26, 2014;

Consent Agenda – cont.

ASB reports;

Employment recommendations;

Requests for leave without pay for:

- Candice Adams-Asroui, nurse at Renaissance High School, four (4) days;
- Teresa Condron, teacher at Chief Joseph School of the Arts, the 2014-2015 school year;
- Rebecca Garoutte, food nutrition worker at Lake Hazel Middle School, thirty (30) days;
- Elizabeth Paradis, a teacher at Seven Oaks Elementary, one (1) day;
- Darcy Wagner, a teacher at Lake Hazel Elementary, the 2014-2015 school year;

Requests for professional leave for:

- Jeanne Buschine, Molly Smith, four (4) days to attend the National Homeless Education Conference in Kansas City, Missouri;
- Dr. Linda Clark, Cindy Sisson, and Jackie Thomason, two (2) days to attend the District Management Council's Leadership Development Session *Focusing on Value to Improve Performance: Boosting Academic Return on Investment*, in Boston, Massachusetts;
- Dr. Linda Clark, one (1) day to attend the 2014 RTM Education Congress Presentation in Dallas, Texas;
- Clay Long, three (3) days to attend the 2014 SkillsUSA Washington Leadership Training Institute in Washington, D.C.;
- Shane Stevenson, four (4) days to attend the 2014 World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa;
- Cathy Thornton, three (3) days to attend the Pacific Northwest Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities in Portland, Oregon;
- Cirstin Zimmermann, one (1) day to attend the National Association of School Psychologist's Western Regional Meeting in San Diego, California;

Non-resident student enrollment requests for the 2014-2015 school year;

Revised job description for Drivers Training Instructor – Classroom/In-Car;

Request to seek Alternative Authorization, Teacher to New, for:

- Mary Sue Messinger, special education generalist K-12 at Rocky Mountain High School;
- Michelle Sczesny, special education generalist K-12 at Gateway School of Language and Culture;

Request to seek Provisional Authorization for:

- Abbie Lee Sutherland, extended resource teacher at Siena Elementary;

Consent Agenda – cont.

- Doug Woods, special education generalist K-12 at Meridian High School;

Recommendation to adopt the following texts for grade 6-8 dance classes at the Idaho Fine Arts Academy:

- *Experiencing dance: From student to dance artist;*
- *Appreciating dance: A guide to the world's liveliest art;*
- *A sense of dance: Exploring your movement potential;*

Request from Real Life Ministries to paint the six portables at Mountain View High School. The cost of paint and supplies will be split between district maintenance and Mountain View High School;

Change order #4, Centennial High School painting and abuse-resistant wall protection, to Jordan-Wilcomb Construction in the amount of \$3,052.50;

Change order #1, Mountain View High School portable, the relocation of the Idaho Power transformer to Commercial Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$9,776.32;

Discussion/Action

**Supplemental Book List
Revisions Approved**

Laura Gilchrist, K-12 Language Arts coordinator, reviewed the work of the committee formed to review the district's secondary supplemental book list. Ms. Gilchrist explained a supplemental book is used in the classroom to supplement to the regular classroom textbook. Books for independent reading projects can come from outside the supplemental list.

The committee was comprised of patrons from each trustee zone, teachers and librarians who were split into elementary and secondary groups. Each committee member was asked to read 10 books and to consider the following criteria regarding the book:

- Does the book align with the curriculum;
- Are teachers still interested in using;
- Do schools have copies of the book available for classroom use?

If the book received a "no" on any of the criteria, it is recommended for removal from the list. If the book did not align with the curriculum, alternate books were researched and appropriate titles were included in the recommendation.

Ms. Gilchrist reviewed the recommendations of the committee and informed the board the committee had worked in earnest to find alternative texts to "*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*". While two additional titles are recommended for this unit, the committee recommends the book remain on the supplemental reading list with these provisions:

- A stated requirement on the supplementary book list and curriculum document to use the book with literature circles only.

