

Snake River School Board of Trustees
Held at the Snake River District Office
103 South 900 West, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Friday, January 16, 2015

I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Chairman, Bill Martin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members present were Bill Martin, Wally Aldous, Kent Miller, Annis Williams, and Kim Kunz. Also attending were Superintendent Mark Gabrylczyk, Board Clerk Terisa Coombs, Sherrilynn Bair, and Jackie Hopper (ISBA).

II. ISBA TRAINING

Jackie Hopper, regional trainer with the Idaho School Boards Association, gave the board training on Roles and Responsibilities and also Board Governance. Discussion was held about school board duties, roles, responsibilities, and powers as defined in Idaho Code 33-512 and also district policy, Duties and Powers of a Board, Policy #2150. Ms. Hopper trained the board on best practices, what does it mean to be a body that governs, and what it takes to run the school district. The board's executive responsibility is for the superintendent. The board needs to have the knowledge of what it means to be a governance body, but more importantly what it means to be a team and how they work and function as a team. The top three duties of a school board is the calendar, financing of the district, and the hiring, management, and evaluation of the superintendent, or the "CEO" of the school district.

The agenda of a board meeting, open meeting law, and executive session were also discussed. Ms. Hopper explained how important it is to always refer to policies and procedures of the district. The main roles of the board are Executive, Judicial, and Legislative and the board is quasi-judicial.

Ms. Hopper and the board discussed how to handle communications with patrons and with teachers. For example, when a patron or an employee brings a problem to a board member's attention, they should explain the process: there is a chain of command for teachers and there is a patron concern form and chain of command for patrons to follow. The board cannot render an opinion if a board member has more information than another board member. The board needs to make sure that they don't hear about the issue if it could potentially come to a judgment, as well as around faculty. When people come to the board with a complaint, the first thing that the board needs to do is ask if they have followed the grievance policy. Ms. Hopper stress that policy is the backbone.

The board, superintendent, and patrons should work together as a team. The board and superintendent should have a "pitcher and catcher" relationship. She said that board members must listen to patrons but this could get them into huge trouble because the board is a judicial body. If a board member hears something from patrons and he/she is the only one who has heard it, if the issue comes to a decision that needs to be rendered and the board member makes a decision based on what he/she has heard and they haven't revealed that information to the other board members the complaints and also the very specific names of who it is that is complaining, he/she is in violation of open meeting law. The board is required to allow the people to know who is influencing their decisions. If he/she can't tell the other board members exactly who it is and this is what they said, that decision is illegal. The whole reason that open meeting law exists is because the community has the right to know who, what, where, why, how the board is being influenced in their decision making.

Annis Williams left at 11:30 a.m. and the board took a break.

Ms. Hopper discussed what it means to govern. Governance is exercising authority, direction, and control to ensure that the purpose is achieved. When looking at authority, direction and control, it is looked at through the lens of hiring the superintendent, putting together board goals, district goals, superintendent goals, and then monitoring all of these processes that get put in place including policy. Are the district's policies allowing the board to be the best governing body in getting work done? A responsibility of a board is to regularly go over all of the district's policies. The second definition of governance is providing strategic leadership by setting direction, making policy and strategy decisions, overseeing and monitoring organizational performance and ensuring overall accountability. From strategizing, we put in place the budget, policies, and staff to help us meet the goals. The board oversees and monitors the big performance and then ensures accountability of the entire district. The board, superintendent, and patrons should work together as a team with accountability through participation, predictability, and transparency. The communication between the board and the superintendent needs to be stellar. The board cannot be effective if the superintendent is not working in line with the board and the superintendent cannot work effectively if there is strong conflict in the system. It is important that board members have the same common vision and cooperation is important. Once a decision has been reached by the board, the board must support/advocate for that decision. Discussion held at the end of training. The board thanked Ms. Hopper for her presentation.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under Idaho Code 67-2345 (1b) and (1d), Kim Kunz motioned and Wally Aldous seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and exempt records. A roll call vote was taken: Bill Martin, aye; Kent Miller, aye; Wally Aldous, aye; and Kim Kunz, aye. Annis Williams was absent. Motion passed 4-0.

The board went into Executive Session at 12:35 p.m. Also attending were Superintendent Mark Gabrylczyk and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs. Personnel issues and exempt records were discussed.

Annis Williams returned to the meeting and entered executive session at 12:45 p.m. and then left at 1:55 p.m.

V. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Wally Aldous and seconded by Kim Kunz to return to Regular Session. All the board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

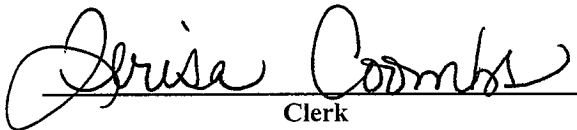
The board returned to Regular Session at 11:25 p.m.

VI. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Wally Aldous. All the board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

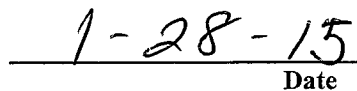
ATTEST:



Clerk



Chairman



Date