



# West Ada

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 25, 2014**

Date, Place & Time	A special meeting of the Board of Trustees, West Ada School District, convened on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 5:33 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, Mike Carrithers, Alex Simpson, Eric Exline, Don Nesbitt
Guests	Tiffiney Pegram, Paul Pedrosa, Marc Santoro, Martha Goff, Gary Goff, Gary Hill, Cathy Schwandy, Frances K. Blados, Steve Blados, Jennifer Cook, Leonard Reed, Dale Sneed, Randy Van Meter, Bob Learsch, Lynda Learsch, Jerry Grand, Mike Shrader, Vance Batteen, Nancy Batteen, Scott Ricksukur, Linda Wood, Nancy Towler, Bill Towler, Steven Morton, Marie Cameron, Frank Junker, Lois Byrd, Debora Hanway, John Murray, Gloria Basker, Kathryn Nelson, Carol Chaffon, Elby Jones, Stacie Massey, Tammy Ricksecker, Layne Saxton, Luke Franklin, Scott Hale, Tiffanie Newcomer, Bunny Malmin, Glen Elliott, Carol M. Junker, Gene Moran, Terri Rowe, Sue Smith, CJ Nielsen, Suzette Jarrett, Shawn Jarrett, Corey Heaps, Jill Tueller, Michelle Barnes, Mark Miller, Shannon Miller, Rhonda Koel, Bob Canavse, Noel Randel, Dale Sneed, Karen Sneed, Sue Darden, Randa Fenner, J. Brown, Diana Salzman, Eric Anderson, Jona Huff, Don Rex, Brandie Maestas, Steve Newcomer, Ken Arendse, Derek Canode, Shane Duncan, Richard Bussell, Terrie Ferry, Ann Lovelace, Betty Duff, Marie Lundley, Rita M. Hale

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Ritter

**Amended Agenda Approved** Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Sayles seconded and the vote was unanimous to amend the agenda with the addition of a special board meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday June 26, 2014. The board will consider the lease/purchase agreement for what will become the Idaho Fine Arts Academy.

**Discussion/Action** Consideration of the RFP on the transportation process in West Ada School District.

Chairman Ritter discussed the procedure for tonight's meeting. Sue Smith will be given 5-8 minutes to discuss her calculations. Following her presentation, the district representative will answer questions and clarify information as needed.

Sue Ann Smith – reviewed her calculations against what was in the RFP prepared by the district.

- Kindergarten routes could be reinstated for \$650,00 in the first year
- Assistants would cost more than estimated by the district due to the shortened hours proposed by the contractor
- Route time did not include pre- and post- trip times
- The contractor did not figure the cost of all shuttles
- Mid-day routes are longer, she averaged in the times of regular and special needs
- Not gaining anything giving away buses, could be used for a longer period of time with the excellent mechanics they have.
- Use of building and grounds for low lease price and providing fuel is not practical

Chairman Ritter thanked Ms. Smith for the time and effort she put into putting her proposal together.

Dr. Bruce Gestrin – responded to the information provided by Ms. Smith. All the data used to develop the RFP came from the same source she used for her calculations. Four hours was the base rate used for calculations, routes under four hours were calculated at four and an additional rate was added for routes over the four. The district built in money for additional overages as needed. Data on pre and post trips were figured into the calculations as well as washing the bus. As the buses are replaced with new buses, the old buses come back to us and we dispose of them. Another fundamental principal of the RFP process is for every dollar we charge them, they charge back. That is why the facility is leased to them for a smaller amount and why we kept the fuel so they wouldn't raise the price based on the cost.

Trustee Discussion:

Trustee Vuittonet stated his appreciation for the information on how calculations were set. Mr. Vuittonet stated this process had been in consideration for a length of time. An outside auditor recommended the district look at an outside vendor following the evaluation of the department. He had asked personally for clarification on the numbers and how they were calculated. It is his opinion there will be significant savings over the five year period by going with the vendor.

Trustee Sayles doesn't want the district to be a penny wise and a pound foolish. The buses can be driven many more miles and do not need to be replaced right now. She spoke with Brad Jensen, the former director of student transportation for the state, and he has concluded that contractors are 7% higher in cost than a district running the department in his opinion. Any change outside the district will cost additional money and they even charge to pick up a student that has been missed. Workers comp costs can be reduced and they need to use the transportation personnel to give the district ideas on how to save money. Trustee Sayles suggested they wait a year to see what our own people can do, we are not acknowledging the assets we have in our own people.

Trustee Calinsky is balancing the knowledge that patrons will look for additional cost cutting in the district when they go to the polls for the bond election in August. She is weighing the information shared on the numbers and feels that perhaps she needs to pause a little. Wondering if it would be worthwhile to give their numbers a chance but at the same time not sure it is worth going through all of this again.

Trustee Calinsky made a motion we follow the tier program that was initiated, implement a one year caveat and wait, and if we are not seeing a difference..... The motion was not completed.

Trustee Vuittonet has listened to what has been said and it is a fact that we have cut and everyone in this room have been part of those cuts. It is difficult to have a way to save \$15 million over the next five years and not do it. We have a chance to get the mid-day kindergarten back which would bring our highest need kids back to school. He understands what Carol and Janet are saying, but the use of taxpayer dollars is extremely important. At the end of the first year, we can reevaluate the contract and go back to providing transportation through the district, the buses would still be ours.

Chairman Ritter reviewed the four goals the district had set out to accomplish by contracting the bus services out. To update and improve the fleet, we need to get better buses on the road; kindergarten enrollment and attendance have declined, academic performance has been affected because the parents cannot or will not bring the students to school; we need to increase hours of drivers, the addition of mid-day busing will help with that. She proposed they enter into the contract and monitor very carefully. Then we can say honestly that we have tried and saved money. That is the commitment she would make, if this doesn't work after one year, we are out and can justify to community that everyone tried and it didn't work. We just can't justify that bus drivers didn't want this done. It is a transition, have faith we will do the right thing after a year. There are many places for the district's money to go, lower class sizes, decent textbooks, pay to play. The transportation department does not exist in a vacuum, the board has an obligations to look at all the moving parts. This is a reasonable alternative.

Trustee Sayles stated that if the board goes with the contract, people will choose to leave. They will have other employment opportunities and we will not regain this core group. The report says they can come up with cost savings and get kindergarten back and Chairman Ritter's suggestion is not appropriate.

Trustee Vuittonet made a motion to accept the RFP with the caveat that is watched very carefully, the board will watch to make sure goals are fulfilled and the promises that have been made, especially to our employees are kept. Trustee Calinsky seconded the motion. Trustee Vuittonet voted yes, Trustee Calinsky voted yes and Trustee Sayles voted no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Vuittonet moved, Trustee Calinsky seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

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Chairman

Clerk