

**Snake River School Board of Trustees
Held at Snake River Community Library
924 West Highway 39, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Monday, January 22, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Josh Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Lon Harrington, Carol Hepworth, Larin Mortimer, and Toni Ibarra. Others attending were Superintendent Mark Kress and Board Clerk Terisa Coombs.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lon Harrington opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. STUDENT RECOGNITION: Members of the 2023 football team were present and recognized for their achievements of earning State Academic Champs. The board congratulated them for their hard work.

4. 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 present voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Trustee Zones 2 and 3 Oath of Office

Board Clerk, Terisa Coombs, administered the Oath of Office to Carol Hepworth (Zone 2) and Larin Mortimer (Zone 3).

c. Board Reorganization

Elections for board officers were conducted.

As chairman of the Snake River School District 52 Board of Trustees, Josh Sorensen declared the Board of Trustees as dissolved and asked the Board to proceed with reorganization for the 2024 school year.

As Superintendent of Snake River School District 52, Mark Kress declared the office of Chairman of the Board open and asked for nominations.

Lon Harrington nominated Josh Sorensen as Chairman and Carol Hepworth seconded; with no further nominations being made, Josh Sorensen was elected as Chairman by a 5-0 vote.

Carol Hepworth nominated Toni Ibarra as Vice-Chairman and Larin Mortimer seconded; With no further nominations being made, Lon Harrington moved to cease nominations. Toni Ibarra was elected as Vice-Chairman by a 5-0 vote.

Larin Mortimer nominated Lon Harrington as Treasurer and Toni Ibarra seconded; Lon Harrington was elected as Treasurer by a 5-0 vote.

It was moved by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth that Terisa Coombs serve as Board Clerk and the district's Custodian of Records. All the board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Lon Harrington and seconded by Larin Mortimer that Harmony Shuler serve as Deputy Treasurer and the district's Alternate Custodian of Records. All the board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Carol Hepworth and seconded by Lon Harrington that the following serve as Assistant Treasurers: Mitzi Hatch, Dasha Clark, Amber Anderton, Stephanie Kreger, Gaye Jones, Doralee Mortensen, Debbie Ranstrom, Dalrene Pincock, Kristi Toone, Teresa Wood, Janice Hallinan, and Emily Goodwin. All the board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to close nominations and accept those nominated for the office of Vice Chair, Treasurer, Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers. All the board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Each Board Member signed the Code of Ethics.

d. Set Meeting Calendar

Board meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted. The board discussed the change in venue from the district office to the Snake River Community Library unless otherwise posted.

Larin Mortimer moved that the regular board meetings be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., unless posted otherwise by the board, and that they be held at the Snake River Community Library or at the schools as posted during the year. Motion was seconded by Lon Harrington. All the board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

e. **Appointment of Board Representatives to Committees**

Discussion was held about each committee and board member responsibilities. When each board member would like to give a report on their specific committee, they will contact the board clerk and add it to the next board meeting agenda.

The new chairman made committee assignments for the following:

Snake River Education Foundation: Carol Hepworth
Snake River Activities Foundation: Toni Ibarra
Snake River School/Community Library: Lon Harrington
Technology Advisory Committee: Carol Hepworth
Budget Committee: Josh Sorensen
Insurance Committee: Larin Mortimer
Negotiations: Larin Mortimer and Josh Sorensen
ISBA Business Session Representative: Lon Harrington

Title VII Coordinators: Superintendent Kress, Harmony Shuler

Title IX Coordinators: Robert Coombs, Superintendent Kress

It was moved by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to approve the committee assignments as read by the superintendent; to approve Mark Kress and Harmony Shuler as Title VII Coordinators; and to approve Robert Coombs and Mark Kress as the Title IX Coordinators. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

f. **Consent Agenda**

1. **Minutes:** Regular Meeting December 18, 2023
2. **Resignation:** Danise Burks, Dayport Custodian;
3. **New Hires:** David Sotutu, Moreland Elementary Principal; Jason Libberton, SROHS Math Teacher; Paula Bearnson, SROHS English Teacher; Kierra Belk, Bus Driver.
4. **Budget for August/September 2023; CD Statements; Payroll, and Claims Payable for December 2023.**
5. **Property Disposal:** Outdated high school floor scrubber (will be going up for sealed bids).
6. **Review of District Credit Card Users:** A list of credit card users is in your packet. As required by Policy 7440, "District Credit Cards," the board is required to review the list of credit card users in our district.

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

g. **Superintendent Contract Renewal**

Chairman Sorensen explained the process of the superintendent's evaluation and contract. A discussion was held about the timeline and extending Superintendent Kress's contract to the 2025-2026 school year.

Lon Harrington moved and Larin Mortimer seconded to extend the superintendent's contract through the 2025-2026 school year at the current rate to be renegotiated in May of 2024. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

h. **Emergency Closures:**

On January 10 and January 16, 2024 there were emergency closures of all the schools in the district because of adverse weather conditions. A Certificate of Closure was sent to the state. Makeup days are not needed.

It was moved by Larin Mortimer and seconded by Lon Harrington to approve the Emergency Closures of all the Snake River District schools on January 10 and January 16, 2024 because of adverse weather conditions. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

5. **PATRON FORUM**

There were no comments in the Patron Forum.

