

**Snake River School District #52
103 South 900 West
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221**

**Special Board Meeting and Executive Session
May 2, 2014**

I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Wally Aldous called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following board members were present: Wally Aldous, Kent Miller, Bill Martin, and Annis Williams. Kim Kunz was excused. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark Gabrylczyk, Gayla Osborn, board clerk, Chris Nelson, business manager, Carol Adams, Sherrilynn Bair, Leslie Mielke (press), Lisa Warren, Kirsten Leavitt, and Shawnii Lyman.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Martin moved and Kent Miller seconded to approve the agenda as printed. All the board members present (Kim Kunz was absent) voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

III. STAR ENTERPRISE MATH PROGRAM

Superintendent Mark Gabrylczyk gave the board financial information on the district's spending from 2003 to this current year. It describes the current revenue against the district's overall expenses. Comparing state support this year to last year the district is under \$284,000, because the state did not send as much and will not send more. This is a significant loss and is due to a drop in average daily attendance. This is the price the district pays when students don't come to school. Although there is not an overall problem with the attendance (schools average 95%-96%) the high school's attendance is low at 91%-92%. Wally asks if the county fair and harvest break at the beginning of the year was taken into consideration and the superintendent said everything was taken into consideration. For comparison, Kent Miller asked what attendance trends had shown in previous years. Mr. Gabrylczyk said the only way to tell is by looking at all the numbers; for instance, 2009-2010 shows a significant drop in funding not only because of attendance but because of the overall economic downslide. There has also been a decline in student population through the years. Superintendent Gabrylczyk said the taxes (\$223,000 which is a part of the levy) have been so important because it balances a little with what was lost from the state. The expenses include salary, benefits, programming, maintenance, transportations, etc. In some areas the district is spending more than in previous years and spending less in other areas. Currently, the district is spending \$45,000 less than last year, so it has been very conservative with the monies that it has. Wally Aldous said the state keeps saying they are going to give the districts more money. The superintendent noted that there may be a little more money from the state but not enough to cover the rise in costs for insurance, food, transportation, etc. The state may be restoring money but it is at the 2009 level and its 2014! Bill Martin asked if the district might receive \$200,000 more this year and the superintendent said it would be closer to \$100,000.

The superintendent said he put together a purchase plan for the Star Enterprise Program with justification and implementation. He said he had just returned from an administrators' conference in Boise and a main theme there was school improvement and student academic achievement. He said the district is trying to build a system where the curriculum is aligned, where there are student interventions, where teachers collaborate with one another, and where student data is analyzed. The tools to do this must be available. He said Snake River is a very unique school district because all the data and curriculum must be transferred between six different schools. Because of this things can fall through the cracks and he wants a system for more consistency for students moving between the schools. Mr. Gabrylczyk said the teachers have enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with teachers from the other buildings via the PLC training and professional development. The district needs screening tools for the students. The current program doesn't give as much information as is needed. The Start Enterprise Program would be for grades K-12. Moreland Elementary teachers are doing a phenomenal job with students in Kindergarten and first grade. They have the curriculum aligned and they have a system in place they feel is working for them. He said the district wants Moreland to benchmark their students four times a year so this data can be used as a baseline as the student is tracked with more consistency as they go from grade to grade.

As justification, Mr. Gabrylczyk referred to the district's Strategic Plan #1 which describes the need for curriculum alignment, specifically Action Step #6 which states, "The district will use formative and summative data to drive education for all students. The formative and summative assessments will include (SBAC), (IRI), (ACT), (SAT), (CBA) and (ECA) and progress monitoring. In addition the Snake River staff will analyze and disaggregate student data to improve learning outcomes by using Milepost, School Net and Mastery Manager Data collection systems." The superintendent said "formative" determines if there is a problem that can be fixed with interventions immediately. The summative data are the federal and state mandated testing like the old Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) and the newer Smarter Balance test (SBAC). The formative and summative tests approved in the district are the Idaho Reading Indicator (for example) which tests three times a year and the high school ACT and SAT tests. For the past

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few years progress data has been collected with the Milepost system and this has been very successful for the interventions done with the students. District wide there have been about 700 interventions. The district needs a tool that measures that formative process so the student gets help along the way and problems are not discovered until a final test (or autopsy). Chairman Aldous asked if the teachers shared this data information with the parents. Lisa and Shawnii said Milepost hasn't been that helpful for kindergarten and first grader intervention; but, they do share IRI data with the parents and they like to see the progress their child is making. Kirsten Leavitt said the second and third grade teachers use Aims-Web to first set what they consider to be a realistic base-line on where the student should be and the parents enjoy seeing their child make progress toward that line. She said parents want hope and they can see the progress made because of the interventions. Sherrilynn Bair, the district curriculum coordinator, said the SBAC test the students took this year was just to test the test and its delivery system.

