

**Snake River School Board of Trustees
Held at Moreland Elementary
185 North 750 West, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Kent Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Carol Hepworth, Marci VanOrden, and Larin Mortimer. Lon Harrington attended by telephone. Also attending were Superintendent Mark Kress and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Marci Van Orden 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 Lon Harrington to approve the agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Consent Agenda

Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 21, 2020.

Resignations: Jodi Jensen, Bus Driver and Moreland Special Ed Parapro.

New Hires/Payroll Change: Alexis Kunz, Moreland Librarian; Jamie Popejoy, Moreland EL Parapro; Aubrie Aguero, Special Ed Parapro; Brutch Merrill, Bus Driver; Roger Turner, Bus Driver; Heather Larsen, from 3 hours to 6.5 hours as a Moreland Special Ed Parapro.

Student Teacher/Counseling Intern: Audra Stokes, Student Teacher at Moreland; Amber Serr, Counseling Intern at Riverside/Moreland.

Budget, Payroll and Claims Payable for October 2020.

A motion was made by Marci VanOrden and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4. PATRON FORUM

There were no comments for the patron forum.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Moreland Elementary Presentation:

Principal Jane Reynolds thanked the board for visiting Moreland Elementary this month. She introduced her staff and she believes that students love being at school and achieve academically because of the remarkable, caring, and hardworking staff. Principal Reynolds also thanked the community, specifically Century Link, Dicks Sporting Goods, and Mishell VanOrden and Maddie Stander for donations and help with the silent auction held this month. She then took the board to the Moreland STREAM Room (Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics). The board thanked Mrs. Reynolds and staff for their creativity in helping students learn and for the good things that are happening at Moreland Elementary.

b. Superintendent Report:

1. **Covid-19 update:** Superintendent Kress updated the board on the status of Covid-19 in the district. Traditional Christmas programs have been cancelled because of Idaho being moved to Stage 2 with restrictions on gathering to prevent the spread of Covid. He also updated the board on restrictions of crowds and gathering at indoor athletic events and stated that we will be following the governor's order. This will change funding of our athletic programs. Superintendent Kress is inquiring about using some of the Covid Relief Funds to reimburse athletic programs. If the State allows the reimbursement, it will help with paying for officials. Discussion about mandating masks at the junior high and high schools was carried out. At this point, Superintendent Kress would like to stay with masks are recommended instead of a mandate.

2. **Blended Learning Model:** Superintendent Kress reported on 1:1 Chromebooks. The district ordered 800 and they have not arrived as of yet. There is a tremendous order across the nation for the same type of devices which has backlogged a lot of the orders. He could not emphasize enough how important it was to continue face-to-face instruction because there are not enough devices to do be able to do home learning. They are working on single sign in logins that will make it easier for younger children to access many programs instead of signing into every single one.

3. **Programs of Excellence:** Superintendent Kress is impressed by the programs in the Snake River School District. There have been many hardships because of Covid-19 and yet students continue to excel. He played a small clip of the orchestra led by Sarakay Larsen at the junior high.

c. Supplemental Levy Discussion:

Superintendent Kress began the discussion about the upcoming supplemental levy in March. He showed the board a graph comparing the tax rate of the district to the tax rates of surrounding school districts. He also discussed the school district property taxes per \$100,000 Taxable Value and also market values since 1998. He has been working with Chris Nelson, Business Manager, to work the numbers in hopes of decreasing the levy amount. The board had a conversation about different strategies to get the word out to patrons in the district including creating a pamphlet to explain the need for the levy, creating a levy committee, and Facebook Live. Extensive discussion was held. At the next board meeting, the board would like Superintendent Kress to bring numbers to reduce it to \$729,000 and also \$700,000 and a decision will be made in December.

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d. Upcoming Events:

1. November 23rd and 24th will be remote home learning for all grades.
2. Thanksgiving Break will be November 25th through November 29th
3. Next Board Meeting will be December 16th at Snake River Jr. High.

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

Policy 6427, “Religion in Schools” The U.S. Department of Education issued its updated Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools on January 16, 2020. This policy is updated consistent with the new guidance. Legal references have also been updated. No further changes were made.

Policy 8140, “Homeless Student Education” This form is updated to reflect all of the duties required of the homeless liaison, as set forth in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. In addition, language has been added regarding district requirements to ensure access to secondary education support services, such as college and career counseling, and assistance with the FAFSA, for homeless and unaccompanied youth. No further changes were made.

Policy 8278, “Hazing Prohibition” This policy is updated to clarify reporting requirements and to add legal references. The last bullet under Prohibitions was deleted. Otherwise, no further changes.

Policy 8540, “Student Records” This policy is updated to include optional language further defining "records." The examples of what constitutes "records" are taken from the 2017 Idaho Special Education Manual. We have also included health and medical information in the list of examples of personally identifiable information, and have included other technical corrections. No further changes were made.

Larin Mortimer moved and Lon Harrington seconded to approve the first readings of Policy 6427, “Religion in Schools;” Policy 8140, “Homeless Student Education;” Policy 8278, “Hazing Prohibition;” and Policy 8540, “Student Records.” All board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

FIRST READINGS:

Policy 7555, “Nondiscrimination Policy” We have renamed this policy and updated it to reflect the most recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Bostock v. Clayton County, GA, which held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. We have also added language to make it clear that anyone who believes they have been discriminated against or harassed in violation of the policy may file a civil rights grievance in accordance with Policy 7225p. Discussion held. Minor changes have been made.

Marci Van Orden moved and Lon Harrington seconded to approve the first reading of Policy 7555, “Nondiscrimination Policy.” All board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

7. ADJOURN

Carol Hepworth moved and Larin Mortimer seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terisa Coombs
Clerk

Kent Miller
Chairman

December 16, 2020
Date