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Superintendent Report**

1. **School Recognition:** Rockford Elementary received a letter from the Dinner Table chairman thanking them for their food donations. Christmas fundraisers at Middle School, Jr. High and High Schools raised money to help many less fortunate families.

2. **School Safety Updates:** Superintendent Kress updated the board about school safety. Because of an emergency closure, he had to reschedule Teacher In-Service for CPR and De-Escalation Training for March 15.

3. **District Advocacy Plan:** In January, the Idaho State Legislature session begins. Legislators often turn to districts and ask them what they need. Chairman Sorensen thought it would be helpful to discuss what the district's needs are so if that happens, the board could have a united front in advocating for those needs. The following is a list based on their discussion:

1. Changing ADA to enrollment based funding
2. Changing the bond pass requirements for facilities improvement
3. Increased compensation rates for classified employees to help attract applicants to critical positions
4. Increased funding for school safety
5. Increased funding for Technology

Superintendent Kress will put this in a letter form. The board would like to send this to local representatives, put it on the website, and on social media.

b. Upcoming Events:

1. Parent Teacher Conferences
2. IETA Workshop is February 6-9, 2024
3. Day on the Hill, February 19-20, 2024.
4. No School on Monday, February 19, 2024 for President's Day
5. The CD's at ICCU are up for renewal in February. The 12-month rate was 5.0% and 18 month was 5.1%. By the next board meeting, he will have different options for the board to decide what to do with the CD's.
6. Superintendent Kress found a generator from the State Veteran's Cemetery for a good price. It is big enough to run the high school if the power should go out. Discussion was held about the possibilities.

7. POLICY READINGS:

Second Readings:

Policy 2335—Digital Citizenship and Safety Education: This policy removes some dated language including a reference to an online safety program no longer maintained by the Idaho Attorney General's Office.

Policy 3345/3345F—Restraint and Seclusion: This update includes a recommendation to switch from ISBA's model policy on restraint and seclusion to the model policy on this topic recently.

Policy 3460—School-Related Foreign Travel by Students This update includes additions emphasizing that credit will not be granted for travel if students/families are charged a fee for this travel. It also makes a sharper distinction between district/school sponsored travel and private travel. Finally, it removes some parts related to same-sex accommodations that are now addressed in 9605. It also adds a sentence related to the general rule of not charging a fee for for-credit activities.

Policy 3520—Contagious or Infectious Diseases: This update removes a section related to head lice, which we've moved into its own policy — 3523. This policy is classified as recommended because the previous process of checking for head lice does not include mention of requirements to notify parents/guardians of health services.

Policy 3523—Head Lice (Pediculosis): This update addresses head lice, a topic previously discussed in 3520. It contains updated guidance on handling head lice in schools based on guidance from such experts as the National Association of School Nurses and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While these practices are largely optional, there is new discussion of requirements for parental notification of health procedures, including head lice checks.

Policy 4330—Spectator Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Co-Curricular Events: This update allows the Superintendent to bar unruly patrons from school events without approval of the Board. Approval of the Board is not required by law, and a more streamlined process may be helpful in light of reports of increases in rude and disruptive behavior from spectators.

Policy 5280—Professional Standards Commission (PSC) Code of Ethics: At the recommendation of one of the attorneys ISBA consults on policy issues, we've added language to this policy requiring classified employees and volunteers to follow the code of Code of Ethics for Idaho Professional Educators.

Policy 5500—Personnel Files: At the recommendation of one of the attorneys ISBA consults on policy, the update to 5500 adds direction to not place attorney communications in employee files or share them with the employee.

Policy 7440—District Credit Cards: At the recommendation of one of the attorneys ISBA consults on policy issues, we've changed the time for review of the list of employees issued district/charter school credit cards from the July regular meeting to the annual meeting. We've also added an option to forgo this review and to issue credit cards to specific positions rather than individuals.

A motion was made by Lon Harrington and seconded by Carol Hepworth to approve the second readings of Policy 2335—Digital Citizenship and Safety Education; Policy 3345 and 3345F--Restraint and Seclusion; Policy 3460—School-Related Foreign Travel by Students; Policy 3520—Contagious or Infectious Diseases; Policy 3523—Head Lice (Pediculosis); Policy 4330—Spectator Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Co-Curricular Events; Policy 5280—Professional Standards Commission (PSC) Code of Ethics; Policy 5500—Personnel Files; Policy 7440—District Credit Cards. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

First Reading:

Policy 7260, "Student Activity Funds: This is an optional update to a required policy. This update adds a note explaining that Idaho Code requires boards to adopt a policy that describing the kinds of expenses student activity funds will be used on. It also replaces a blank in which boards can describe these expenses with choice between suggested language and language drafted by the board.

A motion was made by Toni Ibarra and seconded by Larin Mortimer to approve the first reading of Policy 7260, "Student Activity Funds." All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

8. CLOSING INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Next Board Meeting will be February 12, 2024 at Riverside Elementary at 7 p.m.

9. ADJOURN

Lon Harrington moved and Larin Mortimer seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terisa Coombs

Clerk

Josh Sorensen

Chairman

February 12, 2024

Date