

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Joint Hagerman School District No. 233 Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho Minutes of Regular Board Meeting May 11, 2020

Chairman Bryan Whitmarsh called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in Hagerman Jr/Sr High School Media Center. District Clerk Cathy Bridwell took roll and a quorum was present with other board members in attendance being Phil Gossi, Teri Dorchuck, Brian Moore and Monte Osborne. Also present were High School Principal Jaren Wadsworth, District Clerk Cathy Bridwell, IT Director Matt Cottam, and Jim Brown. Superintendent Mark Kress and other community members joined the meeting via Zoom.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to approve the agenda; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Moore to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020, regular meeting; the April 22, 23, and 30th, 2020, special meetings; the elementary financial report; the high school financial report; the district financial report following discussion and questions; Medicaid billing following questions & discussion; and bills following questions; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

Public Input

None

Administrative Reports

Superintendent Kress thanked all the staff who have been working so hard to continue educating students during this unusual time. Parents have been very appreciative. Participation rates vary by grade level. Teacher meetings have been taking place via Zoom and have been very successful. Part of the time is spent discussing students who are not attending and trying to find ways to get them onboard. Mr. Kress also talked about some of the proposed budget cuts for next year. The CDC is advising that next year could see rolling shut-downs of school if students or staff test positive for COVID-19. Mr. Kress has been meeting with Dr. Jim Brown to begin his transition as the new superintendent. Blue Cross has announced an 8.8 percent increase in premium for next year, which will be about \$27,000. This also affects the district's ability to fund staffing in the future.

High School Principal Jaren Wadsworth also thanked the teachers and the aides for all their hard work. Staff have tried extremely hard to communicate with students and find ways for two-way interaction. The future of education in the face of COVID-19 issues is very fluid and the district will need to be open to continuing some form of online learning. Mr. Wadsworth is using Facebook to help seniors finish their presentations. Student check-out will be this Wednesday, Thursday and next Monday to give the students the opportunity to turn in or purchase their Chromebooks. Mr. Wadsworth and Mr. Cottam are working together to determine a price and also to make sure the district can replace them over the summer. Mr. Wadsworth is making students accountable for the technology devices they use so money is not wasted. He also wants to budget for new classroom sets of Chromebooks. Student body elections are taking place this week and new football coach Dana Strong will be meeting via Zoom with students interested in playing football. He is concerned about the lack of summer activities for athletes. Mr. Wadsworth will look into it and discuss it at the next board meeting. Trustee Dorchuck asked if there

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could be information sent out on PowerSchool to parents to help them understand how to look at student assignments.

Trustee Moore asked about maintenance items from the accreditation report and Superintendent Kress reported the district has been working on getting security locks on the doors. Classrooms and modular units are being painted and the ramps to the modular units and the skirting will also be replaced and repaired. Mr. Wadsworth reported the speaker and intercom in the shop have been replaced.

Information Items

2020 Graduation Plan. Superintendent Kress reported that Mr. Wadsworth held a meeting with parents to determine what kind of graduation ceremony could take place. The plan will be to hold graduation in the gym on May 19, have the seniors walk across the stage, and have speakers but no audience except parents. Everyone will be encouraged to wear masks. This fits into the CDC recommendations for social distancing. It will also be streamed live and will allow those watching to post messages of support. The number of people allowed to congregate should be 50 by the time graduation takes place. Trustee Dorchuck was concerned that more than 50 people will be attendance and the district will be liable if someone gets ill. Holding graduation outside would be hard to control, but there are other options throughout the state that might work, such as a drive-by handout of diplomas.

2019-2020 1% Holdback Impact. Business Manager Cathy Bridwell and Superintendent Kress explained how the state holdback will affect the district and also showed the board the impact of the new proposed 5% for next year.

Staffing Needs/Budget Concerns/ADA2020/2021. Business Manager Cathy Bridwell and Superintendent Kress explained current staff FTE, student ADA and how it fits together to determine the staffing level allowed in each building. Currently the district is about 1 FTE under the allowance, which gives the board the flexibility to either hire additional teachers or use the money to mitigate the state funding losses.

Annual Calendar/Schedule of Topics for Board Meetings. Trustee Dorchuck went over the calendar she put together for board meeting topics. She and Mrs. Bridwell will work together to keep it updated. Trustee Dorchuck would like to see it eventually posted on the board webpage.

Action Items

Board policy – tabled

New Superintendent Contract

Chairman Whitmarsh presented possible terms for new superintendent Dr. Jim Brown. His current salary is \$98,000 for 226 days. Mr. Brown is not willing to take less money than he is currently making in light of his new responsibilities as the superintendent/principal. The current contract for Mr. Kress is

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\$98,850. Mr. Brown has requested a salary of \$105,000. The initial offer was \$90,000 for 240 days based on average salaries for area superintendents. Because Jim has his doctorate and 30 years of administrative experience, the district may want to raise the offer. Also Dr. Brown has mentioned the idea of tapping into home school learning programs offered by the district and earn some revenue. Dr. Brown mentioned that his current school earned about \$79,000 providing home school the first year they ran it. Chairman Whitmarsh proposed giving Dr. Brown a base salary and bonus based on the amount of revenue he is able to generate. He suggested a base salary of \$98,000 and provide performance incentives based on home school enrollment. Trustee Moore pointed out that if the district paid the same daily rate and added 20 days of work, the salary would be about \$105,000. He feels the home school option will bring in revenue anyway without tying it to Dr. Brown's salary.

Additional Secondary Math Position. One additional FTE is available within the state funding matrix. Chairman Whitmarsh mentioned the need for an additional math instructor in the high school. Although the candidate Mr. Wadsworth was interested in has taken another position, the need for additional math personnel still exists. Mr. Kress reported that the math specialist position in the elementary has not been assigned with the new hires. He recommended posting for middle school math and PE and see what is available.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to go into executive session as per Idaho Code 74-206(a)(b) for the purpose of personnel; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried by roll call vote at 9:23 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 board members, Superintendent Kress, Principal Wadsworth, District Clerk Cathy Bridwell and Dr. Jim Brown. The board discussed personnel and returned to regular session at 10:12 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to accept the resignations of Erika Cornett and Marianne Christian effective the end of this school year; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to approve new hires of Ellen Myers as elementary special education teacher and Jennifer Jackson as 4th grade teacher for the 2020-2021 school year; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to open a math position potentially to be split between the elementary and high school; seconded by Trustee Osborne; discussion was the district offering the \$5,000 stipend from levy funds; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Dorchuck to offer Dr. Jim Brown a contract for 240 days at \$105,000 for two years; seconded by Trustee Moore; discussion on 2nd year days to be negotiated; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Moore to offer contracts to currently employed teachers; seconded by Trustee Gossi; discussion freeze salaries because of the 5% holdback based on information received today; motion carried.

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Moved by Trustee Moore to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried at 10:19 p.m.

Catherine Bridwell, District Clerk