

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Joint Hagerman School District No. 233

Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

April 17, 2023

Chairman Bryan Whitmarsh called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. in Room 7 of Hagerman Jr./Sr. High School. District Clerk Melissa Lemmon took roll and established that a quorum was present, with board members in attendance being Trustee Gossi, Chairman Whitmarsh, Trustee Moore, and Trustee Turner. Trustee Bogaard was not present at the meeting.

Chairman Whitmarsh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Trustee Moore to approve the current agenda as presented; seconded by Trustee Turner; motion carried.

Special Reports/Activities

Student Activities >Two FFA students spoke about the recent SLC event in Twin Falls and the awards that Hagerman students won. 18 Hagerman students competed in various speaking, dairy and agri-science events. The Hagerman team placed 18th out of 91 teams and Josiah Knapp was elected as the new state reporter. This was a very successful event for Hagerman students.

Employees of the month> Dr. Brown recognized the classified employee of the month, Griselda Estrada, one of the lunch staff at the Elementary School. High School Principal Bill Hicks recognized the certified employee of the month Cynthia Gonzales, the Junior High English Language Arts Teacher.

Consent Agenda

>Trustee Turner moved to approve the consent agenda as well as the minutes from the March, 13th 2023, regular meeting and the April 5th special meeting; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

Action Items A

>The school district bills for April were reviewed along with the financial reports. >Question. On the security update what was the payment for? It was the second half of the bill for the updated push-bar exits. A list of the checks paid for the elementary month ends was requested for future reports. Moved by Trustee Gossi to approve the district bills; and the financial reports; as presented; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Public Input

No public input was requested.

Administrative Report

Dr. Jim Brown reported on the ARRGH students of the week and of the month. The High School Pirate Pride students were also reviewed. ISTATON results for the month of March and April were reviewed. Scores are usually higher in April than in May. >Question. Why did 2nd,3rd, and 4th grades all regress? This happens in testing results occasionally, if regression was continuous it would be alarming. >Question. What action takes place if the testing results are continuously bad? The results are shared with the teachers and a plan for improvement is discussed during teaming. Ideas about what can be implemented to help students fill the gaps in their understanding in ELA and Math are discussed along with implementation strategies. Growth in ELA is more difficult to achieve than growth in Math. The high

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school ISAT results were compared to other schools' scores in our area. Math is a focus area. Teachers in our district have joined a math intervention co-hort. This co-hort focuses on the best practices in math.

>Question. How did Hagerman move up 100 places in the school rankings? Hagerman school jumped many places when the COVID school closures happened due to the district staying open as long as possible and resuming face to face education as soon as possible after that. The purchase of the new math curriculum should also increase math scores. Currently the focus in High School is on the 2, 4, and 6 year graduation plans. H Day is approaching. This is a high school pride day when students go out and clean up the town and improve the school grounds. There is an awards assembly scheduled for May 22 that the board is welcome to attend. As a reward for good attendance, high school students will be taking a trip to WAHOOT in Boise. There are two professional development days coming up. One is May 26th and the other will be June 1st. There will be additional time scheduled for the math co-hort as well.

>Question. Do we have to pay teachers for this additional time? No, this time is outside of their contract but we are flexing other contracted time so that they can attend with pay.

>Question. When a new curriculum is introduced do scores generally drop? Potentially, there is always a learning curve however master teachers get good results no matter what and we are hoping for improvement right away. The recent professional development day was reviewed with the board. In offering Alex and Achieve the two aren't being utilized to their fullest capabilities so the High School and Elementary opted to drop Achieve 3000 math. ITBS directors from the state came and interviewed staff and students and Hagerman will be moving to tier two. Board luncheons are still on schedule and appreciated.

Information Items

>Board Training -Legislative and GAC Updates. Chairman Whitmarsh shared some GAC (Government Affairs Conference) updates. The March election date was removed. The redirection of public funds for private schools was vetoed. School closures on election day were revised so that not all districts have to close schools on election day, depending on polling locations. Hagerman School District can now remain open on election day. Staff funding was increased. Business Manager, Cathy Bridwell, spoke about the post legislative roadshow. She informed the board about new requirements for next year. There is a new required financial literacy course for high school graduation. This will be considered a social studies credit and required as of the 2023/2024 school year. It is the intent that graduating students have a better fundamental understanding of personal financial literacy and money management. Career exploration will now be a requirement in 7th or 8th grade to better equip students with knowledge for graduation and secondary planning. This will be built into the 2, 4, or 6 year plans. There will be a new Teacher Apprenticeship Program which would allow aspiring teachers to work as paid apprentices while pursuing their bachelor's degree. This is supposed to assist rural schools in raising teachers for their area.

