

**Snake River School Board of Trustees
Held at Snake River School District Office
103 South 900 West, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Wednesday, July 19, 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, Larin Mortimer (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), and Toni Ibarra. Others attending were Superintendent Mark Kress and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Toni Ibarra 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 4-0.

b. Consent Agenda

Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2023

Retirement: Jane Reynolds, Moreland Principal

Resignation: Amber Whyte, Fifth Grade Teacher

New Hires: Harmony Shuler, Business Manager; Amber Long, SROHS Science Teacher; McKayla Farmer, High School Allied Health Professions Teacher; Kent Dance, High School Business Teacher; Jarom Luker, Jr. High Math Teacher; Natalie Brimley, Online Special Ed Teacher

Payroll Status Changes: Rose Larson, from full-time to part-time School Psychologist; Brooke Monk, from Middle School Title I Aid to Middle School Fifth Grade Teacher

CD's, Payroll and Claims Payable for June 2023

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

Larin Mortimer arrived at 7:10 p.m.

c. Addition/Removal of Signers on Accounts

Superintendent Kress is being added as an additional signer to the district's checking and money market accounts, which requires approval of the board. Chairman Josh Sorensen and Treasurer Toni Ibarra are also signers and can make changes on the account.

Lon Harrington moved and Carol Hepworth seconded to authorize Superintendent Mark Kress as a signer on the checking and money market accounts at Zions Bank. Roll call vote was taken: Carol Hepworth, aye; Larin Mortimer, aye; Toni Ibarra, aye; Lon Harrington, aye; and Josh Sorensen, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Because Bronson is leaving the district, Superintendent Mark Kress and Business Manager Harmony Shuler need to be added to the CD account at ICCU.

Carol Hepworth moved to remove Bronson Funk from the ICCU CD accounts and add Superintendent Mark Kress and Business Manager Harmony Shuler. Lon Harrington seconded. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

d. Emergency Provisional/Alternative Authorization

1. Christina Ribe is working towards getting her teaching certificate through ABCTE. She needs an alternative authorization that will allow her to teach while she finishes her program.

Lon Harrington moved to approve the alternative authorization for Christina Ribe for the 2023-2024 school year. Carol Hepworth seconded. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

2. (Declare and Emergency Exists) Aubrie Brooke Monk has been hired as a fifth grade teacher. She is in the process of completing the requirements for certification. The committee interviewed 4 people. The board needs to approve the request for an emergency provisional so she can continue to teach while working towards getting her degree and certification.

Lon Harrington moved and Carol Hepworth seconded to declare that an emergency exists and approve the request for an Emergency Provisional for Aubrie Brooke Monk for the 2023-2024 school year. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Wesley Carlson will be teaching English classes at the high school but will need to add the English endorsement to his certificate. He needs an alternative authorization that will allow him to teach while working on adding the endorsement.

Lon Harrington moved and Toni Ibarra seconded to approve the alternative authorization for Wesley Carlson for the 2023-2024 school year. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

e. Asphalt Paving Projects

Superintendent Kress discussed Phase 2 of the asphalt paving project at the middle school. 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. At this time, phase 2 at the middle school will be done and the Riverside project will be done next summer. 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. The plan is to have the middle school paving project done by the time students and staff come back to school.

A motion was made by Lon Harrington and seconded by Larin Mortimer to approve the Phase 2 paving project at Snake River Middle School in the amount of \$17,574.00. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

f. Securing Our Future Grant

Before the Securing Our Future Grant can be turned in to the State, the board must review and approve projects 1, 2, and 3 of the SOF Grant application. The district can receive \$120,000. There is a high probability that there will be another phase of the grant in November. Each of the projects were discussed including the “man trap” at the front door of Moreland Elementary, installing an AI system, and installation of a wireless PA/Emergency Alert System in all eight buildings. The new system includes options like a panic button and single push alerts that will work with or without the internet.

A motion was made by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve projects 1, 2, and 3 of Securing our Future Grants. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

g. 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 about the reasoning and pros and cons about joining the lawsuit.

