

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Joint Hagerman School District No. 233 Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho Minutes of Regular Board Meeting April 13, 2020

Chairman Bryan Whitmarsh called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the media center of the Hagerman Jr/Sr High School. District Clerk Cathy Bridwell took roll call and a quorum was in attendance with other board members present being Teri Dorchuck, Phil Gossi, Brian Moore and Monte Osborne. Also present were District Clerk/Business Manager Cathy Bridwell and IT Director Matt Cottam. Superintendent Mark Kress and Principal Jaren Wadsworth were present via Zoom Meeting. Other guests were present via Zoom Meeting.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to approve the current agenda with the deletion of Item G1; seconded by Trustee Phil Gossi; motion carried.

Trustee Dorchuck asked for clarification of the March 9, 2020, minutes regarding senior project. Mr. Wadsworth said the state has waived the requirement for this year's seniors and in the future, the district will have students do the project in their junior year. Moved by Trustee Dorchuck/Osborne to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020, regular meeting with the addition of the word "class" in regards to senior project and the April 1, 2020, special meeting; and the bills; as presented; seconded by Trustee Osborne/Moore ; motion carried.

Financial Reports

Update on Medicaid Billing. Moved by Trustee Moore to approve the Medicaid billing for March; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

District Clerk/Business Manger Cathy Bridwell answered questions about the budget report, specifically regarding deficits in supplies and a transfer from the general fund into plant facility savings. She also answered questions about plant facility accounts. Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to approve the general fund financial reports; seconded by Trustee Osborne; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Moore to approve the financial reports for the high school and elementary school; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent Kress reported the lunch program review was canceled for this year. The federal programs review was done digitally. Mr. Kress thanked all the people who helped with the review, especially Dr. Hoffman and Bette Reed. The reviewers were very happy with the review and had only one recommendation, specific to parent engagement plans. Staff meetings are taking place on-line and teachers are working hard to help students learn. The hot lunch program is doing an amazing job, serving about 250 meals per day, which is more than what the district was serving during school. The bus contractor is delivering breakfast and lunch at regular bus stops. There are some issues with food supplies and the state is recommending using frozen and canned foods when necessary. Parents are extremely thankful for the meals. Some supplies needed ordered based on the prospect of needing to

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provide meals for the rest of the school year. Mr. Kress read a letter from Trustee Dorchuck thanking the

board for interviewing her for the business manager position. The state department has announced a one-percent reduction in funding for this fiscal year and the district can anticipate at least a 5% cut in funding for 2020-2021. The state is advising districts to wait on budgeting and major expenditures until the funding picture is clearer. There are many ideas for cutting revenue including doing away with leadership premiums, advanced opportunities, and freezing the career ladder. Budgeting will begin as soon as accurate information from the state is available. Mr. Kress thanked all the teachers and aides for their work in finding solutions to continue teaching students, including special education. All employees are still working, even if it's not their normal duty. If employees feel they are at risk, they may work from home. Hourly employees who choose not to work will not be paid. The district is currently using the summer food program to feed students and it has been extended one week past the end of the school year.

Principal Wadsworth reported communication with parents has been a challenge. Online learning is fairly normal in the building, so students are used to it. Teachers are using many techniques to reach students. He thanked his staff and the special education department for their hard work. Participation isn't as good in the high school as it is in the junior high. Attempts have been made to assure that all students have internet access. Some seniors are not turning in assignments. Some guidelines are in place for grading based on third quarter grades and level of participation in April and May. There is also discussion about giving students an incomplete. Mr. Wadsworth will be getting more information at a meeting later this week. Mr. Wadsworth has shared the grading system on the district Facebook page and Chairman Whitmarsh asked that it be put on the district website as well. Mr. Wadsworth is surveying seniors regarding plans for graduation. The school will be fully accredited later this spring. Mr. Wadsworth has candidates for the math and social studies vacancies and coaching vacancies. The high school is looking into doing a virtual awards assembly and virtual student body elections.