>Question. Is this in addition to the ABCTE program? Yes, this is in addition to ABCTE. Idaho's CTE programs have been funded to receive grant money that could be used for capital improvements. That grant could potentially help to fund the AG Shop remodel. With the Governors Launch program some students that are going to a community college or trade school, could get funding for their education for their first year. Getting this information to our school counselor and students is important. The new open enrollment law will require some policy changes. Capacity and enrollment will now be required to be posted on the website. All schools are required to allow open enrollment barring expulsion, chronic

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absence, or exceeding available capacity which applies to SPED students as well. >Question. Do we have that in policy? No, but that will be part of the updates to policy that ISBA will send out. Also after two consecutive years of attendance for an out of district student, they then become the responsibility of that district to complete their education. Those students basically become an in-district student however the district is not responsible to fund transportation. Also it is a new requirement that all schools under the state board of education must display a sign of the national motto "In God We Trust". >Question. Is funding based on ADA for the 2023/2024 school year? Yes, and based on our attendance, funding will be reduced compared to enrollment funding. Schools are now going to be required to provide a reasonable restroom/changing room accommodation for students that provide in a written request, for any reason, that they are unwilling to use the facility designated by their biology. Dr. Brown added that there is a new seclusion and restraint house bill. This bill emphasizes the requirement of training for staff to perform seclusion and restraint. Seclusion cannot be used as punishment however this doesn't include a timeout that is part of a behavior management technique. This is not about giving a student detention or a time out. Administering medication and locking students away was the concern. In Idaho educators can no longer use corporal punishment (i.e. spanking). Silent prayer for staff is legal. Sexual education and abstinence curriculum now have more specific requirements. >Question. Are all of these mandatory, or can they be changed at the local level? The changes are mandatory, the law trumps local control however we will know more about policy changes when the information from ISBA comes out. There is also a property tax relief bill that is supposed to bring about a 15% tax relief for property tax payers. This was a total based on a confidently estimated amount.

>Strategic Plan- Dr. Brown presented the Levy Slideshow that will be presented at the high school town hall meeting as well as the small cottage meetings. The board recommended a few changes to be as clear as possible and avoid confusion. Those changes will be made. The Kimberly school district showed some interest in purchasing two of the modulars for potential office space. Currently modulars #1 and #2 aren't being used other than for storage and a calm down room. If the facility levy passes, the district could look further into the procedure for selling the modulars. >Question. Based on your experiences, what is the current support level in the community for the levy? Some members of the senior citizen community seem to be against the levy and want to see blueprints. The problem is that there is a huge expense tied with blueprints. If the community doesn't support remodeling the gym, then investing in blueprints would be a waste of funding. Getting information out to the community and gaining support is the goal currently. Dr. Brown encouraged the board to talk to the community about the levy. One quote for potential HVAC work was presented and the maintenance department is working on getting a few more quotes. Dr. Brown plans on purchasing new furniture at the High School to balance investments as there are many updates going into the elementary school with the replacement of the fence and playground. Gravel in the parking area needs to be flattened out and then compacted. Coordinating the fence replacement with the replacement of the playground equipment would be a good plan.

>Bus Property Disclosure- Dr. Jim Brown disclosed that he personally purchased the property from Tom Cooper that Mid Columbia leases as their bus yard. Mid Columbia is the company that the district has a

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bussing contract with. This was disclosed to ensure that the public knows that the purchase was made and that in the future Dr. Brown will remove himself from discussion and or negotiations dealing with Mid Columbia in the future.

Action Items B

>Preliminary Budget Information- Business Manager, Cathy Bridwell, reported that based on the funding moving to ADA rather than enrollment our funding will be reduced. We are not over staffed currently however the gap in what the state staffing funds and the total positions hired will be going away next year. It is a district goal to be just under what the state funds for staffing; however we will be about one position over for the 2023/2024 school year. The district currently has a healthy fund balance and the general fund can cover the difference in staffing for next year. Total positions may need to be discussed at the end of the 2023/2024 school year with a possibility of reducing one position. >Question. Is the one position over staffing at the elementary or at the high school? It's at the High School and Junior High. High School and Junior High require more positions based on their schedules. Building the budget based on ADA is difficult due to possible changes in attendance with students. If attendance declines the funding is affected. With Venture Upward enrollment needs to be about 40 students for the program to pay for itself. Currently the enrollment is about 23 students. The state allocated a 4% increase for administration. That increase is regularly passed on to administration and that is the current recommendation. The increase for teachers and additional funding for classified staff is meant to raise the wage and help maintain staffing. The teacher funding hasn't been added to the state career ladder and won't be for a few years. Districts are funded based on the career ladder and allowable units, however every district gets to choose how they pay that out. The increase in teacher pay will be received for all allocated positions. Some districts have additional teaching staff that they will not receive this allocation for. There are some districts that pay above the career ladder. >Question. Do the classified positions qualify for insurance? Some do however the majority do not. Three different options were presented to the board as far as raises for the classified salary schedule. >Question. What is your recommendation? The district could start all positions at \$15/hour. >Question. Is each step on the classified pay scale increased or are only the new people rewarded? Each step on the classified pay scale will increase to benefit all classified employees.