Josh Sorensen read the following motion:

Whereas the Board recognizes that juvenile’s access and use of social media is a national and local problem which is alleged to have contributed to the mental health crisis, including students of the District, which likewise impacts the operation of the District; and whereas multi-district litigation is pending against multiple social media companies, in Federal Court; and whereas the Board, having considered the inclusion of the District in this multi-district litigation and having found it to be in the best interest of the District and its students, I hereby move that the Board take all necessary steps to join this lawsuit as a plaintiff and hereby authorize and direct the Board’s Chairman and/or the Superintendent to execute all necessary documents to that end. Lon Harrington seconded. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

h. Board Goals and Continuous Improvement Plan

In July each year, the board reviews their goals changing them as needed. Superintendent Kress would like to align goals with the continuous improvement plan. The following are the 2023-2024 goals:

1. All board members will participate in at least three trainings a year.
2. Individual trustees will attend at least 85% of board meetings.
3. The board will focus on district-wide math curriculum improvement and support the superintendent’s recommendations.
4. Continue the district’s direction towards offerings of dual credit with a path towards an Associate’s Degree or Technical Degree with focus on the career industry.
5. Continued focus on the community weight room project.
6. Continued focus on school safety.

A motion was made by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the Board Goals for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4. PATRON FORUM

Chairman Josh Sorensen read the following statement: Patrons should sign in and note the action agenda item they would like to address. The board will not allow any comments on personnel issues and will make no comments about personnel issues at this meeting. The Chairman will ask each person wishing to speak to give their names for the record. Each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes and the patron comment period is not to exceed 30 minutes (Policy 4105).

1. Jane Reynolds thanked the board for the improvements that have been making at Moreland Elementary. They recently received a grant in the amount of \$20,000 that will go towards improving the playground area. She discussed their plans and the approval process that they have been going through. She also thanked Mishell VanOrden for all of her hard work on helping obtain the grants to make this possible.
2. Fred Davis talked about Teton Stage Lines and the tours that they are doing for the community.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. **Superintendent Report**

1. **School Safety Report:** Superintendent Kress updated the board about the school safety projects that are happening around the district during the Securing our Future Grant discussion above. He briefly discussed that the night locks are still being installed around the district. He continues to work closely with the school resource officers, technology, and maintenance to make sure that schools are safe.
2. **Summer Projects Update:** Superintendent Kress updated the board about the summer maintenance projects. Deep cleaning of the schools is ongoing and will be done before the start of school, the high school gym has dead spots in both keys and they are working on getting those worked out before the volleyball season, and carpeting has been ongoing throughout the district.
3. **Website Updates:** The website will be under construction soon to change formats and making it look more up-to-date. Kent Dance, new business teacher at the high school, will be working on the website. Superintendent Kress explained his vision on how he would like it to look. He feels like when people access the website it is the first impression of the district. He will continue to give the board updates as it changes.
4. **School Buses for 2025:** Paul Sasser, district mechanic, has been informed that if we would like buses to be delivered in 2025, now is the time to order. The board would like him to go forward with the bidding process.
5. **Upcoming Events:**
 1. 2023-2024 District Startup Information
 2. ISBA Resolutions are due by July 31, 2023
 3. Annual ISBA Conference will be held November 15-17, 2023 in Boise

6. ACTION ITEMS:

a. **Policy Readings:**

First Readings:

Policy 1100—Membership: This update reflects a change in law that allows trustees to serve until the end of their term if a change in their zone's boundary results in them no longer residing within the zone. To do so, the trustee must remain at their original residence. **This is a recommended update to a recommended policy.**

Policy 2120—Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests: This update is based on the new changes to Idaho's Parental Rights laws from HB163. The changes remove redundant policy language and refer the reader to Policy 2140 where requirements related to surveys and questionnaires are addressed in more detail. **This is an optional update to a recommended policy.**

Policy 2140/2140F: Student and Family Privacy Rights and Consent Forms: This update reflects new changes to Idaho's Parental Rights laws. The new law requires that all non-curricular surveys that are issued to students have the permission of the Superintendent or designee. It also requires parental permission before administering any survey that contains specific topics – such as sexuality, sex, religion, personal political beliefs, etc. It also requires that this be addressed in policy. **These are required updates to a required policy.**