Information Items

School Closure Impact Update: Attendance, Testing, Instruction, Meals, Graduation. Most of these items were addressed in administrative reports. Mr. Kress reported the ISAT has been canceled and he expects the IRI will be as well. The State Board of Education meeting today included discussion from some small districts with no COVID-19 cases who want to open.

ADA Report. Information on historical ADA for the district was discussed. ADA has increased over the past three years. Changes to the calendar and attendance incentives may have favorably impacted ADA.

Action Items

Board Policy Suspension Resolution – COVID-19. The board reviewed the policy suspension resolution, which allows for any board policy that might be in conflict with the new federal laws to be temporarily suspended. Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to approve the resolution; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

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2020-2021 School Calendar. The board reviewed the proposed 2020-21 school calendar. Moved by Trustee Osborne to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Annual Budget Hearing Date. The annual budget hearing date is typically the June board meeting. The board considered the date and it was suggested moving the meeting to June 15, 2020. Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to set the budget hearing date for June 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

Superintendent Search

Overview of Superintendent Search Process. Misty Swanson of the ISBA gave an overview of the process. The role of the ISBA is to assist the board in finding the best candidate for the district. The ISBA promoted the position across Idaho and in surrounding states by a variety of methods.

Hiring Best Practices Workshop including Open Meeting Law. Misty talked to the board about what topics must be covered in open session and what can be discussed in executive session. She also talked about confidentiality and discrimination.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to rearrange agenda item J1 to H3; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Next Steps in Superintendent Search Process. Trustees discussed desired qualifications for the position. Proper certification and prior experience were mentioned as well as buy-in to the community, which might mean living in the community. A strong online learning background was another quality as was curriculum experience. Interest in and ability to leverage social media would be helpful. Good communication is necessary. Good budgeting experience would be good as well as transparency and accountability. Ability to handle adversity and leader-leader style would be a plus. Misty emphasized the “right fit” as being the most important quality.

Moved by Trustee Moore to go into executive session for the purpose of reviewing applications for the superintendent position as per IC 74-206(1)(a); seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried by roll call vote at 8:54 p.m. as follows: Trustee Gossi—yes; Trustee Dorchuck—yes; Trustee Moore—yes; Trustee Osborne—yes; and Trustee Whitmarsh—yes. Present in executive session were all trustees, Misty Swanson, Mr. Wadsworth and Mrs. Bridwell. The board reviewed applications for the superintendent position and returned to regular session at 10:27 p.m.

Based on criteria established prior to the meeting and reviewed during the meeting, Trustee Dorchuck put forward the name of Tana Kellogg as a semi-finalist. Trustee Moore added Ben Merrill, Trustee Gossi added Matt Valadao, Trustee Whitmarsh added Karl Coghill and Trustee Osborne added Jim Brown.

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Moved by Trustee Moore to approve these candidates semi-finalists as stated; seconded by Trustee Dorchuck; motion carried.

Misty Swanson will notify candidates regarding who is moving forward. The board will need to decide how to proceed, whether it's some short online interviews, reference checks, etc. Online interviews should be done in executive session. The ISBA can set up interviews if the board wishes. Community meet and greet should be done in open session. Normally only the finalists participate in this. The board requested that Misty coordinate the Zoom interviews and do reference checks. Moved by Trustee Moore to have ISBA continue to option 2 in the superintendent search; seconded by Trustee Dorchuck; motion carried. The board discussed possible dates and times for interviews. Chairman Whitmarsh will send Misty available dates and times.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel as per IC 74-206(1)(a)(b); seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried at 10:43 p.m. by roll call vote as follows: Trustee Gossi—yes; Trustee Dorchuck—yes; Trustee Moore—yes; Trustee Osborne—yes; and Trustee Whitmarsh—yes. Present in executive session were all board members, Mr. Wadsworth and Mrs. Bridwell. The board discussed personnel and returned to regular session at 11:17 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Moore to offer a teaching position to Dana Strong for social studies, head football coach and varsity boys basketball coach; seconded by Trustee Dorchuck; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to offer Amy Gossi a position as a full-time math teacher; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried. Trustee Gossi did not participate in the vote.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to set the next board meeting for May 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried at 11:20 p.m.

Catherine Bridwell, District Clerk