Chairman Bryan Whitmarsh called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Room 7 of Hagerman High School for the purpose of Levy Voter Survey Results, Equipment Purchases, and Classified Staff Salary Schedule. District Clerk Cathy Bridwell took roll and a quorum was present, with other board members in attendance being Phil Gossi and Monte Osborne. Teri Dorchuck joined via Zoom. Brian Moore arrived at 7:26 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Jim Brown and high school principal/AD Jaren Wadsworth.

Chairman Whitmarsh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Trustee Gossi to approve the current agenda as presented; seconded by Trustee Osborne; motion carried.

Information Items

Levy Voter Survey Results. There were 67 responses, with the largest age group represented being 41-60 years of age. Eighty-two percent of the respondents were home-owners. Fifty-three percent of respondents voted yes and 19.4 voted no. The others either did not vote or did not want to say how they voted. Most of the feedback was from those who voted no. The board has previously gone over survey results including individual staff names in executive session as per Idaho Code. The board was concerned about the declining support for school levies and wants to understand and address the issues. One major concern was a feeling that the past administration did not make wise use of the funds over the last three years. Chairman Whitmarsh reiterated that the board goes through every expenditure at each board meeting and the board sets a budget every June for the ensuing year. Trustee Dorchuck mentioned that it would be great if those who are concerned about spending would attend the board meetings and ask questions about those things they have issues with. Chairman Whitmarsh showed the public where to find the financial information on the website. Another respondent felt that while the pamphlet showed two different items for the spending of the levy, rumors around town mentioned other items being considered. The board never approved any uses except those listed on the pamphlet. There is no intent to use the levy funds for anything other than the new PE position and ARTEC funding. Dr. Brown mentioned that there was limited opportunity to meet with the public prior to the election due to COVID protocols. One person complained that the money just goes into the pot and is used as a buffer instead of for specified items. This is not the case, as the levy funds are carefully tracked by the district. Someone was not in favor of more taxes, even though the levy rate will be lower next year than it currently is. They did not like that the district bought a bus, even though that was one of the purposes of the prior levy. The bus purchased with levy funds a few years ago is used for activity trips, which is more cost-effective than using a contracted bus. Medicaid reimbursement was not done properly at one time several years ago, but the district has since recouped all those funds and is tracking and submitting for funds regularly. Someone thought using the levy for ongoing expenses was an issue even though this was the purpose specified in the previous levy election. It was felt the

board used PE and ARTEC for passing the levy even though both were already in place or being planned. This is not true. ARTEC funding has been reduced by the state and the PE position is not currently in place. Originally the ARTEC program was funded by the state, but now the state has changed how they fund and the district must pick up the tab or lose the program. Another person complained that the District is using these funds as a cushion, which is not true. New levy funds will be for added positions. It was felt there was a need to be more efficient and effective and use the funds for improving programs for students and perhaps consolidate with Bliss. Some people didn’t know they were eligible to vote. The board expressed the need to be more proactive getting the word out about who can vote and how to obtain absentee ballots. There was a complaint about the discrepancy in pay between district office personnel and hands-on help for students. The state career ladder controls funding for teaching positions and teacher pay depends on where teachers fall on the ladder. There was a person who didn’t like the way the district handled COVID. Dr. Brown said he thought the district did an exemplary job dealing with COVID and keeping school in session the entire school year. Those who didn’t want to attend in person were given the option to attend digitally. Chairman Whitmarsh said he also tracked the CDC and hospitalization rates very carefully throughout the year. Chairman Whitmarsh thanked everyone who responded to the survey. Dr. Brown commended the board for taking the time to go through these concerns and he is already thinking about ways to improve communication.

Action Items

Equipment Purchases - Lawn Mower, Floor Scrubber. The district is in need of a new lawn mower, which would cost approximately $10,000. The one we have is over 10 years old. The district also needs a new riding floor scrubber to clean the gym that would be stored in the gym, and a push scrubber is needed for the high school. The new machines would be much more efficient and hygienic. Moved by Trustee Gossi to approve purchases of $15,000 for a lawn mower and $15,000 for two floor scrubbers; seconded by Trustee Dorchuck; motion carried.

Classified Employee Salary Schedule. Dr. Brown presented a new salary schedule for classified employees beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The new amounts will make the district much more competitive with surrounding schools and businesses and help to attract and keep quality personnel. Moved by Trustee Moore to approve the classified salary schedule as presented; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Osborne to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried at 8:00 p.m.

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District Clerk