

**Snake River School Board of Trustees**  
**Held at Snake River Community Library**  
**924 West Highway 39, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221**  
**Wednesday, August 9, 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, and Toni Ibarra. Others attending were Superintendent Mark Kress and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

**2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Larin Mortimer 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 Toni Ibarra to approve the agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**b. Consent Agenda**

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2023

**Resignations:** Kathleen Olivarez, Middle School EL Parapro; Buxton Dawson, Bus Driver.

**New Hires:** Jane Reynolds, Moreland Principal; Julie Evans, Third Grade Teacher; Cindy Thompson, Jr. High English Teacher (Long-Term Sub first trimester), Joseph Welker, Assistant Facility Maintenance; Brutch Merrill, Bus Driver; Lonnie Skinner, Custodian; Donna Young, Bus Driver; Alejandra Parris, High School Sped Parapro; Patricia Pierce, Jr. High Cook; Nancy Lazard, Middle School Title I Aide; Cynthia Bott, High School Cook; Aneka DeLint, Moreland Preschool Parapro; Kylee Dawson, bus driver (rescinded resignation)

**Alternative Authorization:** SRO K-8 has requested that Emily Goodwin be granted an alternative authorization while she gets her Math 6-9 Endorsement.

**Payroll Status Changes:** Summer Gibbs from 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

**Payroll and Claims Payables** for July 2023

**Contracts:** Contracts for the 2023-2024 school year

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

**c. Bus Routes and Safety Busing**

The board is required by law to review safety busing and bus routes for the 2023-2024 school year during its August board meeting. Gina Dawson, Transportation Supervisor, gave a presentation. Ms. Dawson said that there are 1300 students in the district who actively ride the bus, which is about 200 more students than last year. They are still in need of two more bus drivers. They are going to cover these routes with sub bus drivers until they can hire more. Mrs. Dawson also explained that the competition with private companies paying their bus drivers more than what the district can pay makes it hard to hire school bus drivers. She also discussed the new app that will help bus drivers with scheduling maintenance for their bus and also has a time clock that they can clock in with. She feels that this has been beneficial. She would like to create a team atmosphere and is working on ways that this can be improved. Two years ago, a new bus pass system was introduced and Mrs. Dawson feels that this has been working well. They are also using front seat loading and unloading and she feels this also has also helped.

For safety busing, the state requires that all students who live within a mile of a school walk to school but because there are highways, railroad tracks, and canals, etc., in our district within that mile, the state allows for students to use the busing system for student's safety. When the state inspector came last year, he noted some safety concerns about Moreland Elementary. They have worked really hard to try to figure out a way to make the Moreland Elementary loading area more safe. There are a lot of things that need to happen to make it safer, including talking to the county road and bridge about changing the easement. They are hoping to make changes for the next school year.

Mrs. Dawson has worked really hard on eliminating students crossing highways. All crossovers have been eliminated from Highway 39 and there are only 3 crossovers on Highway 26, which are unavoidable unless you would like to transport those students all the way out to Atomic City and back. She also needed to create 3 turnarounds so students do not need to cross the highway, to save time, or there is a lot of traffic. On the maps provided, the turnarounds would be at stops 23, 13, and 20.

Mrs. Dawson has also changed the bus numbers to route numbers and letters. She is hoping this helps children get to the bus they are supposed to be riding. The board thanked Mrs. Dawson and the transportation department for all of their hard work.

**A motion was made by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the district bus routes, turnarounds of 13, 20, and 23, and safety busing as established for the 2023-2024 school year. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**d. Supplemental/Extracurricular Contract Approval**

A list of extra-curricular, leadership, and special assignment contracts were reviewed. These are contracts given to personnel who take on special assignments or do extra-curricular activities.

**Larin Mortimer moved and Lon Harrington seconded to approve the supplemental (extra-curricular or special assignment) contracts for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**e. Review LEA ARP ESSER Contract Approval**

The district is required to review the Return to School Plan every six months. This will be the last time it is required to be reviewed. Discussion was held.

**After reviewing the LEA ARP ESSER Return to School plan, Carol Hepworth moved and Lon Harrington seconded to approve the plan for another six months. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**4. PATRON FORUM**

There were no comments.

**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 in the Facility Report below.

**2. Facility Report:** Superintendent Kress and Paul Groesbeck, Maintenance Supervisor, updated the board about the district's facilities and projects that have been completed or still in the process of being completed. Lighting has been completely updated to LED at the District Office, Riverside, and Rockford. Power costs have decreased because of this. They are planning on finishing up the other schools this year. Night Locks have been installed in all buildings except for about 30 doors around the district because they had to order more and they have not come in yet. The auditorium lighting panel is completed. They were able to replace most of the junior high with new carpet. They have also replaced carpet where most needed throughout the district. The sprinkler systems are up and running and the lawns are green and looking good. The paving project is completed at the middle school. The phase 1 project at Riverside is completed and phase 2 will be finished hopefully by next year. They have been looking at the 10-year Maintenance Plan and completing the goals that have been set. Roofing at the junior high and middle school are top priorities. Also a top priority is security around the district. They have a good start but would like to continue to make sure the schools are safe.

**3. Weight Room Drawings:** Superintendent Kress showed rough draft weight room and field house drawings and discussed the future plans to eventually add these buildings to the high school campus.

**4. 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 and showed the board a few samples of what the website could look like and a few ideas that he would like to implement. His hope is to have the website up and running sometime around harvest break. The board is looking forward to seeing these ideas come in to play and thanked Mr. Dance for his hard work with the website.

**5. Upcoming Events:**

- 1. Opening Meeting August 14<sup>h</sup> at 11 a.m. at the high school. The board is invited**
- 2. Back to School Night will be August 14<sup>th</sup> for all schools**
- 3. Students Grades 1-12 Return August 16<sup>th</sup>, Kindergarten returns August 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- 4. Labor Day September 4<sup>th</sup>**
- 5. Annual ISBA Conference will be November 15-17, 2023 in Boise**

**6. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Policy Readings:**

**Second 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 second 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 September 20, 2023 at the Snake River Community Library Office at 7 p.m.

## 8. ADJOURN

Toni Ibarra moved and Lon Harrington seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Terisa Coombs  
Clerk

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Lon Harrington  
Vice Chairman

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September 20, 2023  
Date