

Snake River School Board of Trustees
Held at Snake River Junior High
918 West Highway 39, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Wednesday, December 16, 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, Lon Harrington, and Larin Mortimer. Also attending were Superintendent Mark Kress and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lon Harrington opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Larin Mortimer 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 November 16, 2020.

Retirement/Resignation: Roxie Gregersen, Riverside Librarian (30 years); Jamie Popejoy, Moreland EL Paraprofessional.

New Hires: Debra Robertson, Moreland EL Paraprofessional; Rhonda Haroldsen, Middle School EL Paraprofessional.

Budget, Payroll and Claims Payable for November 2020.

A motion was made by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with special thanks to Roxie Gregersen for all of her years of service to the district. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Jr. High Principal Presentation:

Principal Rich Dunn thanked the board for visiting the Jr. High this month. He discussed the 2020-2021 Fall Interim ISAT Results and how well students are doing. He believes that when there is a building full of happy people, happy people work hard. It starts with the teachers and trickles down to the students. Mr. Dunn also discussed how the junior high has raised over \$8,000 during their charity auction and in turn they will be able to provide Christmas for 30-40 families. Santa also paid a visit to the board and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Superintendent Kress remarked how Mr. Dunn has gone to great lengths to celebrate success which is key to the success students have had this year at the junior high.



b. Superintendent Report:

1. Covid-19 update: Superintendent Kress updated the board on the status of Covid-19 in the district.

a. Christmas Break:

December 21 and 22, 2020 will be Home Learning Days and then Christmas Break starts December 23rd through January 3rd with students returning on January 4, 2021. The middle school will be doing home learning from December 14-17 because of more reported cases of Covid. The building will be deep-cleaned during that time. There will be staff available for those students who need help. Chairman Miller discussed the importance of complying with the district's Covid-19 Daily Operational Plan and stated that the most important goal is to have face to face instruction and students in school.

b. Crowds at Indoor Athletic Events

Lengthy discussion was held about attendance at indoor athletic events. The state currently is in stage 2 and attendance at indoor athletic events has been limited to one parent/guest for the home team only. A group consisting of representatives from the IHSAA, IASA, ISBA, etc. came up with a proposal that has been sent to the governor that included changing attendance to two parents for the home team and the visiting team. Superintendent Kress explained that the district will continue with the requirements set forth by the governor until told differently. The option for family members to watch the games through the NFHS Network is now available at Snake River High School.

c. Blended Learning Model:

Superintendent Kress reported that the laptops have been trickling in slowly. Home learning was addressed under item a) Christmas Break. He continued to emphasize how important it was to continue face-to-face instruction.

c. ISBA Policy Manual Services: Superintendent Kress discussed the need to utilize the ISBA Policy Manual Services and the different options. He recommends using Option 2, the Fresh Start Rewrite and, after discussion, the board agreed. Superintendent Kress will be the liaison with ISBA and will start the process at the beginning of the year.

5. PATRON FORUM

There were no comments.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Bus Bid Results:**

A bid opening for the purchase of one 72-passenger school bus and one 24-passenger school bus with three wheelchair tie downs was done at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2020. Bids were received from Western Mountain Bus Sales, Rush Truck Centers, and Bryson Sales & Service. Galen Sasser, district bus mechanic, has checked the bids to make sure they meet specifications and has recommended that the board accept the lowest bidder at \$85,493 for the 72-passenger bus and \$87,947 for the 24-passenger bus, both from Western Mountain Bus Sales.

Lon Harrington approved and Carol Hepworth seconded to approve the bids from Western Mountain Bus Sales in the amount of \$85,493 for the purchase of one 72-passenger bus and \$87,947.00 for the purchase of one 24-passenger bus.

b. **Supplemental Levy Presentation:**

Superintendent Kress gave a levy presentation. At the last meeting, the board asked him to discuss two numbers, \$700,000 or \$729,000. The Resolution and Official Ballot is due by January 15, 2021 at the Bingham County Elections Office. The date of the election is March 9, 2021. After discussion, the board is seeking \$729,000 per year for over a two-year period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Superintendent Kress said it is needed to maintain the budget at the current level for maintenance and operations. The district is asking for less money (\$21,000) and patrons will be taxed less.

Chairman Miller read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 33-802(3), Idaho Code, as amended, the Board of Trustees of Snake River School District No. 52, Bingham County, Idaho, has determined there is a need for a supplemental levy in the amount of (\$729,000) per year for two (2) years, for the purpose of paying all lawful expenses of maintaining and operating the District for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Marci VanOrden and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the resolution for the supplemental levy as presented. A roll call vote was taken: Larin Mortimer, aye; Lon Harrington, aye; Marci VanOrden, aye; and Carol Hepworth, aye; Kent Miller, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

7. **Upcoming Events:**

1. Christmas Break will be December 23rd-January 3rd, Students return on January 4th
2. Teacher Inservice is January 15th
3. The Annual Board Meeting will be Wednesday, January 20th at the District Office at 7 p.m.

8. **ACTION ITEMS—POLICY READINGS
SECOND 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.

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

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Under Idaho Code 74-206 [1a] to consider the evaluation of the Superintendent and [1b] Personnel, Lon Harrington motioned and Carol Hepworth seconded to go into Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken: Larin Mortimer, aye; Lon Harrington, aye; Marci VanOrden, aye; Carol Hepworth, aye; Kent Miller, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The board went into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. The superintendent’s evaluation was discussed from 8:05 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Personnel was discussed from 8:30 p.m. until 8:50 p.m.

10. **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

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

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:50 p.m.

11. **ADJOURN**

Marci VanOrden moved and Lon Harrington seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terisa Coombs
Clerk

Kent Miller
Chairman

January 20, 2021
Date