

**Snake River School Board of Trustees  
Held at Snake River School District Office  
103 South 900 West, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Josh Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Carol Hepworth, Lon Harrington, and Toni Ibarra (arrived at 7:10 p.m.). Larin Mortimer was absent. Others attending were Superintendent Mark Kress, Business Manager Bronson Funk, and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

**2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Carol Hepworth opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Agenda**

**A motion was made by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to approve the agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 3-0.**

**4. INFORMATION ITEM: Associate Graduate Presentation**

Kayleigh Adams recently graduated with her Associates Degree from Snake River Opportunities High School. She is the first graduate who received her Associates Degree from the district. Superintendent Kress asked Kaylee to come to board meeting to share how she received her degree from the College of Southern Idaho. She started getting high school credits in junior high and then became dually enrolled in college while attending Snake River Opportunities High School. Kayleigh believes that the key to getting her degree was that she started early and that it would be beneficial to get the word out to others who are interested in the future. She also discussed the Advanced Opportunity Program and how she took advantage of the money that is provided to help her pay for dual credits. Superintendent Kress thanked Kayleigh for paving the path for others and helping others see that it is possible and the board congratulated her on a job well done.

Toni Ibarra arrived at board meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**5. INFORMATION ITEM: Board Appreciation Month Presentation**

It is Board Appreciation Month. Superintendent Kress expressed his gratitude to the board for all of their service and the work that they do for the district.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Consent Agenda**

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2023

**Retirement:** Rose Larson, FT School Psychologist.

**Resignations:** SaraKay Larsen, District Orchestra Teacher; Kaitlyn Mignin, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher; Mersadie Lloyd, Applied Health Professions Teacher; Shayla Martin, High School Business Teacher; Madilyn Shuler, Middle School Special Ed Parapro; Roger Turner, Bus Driver; Karen Sasser, Bus Driver; Farrell Wray, Bus Driver.

**New Hires:** Tina Baker, Jr. High School Counselor; Elise Anderson, High School English Teacher; Maggie Price, District Orchestra Teacher; Samantha Holmquist, Moreland Preschool Teacher; McKayla Farmer, Applied Health Professions Teacher; Jayne Womack, Moreland Sign Language Interpreter; Justin Stander, Middle School Special Ed Parapro; Michelle Stecklein, Riverside EL Parapro; Valeria Pena, High School Special Ed Parapro; Mark Callister, Bus Driver; Debi Conley, Middle School Kitchen Helper; Alexandria Severson, Custodian.

**Payroll Status Changes:** Paul Sasser; Gloria Bennett; Lanette Hansen; Jenna Lee; and Brinley Groesbeck.

**Budget, CD's, Payroll and Claims Payable** for May 2023.

**A motion was made by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.**

**b. Budget Hearing**

Superintendent Kress and Bronson Funk, Business Manager, presented the proposed 2023-2024 district budget. They discussed enrollment, bonds, levies, the new tax cuts, and briefly went over where money will be spent. See attached budget and presentation.

**Lon Harrington moved and Toni Ibarra seconded to approve the proposed 2023-24 Maintenance and Operations Budget as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Toni Ibarra, aye; Lon Harrington, aye; and Josh Sorensen, aye. Carol Hepworth abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest. Motion passed 3-0.**

**c. Change Board Meeting Location**

Superintendent Kress proposed moving the board meetings scheduled at the district office to the Snake River Community Library because of ADA compliance.

**Lon Harrington moved to approve change of meeting location from the District Office to the Snake River Community Library as presented. Carol Hepworth seconded. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.**

**d. Asphalt Paving Projects**

There are a number of asphalt paving projects that need to be done in the district, especially at Riverside and the middle school. Superintendent Kress explained what those projects entail, both in Phase 1 and Phase 2. They received quotes from a couple of other companies but Gail Lim Construction gave the lowest quotes. Superintendent Kress explained that these projects are scheduled to be completed this summer, pending the schedule of Gail Lim Construction.

**A motion was made by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the Phase 1 paving projects by Gail Lim Construction at Riverside Elementary in the amount of \$79,470.50 and at Snake River Middle School in the amount of \$85,127.10. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.**

**e. Social Media Lawsuit**

Frantz Law Group is currently representing school districts across the country who have spent resources addressing the youth mental health crisis that is directly impacting their educational communities and their mission to educate its students. Research continues to confirm that social media is playing a major role in causing mental health problems in youth and that excessive and problematic use of social media is harmful to children's mental, behavioral and emotional health. Research also confirms that excessive use of social media is associated with increased rates of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, eating disorders, and suicide in youth. Superintendent Kress discussed what he knew about the lawsuit. Discussion was held.