Superintendent Gabryczyk said the Star Enterprise system is a data collection system which sets trend lines for the teachers and helps with student interventions. Bill Martin asked if Moreland would not be using the Star Enterprise System. Mark said they would not be using the math and reading part of it, but they would be using the bench mark part four times a year. Mrs. Bair said that the Moreland team is happy with the way they are doing things. Carol Adams said the first graders really aren't ready for the accelerated math and reading portions of this system. However, it would be in place for when they are or when an individual is ready. Kent asked if there was an abbreviated price list because Moreland's cost was lower. Mrs. Bair explained different parts of the system are used in different grade levels so the price list reflected that. Wally Aldous asked the teachers if the district would need more teachers to handle the student interventions to free up the teacher for the rest of the classroom. Shawnii Lyman said the Moreland teachers rely a lot on student assessment binders they have created as they have aligned the curriculum and report cards to the Common Core Standards. They can then adjust their teaching to what each student needs. They have parent volunteers to help with interventions. They also use the iPads to help with interventions and the students love them.

Kirsten said Riverside Elementary doesn't yet have the iPads and changes in the Title I program prevent having students pulled out for help with interventions. Riverside would need more computers, iPads or other resources to help with interventions. Carol Adams said this program can also be run with paper and pencils; it is not exclusive to technology. Mr. Gabryczyk said because of the way the infrastructure of the district technology was implemented all the buildings have the necessary technology for the program, except Riverside Elementary and it will be given the priority this summer for the purchase of chrome books.

He said with the Accelerated Reading and Accelerated Math program the lessons are aligned to the Core Standards. The teachers will be able to match them up with their lessons. Mrs. Adams has had this program since February and has been able to give her students a "blended" opportunity. Meaning the students have the tool, the district has the curriculum, and Carol (the teacher) is the facilitator. She is not standing in front of the classroom teaching all the students one lesson. She is able to help students progress individually. This program is not a core program, it is a supplemental program. The teacher can't just turn the student loose; the program only supplements what they are learning. Carol shared a letter from Romie VanOrden (5th grade teacher) recommending the program. She included comments from her students about why they like the program. Carol said there are different types of tests. It is not limited to just bench marking. Mr. Gabryczyk said the implementation of professional development is provided by Renaissance Learning. Next year the district's professional development will be focused on instruction, effective instruction techniques, and data analysis. This program provides a lot of information towards tracking interventions.

The superintendent said the district budgeted over \$70,000 for text books last year; but, because of the all controversy about the Common Core, he did not recommend the district buying any text new books this year. He proposed using this money to purchase this Star system K-12. He said they will purchase only 125 licenses at the high school level because the majority of these students should already have an understanding of the concepts taught as they have moved through the lower grades. Mr. Gabryczyk said the district should know by the end of May if it will be award another three-year SIG grant at the Jr. High. With the licenses at the Jr. High it will cost \$8,000 (with or without SIG grant). The allocations of the Title I federal monies that can be used for projects like this have been increased by \$113,000 (due to a correction made in census figures) and the Jr. High will be a focused Title I School. This will enable the district to get more money. Kent Miller summarized his understanding that the district would be have money to spend from the budgeted text book funds, possible SIG grant money, and the increase from the Title I money. He asked whether the 125 licenses would be for the freshmen and if the sophomore class up at the high school would be missing out on the tracking and data because there wouldn't be enough licenses (125) at the high school. Superintendent Gabryczyk said this would also depend on what the teachers wanted but he could see these students benefiting from the program. He said not all freshmen need to be tracked and there are data points they can already get at the high school. Mr. Kent asked how many students the district currently has (1717) and calculated from the figures in the proposal that the district might have a few more licenses than needed.

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Mr. Miller asked if the district would be paying \$56,000 annually for this program. Sherrilynn Bair said it wouldn't be that much each year; for example, there is a \$2800 one-time data integration set up and hosting fee and the schools have already been using the accelerated reading portion. The professional development fees would only be the first year. If the district purchased it for two years it would be \$76,000 or about \$25,000-\$30,000 extra cost a year. The superintendent said the district has to start budgeting for its priority. Kent said the teachers are enthusiastic and it is good for the students. He was concerned how to communicate this to the community because it is very expensive and people would ask how we can afford it. The superintendent said in order to communicate to the community we have to say this supports one of the district's strategic objectives and the district believes this is a priority for the teachers and students. He said this is an appropriate purchase with federal Title I money. Mr. Miller said he understands that this is good, but people will want to know what is this going to cost for the next few years. Bill Martin said it will cost \$33,102 for the next three years. He said if the district buys this program, it should be bought for three years at the discounted rate or it makes no sense. The superintendent said the district could not afford to do this at this time because the funding may not be there. Mr. Martin said the district would have to find the money because it is either so good that the district does it for three years or go develop another program (like Moreland) and spend the money on computers. Mr. Gabrylczyk said the problem is that the district does not know what the state allocation or federal funding will be next year. Mr. Martin asked if it could be shown how many man-hours this saves the teachers. Does the district save one-half FTE or an aide? Carol said she didn't think it save her any time, but it did enable her to be a better teacher. Sherrilynn said Carol would be teaching instead of grading. Mr. Martin asked if this was the best purchase for this Federal I money. The board discussed how buying the program for three years would bring some risk to the district because it currently depends upon the supplemental levy to pay for some things and, if the levy does not pass, the district will need to draw money from supplemental programs like this. Mr. Miller said the district has planned how it can afford this program this year. He asked where the money would come from for year two and three. Two years of no new text books, the three-year \$500,000 SIG grant. They talked about whether or not the district could wait until November when they would know more about the state's allocations or even next May after they knew if the supplemental levy passed again to order year two and three of this program. Mr. Gabrylczyk said the budget is driven by personnel costs (87%). He said the district passed a \$900,000 levy and is barely making it within that extra allotment. If asked what the district will have to levy next year, the superintendent said he had no idea. The district will try to be as conservative as possible. The problem is that the revenue sources for government entities are unreliable. Sherrilynn Bair said this quote is through May. She said she could have the conversation with Renaissance Learning about doing it in November or later.