Policy 2303—Required Elementary Instruction Offerings: This is a new policy to help school districts and charter schools align to the IDAPA rule that requires specific topics be offered at the elementary levels. This year, computational thinking and digital literacy were added as new requirements. **This is a new recommended policy.**

Policy 2425—Parental Rights: The update to Idaho's Parental Rights Law also requires school boards to reinforce the rights and responsibilities of parents as their child's primary stakeholder to make decisions regarding their child. This update adds new stated rights for parents in Idaho Code, including the requirement that district/school staff notify parents if they become aware of a change in a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being. It also includes a requirement to refer parents to your Uniform Grievance Policy if they feel their rights have been violated. **The changes to 2425 are required updates to a required policy.**

Policy 2425F—Efforts to Notify Parent/Guardian of Changes in Student Health or Well-Being: is a new form to help your staff document their compliance with the requirement to notify a parent/guardian of changes in a student's health or well-being. **(Recommended)**

Policy 2425P—Parent/Guardian Notification of Changes in Health and Well-Being: establishes a recommended procedure for school staff to ensure parents are notified of a change in a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and to ensure they've documented their efforts at notification. **(Recommended)**

Policy 2605—Advancement Requirements (Grades 6-9): This update better outlines the IDAPA requirements that students develop a career pathways plan which outlines a student's plans for high school and beyond. It also provides an exception for cases when the student's parent/guardian opt their child out of this requirement. **This is a recommended update to a recommended policy.**

Policy 2700—High School Graduation Requirements: This update reflects the new addition of Financial Literacy as a graduation requirement. Another edit to 2700P clarifies a section about waiver of graduation requirements. As a reminder, these are considered minimum requirements and local schools and districts may add their own local requirements. **The change to 2700 is an optional update to an optional policy. 2700P is a recommended update to a recommended procedure.**

Policy 2700P—High School Graduation Requirements: See above.

Policy 4140—Visitors to the Schools: In alignment with Idaho’s Parental Rights law, this update reflects new requirements on visits to school property by parents/guardians and reinforces the expected conduct from all visitors. The standard of conduct was taken from 4420 as discussed below. **This is a required update to a recommended policy.**

Policy 4420—Visits to District Property by Sex Offenders: In an effort to remove overlap in the topics addressed in 4140 and 4420, the code of conduct was removed from this policy and placed in 4140. Requirements applying to all visitors to schools are now addressed in 4140; 4420 now addresses only requirements specific to sex offenders and schools. **This is an optional update to a required policy.**

Policy 4510—Public Gifts to the Schools: Donations of Material/Equipment Affecting Building Structure etc.: This policy simply adds a cross reference for Donations Regarding National Motto, which is outlined in policy 9802. **This is an optional update to an optional policy.**

Policy 7408—Entering into Professional Service Contracts: This update addresses a new prohibition on environmental, social, and governance standards in contracts. **This is a recommended update to a recommended policy.**

A motion was made by Larin Mortimer and seconded by Lon Harrington to first readings of Policy 1100—Membership; Policy 2120—Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests; Policy 2140/2140F: Student and Family Privacy Rights and Consent Forms; Policy 2303—Required Elementary Instruction Offerings; Policy 2425—Parental Rights; Policy 2425F—Efforts to Notify Parent/Guardian of Changes in Student Health or Well-Being; Policy 2425P—Parent/Guardian Notification of Changes in Health and Well-Being; Policy 2605—Advancement Requirements (Grades 6-9); Policy 2700—High School Graduation Requirements; Policy 2700P—High School Graduation Requirements; Policy 4140—Visitors to the Schools; Policy 4420—Visits to District Property by Sex Offenders; Policy 4510—Public Gifts to the Schools: Donations of Material/Equipment Affecting Building Structure etc.; and Policy 7408—Entering into Professional Service Contracts. All board members present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

7. CLOSING INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Next Board Meeting will be August 9, 2023 at the Snake River Community Library Office at 7 p.m.

11. ADJOURN

Lon Harrington moved and Larin Mortimer seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terisa Coombs
Clerk

Josh Sorensen
Chairman

August 9, 2023
Date