**Lon Harrington moved and Toni Ibarra seconded to table the motion on the social media lawsuit until next month with the option of potentially having a special meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.**

**7. PATRON FORUM**

There were no comments for the patron forum.

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Superintendent Report**

- 1. School Safety Report:** Superintendent Kress updated the board as to the school safety projects that are happening around the district. The Securing our Future Grant is coming along nicely. We are eligible for \$120,000 and he is working on getting the application ready to turn in. Guy Blisner did a school safety audit in the district. Superintendent Kress is working on having single point access at all of the elementary schools. He is working on solving some of these problems that pose risks at the high school and junior high. He is also looking at different systems that can help with security. He has also been working closely with the school resource officers, technology, and maintenance to make sure that schools are safe.
- 2. Summer Leadership Training Report:** Lon Harrington attended the Summer Leadership Training Report and gave a brief report of what he learned about governance.
- 3. ICRMP Insurance Update:** Superintendent Kress wanted to update the board as to the rate increase of about 28% for the district, and across the State of Idaho, which is still better than other insurance companies. Discussion held.
- 4. High School 750 Account:** Superintendent Kress called the bank about moving the 750 account into the sweep account and this is definitely something that can be done. The account will start getting interest. There are still questions about how this will work but this will be started in the near future.
- 5. Auditorium Audio System:** The high school auditorium audio system is in desperate need of upgrading. Sam Kudla discussed the process of bidding. They received three quotes. They like the bid from SoundFx because it met everything that was on their list of needs. Superintendent Kress would like to do the upgrade in phases, not doing it all in one year so it all doesn't go out all at the same time. Dane Christiansen also spoke about the need to upgrade the system and how it would really help the drama productions that are held in the auditorium. Superintendent Kress also would like different groups in the district to help fund the system. Drama said that they could give \$10,000, Maintenance \$30,000, Technology \$10,000, the high school \$5,000, and the junior high \$5,000 which would leave \$38,000 for the district. Sound FX could deliver the new system and have it installed in late August/September. The existing system would move over to the Jr. High. Also, Jana McBride applied for and received the Expanding Arts Access grant from the State Board of Education in the amount of \$15,000 to upgrade the lighting in the auditorium.
- 6. Upcoming Event:** Bright Star will be performed by the Snake River Theater Company on June 26, 27, 29, 30, and July 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. at the high school auditorium.

**9. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Auditorium Audio System:**

**A motion was made by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to accept the Expanding Arts Access in Rural Public Schools grant in the amount of \$15,000; also to approve the auditorium audio system by SoundFx as presented in the amount of \$93,172.76. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.**

**b. Policy Readings-Second Readings**

**Policies to Waive and Adopt: (All policies in Section 3000—Students)**

**Policy 3050—Attendance Policy**

**Policy 3380—Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Participation Policy**

**Policy 3410—School Sponsored Student Activities**

**Policy 3420—Student Fund Raising Activities**

**Policy 3430—Distribution of Fund Drive Literature through Students**

**Policy 3440—Student Fees, Fines, and Charges/Return of Property**

**Policy 3450—Student Vehicle Parking**

**Policy 3450F—Student Vehicle Parking Application**

**Policy 3460—School-Related Foreign Travel by Students**

A motion was made by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to waive the first readings and adopt Policy 3050—Attendance Policy; Policy 3380—Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Participation Policy; Policy 3410—School Sponsored Student Activities; Policy 3420—Student Fund Raising Activities; Policy 3430—Distribution of Fund Drive Literature through Students; Policy 3440—Student Fees, Fines, and Charges/Return of Property; Policy 3450—Student Vehicle Parking; Policy 3450F—Student Vehicle Parking Application; and Policy 3460—School-Related Foreign Travel by Students; All board members present voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**10. CLOSING INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. Next Board Meeting will be July 19, 2023 at the Snake River School District Office at 7 p.m.

**11. ADJOURN**

Lon Harrington moved and Toni Ibarra seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Terisa Coombs  
Clerk

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Josh Sorensen  
Chairman

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July 19, 2023  
Date