This method of teaching allows students to choose a book from a list of approved novels to read and study in small groups while permitting all students to remain in the classroom even if they choose not to read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*;

- A required request for parent permission from students who choose to read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* for unit study. A request letter is included in the 10th grade curriculum.
- Teachers will not be allowed to read this book aloud in class.

These provisions are recommended to offer a compromise that respects those community members who find the book offensive and other community members who find the book appropriate:

Additionally, the committee recommends the process for adding books to the supplemental book list be an annual process.

Specifically:

- Proposals will come from buildings to building representatives;
- The new proposals will be reviewed in late spring/early summer;
- The board will receive a recommendation for approval during the summer and can take action prior to the start of the school year.

Chairman Vuittonet stated the board had chosen not to take additional testimony on the book *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* but would hear testimony on the process or other books on the supplemental list.

Public testimony:

Sharon Blair – thanked the committee and Laura Gilchrist for the work that was done. The process made her feel her opinion was valued and appreciated. Mrs. Blair asked the following questions:

- Would she be able to raise the issue of content on the supplemental list again this year? Dr. Clark stated that the recommendation is that the board would consider recommendations to review the list annually.
- When is the last year the English textbooks were updated? Due to a lack of funding, the textbooks are 10-12 years old.
- Regarding the adopted book, if a child picks a book, will the parent/grandparent/or guardian know which book has been picked? Only on that book, there are no restrictions on other books.

Rachel Moorhouse – appreciated the time put in by all of the committee but has some concerns about the process. Ms. Moorhouse believed having three teachers on the committee that were housed at the school the complaint originated from is a conflict of interest. Her understanding is that one of the teachers moved to another building and plans on teaching from the book under protest. She felt the board should know for future reference.

Bonnie Stiles – her daughter was told she would need to order a book for the literary circle that is not on the supplemental list, was the book

one of the recommended additions? The teachers have not seen this list and the first order of business will be to get that out if approved. Mrs. Stiles felt frustrated by the statement there was no money to update text books when the district had changed their name and expended money to get that done. Dr. Clark explained the changes to stationary would be done when the current supply was exhausted, the three signs that say Joint School District No. 2 will not be changed until the district receives donations to pay for those changes and signage on the buses was changed when the district contracted with a company for transportation services. Costs of the name change are minimal.

Ms. Gilchrist stated the use of books not on the list will be clarified tomorrow when she sends out an email to staff. The district does not ask students to purchase books for use in the classroom.

Trustee Dean addressed the sensitivity of students, the rights of parents and protecting teachers from inadvertently using something disturbing in the classroom.

Trustee Calinsky made a motion to approve the notations and restrictions on the supplemental book list, to move to an annual process for adding books to the list, and allowing the books that have been taken off the list to be sold and to use the money to buy books that have been approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayles and passed unanimously.

**Board
Reports/Assignments**

Trustee Ritter reported on numerous calls with the NSBA Board of Directors; attended a graduation committee meeting; attended the last meeting of the committee meeting on accountability and autonomy for the governor's task force; and met with the ISBA governmental affairs committee to get ready for the legislature.

Chairman Vuittonet – attended a TVEP meeting and the decision has been made to run the FAFSA competition again and Meridian High School will be included; reminded trustees the Region III meeting would be held on September 16th.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Clark reported that enrollment has settled around 36,600, about 500 more than last school year. Continued restoration of state funds is needed to reduce class sizes and reduce the number of teachers under the allocation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Vuittonet took a roll call vote of the board at 6:46 p.m. to move into executive session for personnel. Trustee Dean voted yes, Trustee Sayles voted yes, Trustee Calinsky voted yes, Trustee Ritter voted yes and Trustee Vuittonet voted yes.

The board recessed from executive session at 6:55 p.m. and continued in regular session.

Trustee Ritter made a motion to place Employee A and Employee B on paid administrative leave, the motion was seconded by Trustee Calinsky and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Calinsky moved, Trustee Sayles seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk