

**Snake River School Board of Trustees**  
**Held at Snake River Jr. High**  
**918 West Highway 39, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221**  
**Monday, December 18, 2023**

**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**

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 Carol Hepworth to approve the agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**b. Consent Agenda**

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023

**New Hires/Payroll Status Change:** Samantha Arntsen, High School Special Ed Paraprofessional; Cindy Thompson, Temporary High School English Teacher; Janice Hallinan, SROHS Secretary from part-time to full-time; Julia Fullmer, bus driver, from 7.75 to 8.75 hours; Krystyna Czepkowski, Custodian, from 189 days to 154 days per year.

**Budget for August 2023; Payroll and Claims Payable for November 2023:** The Budget Report for August of 2023 was not ready at the time of the board meeting.

**Property Disposal:** 2010 Thomas Bus; 2011 Chevy Impala; 2014 Chevy Impala (totaled by insurance); 2003 Polaris ATV.

**A motion was made by Larin Mortimer and seconded by Lon Harrington to table the Budget Report of August of 2023 and to approve the rest of the Consent Agenda as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**c. Reschedule February 2024 Board Meeting**

After looking ahead to the February board meeting date, Superintendent Kress will be at meetings in Boise on that day and requests to reschedule the board meeting. After looking at the calendar, there are two possible options: Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> or Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Lon Harrington moved and Toni Ibarra seconded to reschedule the board meeting from February 21, 2024 at 7 p.m. at Riverside Elementary to February 12, 2024 at Riverside Elementary at 7 p.m. All board members voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

**4. PATRON FORUM**

Members of the Snake River Girls Cross Country team presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Place State Tournament trophy.

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Superintendent Report**

**1. Student District Recognition:** Rylee Barrett won the ISBA Art Contest and her picture is featured in the ISBA Calendar; Ann Marie Wolfley is one of two seniors who will represent Idaho at the United States Senate Youth Program in Washington DC in March. She will also receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Luke Higginson made his 1,000<sup>th</sup> point in boys basketball. There are many great things happening in the district.

**2. School Safety Report:** Superintendent Kress updated the board about school safety. The district received a bid to redo the front door at Moreland Elementary. In the January professional development, CPR training will be available. The AED machines were just replaced in each building across the district.

**3. Superintendent Evaluation Discussion:** Chairman Josh Sorensen and Superintendent Kress met earlier last month and started the superintendent evaluation process and will continue doing so next month.

**4. ISBA Policies:** The board has just completed Section 8000 of the ISBA Policies. Next month, the review of the last section, Section 9000--School Facilities, will begin.

**b. 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

**c. Upcoming Events:**

1. Christmas Break will be December 22nd-January 2nd, Students return on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>
2. Teacher Inservice will be January 12, 2024
3. Parent Teacher Conferences for the high school, jr. high, and middle school will be January 18, 2024 and for Riverside, it will be January 25, 2024.
4. Day on the Hill will be February 19-20, 2024

6. **Policy Readings:**

a. **Policy Readings, First 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 first 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.

7. **CLOSING INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. Next Board Meeting will be January 22, 2024 at the Snake River Community Library at 7 p.m.

8. **ADJOURN**

Lon Harrington moved and Larin Mortimer seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Terisa Coombs  
Clerk

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Josh Sorensen  
Chairman

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January 22, 2024  
Date