Sherrilynn Bair said the company offers on-line professional development classes. The teachers can do it anytime and anywhere. Mr. Miller said the board has heard great things about the chrome books that have been placed in the schools. He asked if this program is better than putting more chrome books into the classrooms. Carol Adams said the teacher has to have something to use with the chrome books. Wally asked if the district has money to purchase chrome books. The superintendent said the district plans to put ten more chrome books in each classroom at Riverside. He said everything in education is changing: for example, Blackfoot has gone away from having aides in the classroom; schools are buying digital books instead of text books. He said standardized tests are normed throughout the country which means he when he moves to another state his children are going to have the same common standards where ever they go. Snake River is very progressive in technology and other schools are asking for input from our teachers. Bonneville has this program but they use paper and pencil so they are asking Carol for help.

Mrs. Bair said the district has plenty of band width and is working on its density (the amount of machines that can connect to an access point). The state wireless access points in the high school and the ones there now will be taken to Riverside. The newer access points are dual channeled so machines can switch to the other access point when one is busy. Snake River did its own wireless project first and is now jumping on to the state's program with its newer equipment. The district's equipment that was originally purchased will be redeployed at Riverside. Sherrilynn said the district also needs to be looking at the students bringing their own device. She said the board needs to be sure that the district policies don't prevent this. She said the district's that allow students to bring their own device find that they don't have to promote this, it just happens naturally. She said the technology committee is working on this. Annis Williams asked if there were any programs that the school could work through to get students discounted prices for their devices. Sherrilynn said she hadn't looked into that; for example if the district sent 100 students to them.

Mr. Martin said it would be a 50% investment on the money spent if the district paid the three-year discounted price. Mr. Gabrylczyk said the district can find the money, but he wanted the board to understand that there are potential risks. Sherrilynn said if the board wants to commit to three years, they would try to find the money. Mr. Martin said the first year of this project is mainly a learning year. He said the other years would be the productive years and then the third year something even better might come along. Sherrilynn said devices might change but the Renaissance program has always been quality. Bill asked if this hurt other subjects. They said this covers math and reading and language arts and helps with writing. Carol said teachers are challenged but there is professional development.

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They said that this might not ever be used or needed in the kindergarten and first grade. Riverside teachers said they are excited about getting the chrome book. Sherrilynn said they never intended to not do it for three years; they were just looking at the money they could afford this year. Annis Williams said it would save about \$33,000 to do it for three years. Kent said Bill is right: that would mean getting the third year free. Chris Nelson asked if it would be possible to pay part now and the bill for the rest after July. Sherrilynn said she would contact them and ask. The board discussed their intent to purchase the program for three years the funding can be found.

It was moved by Kent Miller and seconded by Bill Martin to approve the purchase of the following Renaissance Learning programs for the 2014-2015 school year for \$56,042.52: i.e., Star Math, Star Reading, Star Early Literacy, Accelerated Math, MathFacts in a Flash, Accelerated Reading and Sub-Text, with the intent of purchasing all these programs for three years (2014-2017) for a total of \$93,622.00 if funding sources can be found by May 15, 2014. All the board members present (Kim Kunz was absent) voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The board went into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. Also attending were Superintendent Mark Gabrylczyk, Chris Nelson, and Gayla Osborn, clerk. The board discussed personnel issues. Chris Nelson left the meeting at about 12:00 p.m.

V. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Annis Williams moved to return to Regular Session and Kent Miller seconded. All the board members present (Kim Kunz was absent) voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

The board returned to Regular Session at 12:25 p.m.

VI. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Annis Williams.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

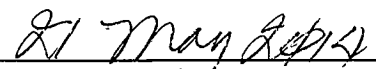
ATTEST:



Clerk



Chairman



Date