

Snake River School Board of Trustees
Held at Riverside Elementary
16 South 700 West, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Tuesday, March 17, 2020

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Kent Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Carol Hepworth, Marci VanOrden, Bill Martin, and Kent Miller. Lon Harrington was present via telephone. Also attending were Superintendent David Kerns and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Marci VanOrden opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Bill Martin to amend the agenda changing Item 5d, Discussion of Coronavirus, to Item 4a, Coronavirus Action Plan/School Closure with the good faith reason being receiving new information regarding the Emergency Declaration from the Governor of Idaho and President of the United States. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Consent Agenda

Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 11, 2020

Retirements: Cynthia Thompson, Jr. High Teacher (18 years); Sherrye Saxton, Transportation Supervisor (32 years);

Resignations: Vicky Avendano, Jr. High Math Teacher; Brandon Whitby, Jr. High English Teacher; Carolyn Anderson (Leave of Absence for One Year)

New Hire: Barbara Young, Moreland Preschool Parapro;

Budget, Payroll, and Claims Payable for February 2020

A motion was made by Bill Martin and seconded by Carol Hepworth to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with a special thanks to those who are retiring for their service to the district. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4. ACTION ITEM

a. Coronavirus Action Plan/Emergency Closure:

Superintendent Kerns went over the Coronavirus Action Plan for the School District Office as follows:

- Close beginning Wednesday, March 18th through Sunday, April 5th.
- Teachers and Staff report for a general workday 8am – 4:30pm Wednesday, March 18th.
- The District Office will be open Wednesday, March 18th and Thursday, March 19th, Monday March 23rd through the Thursday the 26th, and Monday March 30th through Wednesday April 1st. Office hours during the closure will be from 8am to 4:30 pm.
- Secondary teachers will be preparing mostly an on-line format for delivery during the dismissal.
- Elementary teachers are delivering packets to be worked on during the days off.
- Meals will be available for pick-up beginning Monday, March 23rd, through Thursday, March 26th, and March 30th and 31st.
- Bus drivers will have a separate training on a different day.
- Teachers are willing to be available by appointment when students need help.
- Students are encouraged not to congregate in groups if teachers offer assistance in the school building.
- Southeastern Idaho Public Health has asked that we not consider this as a vacation time, rather more of a shelter-in-place model. They have also asked that we consult with them before we re-open.
- We will hold a special meeting Friday, April 3rd at 6:00 pm (or another specified time) to discuss re-opening procedures or if Public Health feels we should extend the closure.

Chairman Miller discussed the challenges that the district is facing right now. The Board would like to make the right decisions and he explained that this is uncharted territory so everyone needs to work together and help each other through this difficult time. Extensive discussion was held and questions were asked and answered. An Emergency Closure of Certificate will be sent to the State tomorrow. A special meeting will be scheduled on April 3, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the district office or telecommunicated through Zoom to discuss reopening or if the closure should be extended.

Marci VanOrden moved and Bill Martin seconded that the Board of Trustees approve the Emergency Closure of the Snake River School District Schools from March 18, 2020 to April 5, 2020 because of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Also moved and seconded was to schedule a special meeting on April 3, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Snake River School District Office to evaluate the situation. A roll call vote was taken: Bill Martin, aye; Lon Harrington, aye; Marci VanOrden, aye; and Carol Hepworth, aye; Kent Miller, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

5. **PATRON FORUM**

There were no comments.

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Riverside Elementary Presentation**

Riverside Elementary Principal Janae Peterson welcomed the Board and then introduced teachers Courtney Purcell, Brittany Fuller, Laura Forsgren, and Chelsea Sorensen. Each gave a PowerPoint about the writing curriculum, I-Ready, My View, and the Gifted and Talented Program. A student from Riverside read a report that he had written about George Washington and after he received a warm ovation. The Board asked Principal Peterson if she had any needs that they could help her with and discussion was held. They also thanked the staff for their dedication and for the good things that are happening at Riverside Elementary.

b. **Final Report on the Septic System**

Superintendent gave a final report on the septic system. He discussed the different grants that the district received during the process. He also had an exit interview with Teresa Perkins from the INL who was satisfied with the final result. The district cannot thank them enough for the grant money that the district was given. Superintendent Kerns reported that the septic system is now complete.

c. **Activities Report**

High School Athletic Director, Robert Coombs, gave a report on the activities that took place during the winter season at the high school. He also discussed the weight-training program at the high school and junior high. He talked about some of the myths that he has heard in the community about the weight-training program in the district and asked the Board's help in getting the truth out about the program. Discussion held and the Board thanked Mr. Coombs for presenting and for his hard work.

d. **Day on the Hill Report:**

Superintendent Kerns, Kent Miller and Lon Harrington all attended the annual Day on the Hill in Boise on February 17-18, 2020. Discussion was held about their experience at the event and they enjoyed watching the legislative process.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Upcoming Events:**

1. **March 19, Kindergarten Registration was postponed and a different date will be scheduled.**
2. **March 23, 24, 26, 27, 28—The Addams Family Performance was cancelled.**
3. **Spring Break will be April 1-5, 2020.**
4. **April 14, Jr. SAT Day was rescheduled for April 28th.**
5. **April 15, Next Regular Board Meeting at the high school at 6:15 p.m.**
6. **April 20-21, Law Conference in Boise was cancelled.**

8. **ACTION ITEMS—POLICY READINGS
SECOND READINGS:**

Policy 6444 “Homebound Student Services” This policy is updated to add physician assistant and nurse practitioner as acceptable sources of authorization. No further changes were made.

Bill Martin moved and Carol Hepworth seconded to approve the second reading Policy 6444, “Homebound Student Services.” All board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

FIRST READING:

Policy 3020, “Superintendent Evaluation” This policy is updated to reflect the most current requirements relating to superintendent evaluations. Growth in student achievement may be considered as an optional measure. Discussion held. No further changes were made.

Policy 3075, “Principal Evaluation” This policy is updated to reflect the most current requirements relating to principal evaluations. Growth in student achievement may be considered as an optional measure. Extensive discussion held and many changes were made.

Policy 3091, “Employing Retired Administrators” This policy has been updated to reflect current references. No changes.

Policy 6415, “Emergency School Closure” This updated policy adds recent changes to state law that allows school districts to request a waiver of required instructional hours on a district-wide basis where natural occurrences creating unsafe conditions require school closure and a county or state disaster declaration has been issued in one or more counties where the district is located. Discussion held. Superintendent Kerns will fix the Spanish version.

Policy 8445, “Communicable Diseases and Life-Threatening Illnesses” Superintendent Kerns would like this policy to be reviewed because of the coronavirus situation. No changes.

SECOND READINGS (Continued)

Carol Hepworth moved and Lon Harrington seconded to approve the second readings of Policy 3020, “Superintendent Evaluation;” Policy 3075, “Principal Evaluation;” Policy 3091, “Employing Retired Administrators;” Policy 6415, “Emergency School Closure;” and Policy 8445, “Communicable Diseases and Life-Threatening Illnesses.” All board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under Idaho Code 74-206 [1b] personnel, Bill Martin motioned and Carol Hepworth seconded to go into Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken: Kent Miller, aye; Marci VanOrden, aye; Carol Hepworth, aye; Lon Harrington, aye; and Bill Martin, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The board went into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. Personnel was discussed until 9:35 p.m.

10. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Lon Harrington and seconded by Bill Martin to return to Regular Session. All the board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:35 p.m.

11. ADJOURN

Carol Hepworth moved and Marci VanOrden seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terisa Coombs
Clerk

Kent Miller
Chairman

April 16, 2020
Date