Trustee Moore moved that the entire money received for the state allocation be given to the admin and teachers; seconded by Trustee Turner; motion carried.

Trustee Moore moved to accept option three as described moving the lowest paying classified positions to \$15.00 an hour and up the scale; seconded by Trustee Turner; motion carried.

>Set the Date for the Budget Hearing- Trustee Turner moved to set the date for the budget hearing to June 19th 2023; seconded by Trustee Turner; motion carried.

>Speech Contract- The speech contract with Toone Incorporated was presented to the board. The hourly rate increased by \$3.00 per hour however the total scheduled hours were reduced. Trustee Gossi moved to approve the new speech therapy contract; seconded by Trustee Turner; motion carried.

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>Social Media Mass Action Lawsuit- Due to social media, schools have had to hire additional mental health professionals, develop lesson plans about the effects of social media, and provide additional training for teachers. Social media targets youth, maximizing the time spent on social media platforms and the programs are designed with algorithms that feed children harmful content. Social media platforms are deeply flawed and are causing a mental health crisis in students. The purpose of the lawsuit is to obtain funding to Districts for prevention education and mental health services. "Facebook, SnapChat, TikTok, and YouTube are all cited as defendants. Trustee Turner moved to accept the suit motion as included; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.

>Defensive Weapons on Campus- Dr. Brown shared the information that was received from Garden Valley School District. The defensive weapons that were chosen in Garden Valley are long rifles and identification vests. The initial cost was about \$5,000 and the maintenance cost was about \$3,000. In speaking with Garden Valley they said that they would probably change to handguns as the long rifles require more time to access and prepare. In Riggins there is a staff member that carries a concealed weapon on their person at all times. >Question. Have you talked to districts that have retired military as security? No. In Twin all elementary schools have an SRO. >Question. Do we have policies that can be reviewed? Not currently, but some sample policies from schools that allow defensive weapons on campus will be presented at the next board meeting. It was recommended that an interview process along with a psycho analysis and a physical/shooting ability test be required for staff interested in participating. >Question. Is there any funding coming from the state that would help to fund an SRO? No. Part of the supplemental levy in Twin is being used to fund an SRO however there isn't any additional funding coming for that. Additional safe and drug free schools are getting a little more funding. Dr. Brown is not an advocate of teachers having guns. It is his belief that teachers are with their class and would have a hard time responding to a crisis. The deterrent of individuals knowing that defensive weapons are on campus is believed to be of much value by the board. The staff survey results were overwhelmingly in support of defensive weapons on campus as well. Clearly laid out plans and preparation need to be completed in the process. Defenseless students that could be seen as a target are a concern. >Question. Can we afford a school resource officer? It would be very expensive. Qualified personnel would be ideal. Speaking with retired military or law enforcement could be a possibility. That may be an option which could be a deterrent and make the community feel safer with the benefit of professional training. That could potentially be a good topic for a town hall meeting. The consensus was to gather more information to present at the next school board meeting.

>Board Policy Review 1st Reading- Policy #2200, #2510P, #2530, #2530F, #3255, #3340, #3340P, #3360, #3525, #4105, & #4105F were reviewed and discussed.

>Board Policy Review 2nd Reading- Policy #2140, #2500, #2510, & #7310 were reviewed.

Moved by Trustee Turner to approve the 1st readings as listed with the changes as discussed; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Trustee Turner moved to approve the 2nd readings as listed; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

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The Board took a 5 minute recess at 8:59pm and resumed at 9:04pm.

Moved by Trustee Moore to enter executive session as per Idaho Code 74-206(a)(b) for the purpose of personnel; seconded by Trustee Turner; motion carried at 9:06 pm. by roll call votes as follows: Trustee Bogaard was absent; Trustee Gossi- yes; Chairman Whitmarsh- yes; Trustee Turner- yes; Trustee Moore- yes. Present in executive session were the previously named trustees, District Clerk Melissa Lemmon, Superintendent Dr. Brown, and Business Manager Cathy Bridwell. Personnel was discussed. Cathy Bridwell exited the executive session at 9:20pm.

Entered into regular session at 9:34pm

Action Resulting From Executive Session

Trustee Turner moved to approve the proposed work schedule for Cathy Bridwell as presented; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Trustee Turner moved to accept the resignation of Dr. Jim Brown as Boys Varsity Basketball Coach; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried.


Trustee Turner moved to open the Boys Varsity Basketball Coach and High School Social Studies Positions; seconded by Trustee Moore; motion carried.

Trustee Turner moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Trustee Gossi; motion carried at 9:36p.m.

Melissa Lemmon, District Clerk

BOARD MOTION

Whereas the Board recognizes that juvenile's access and use of social media is a national and local problem which is alleged to have contributed to the mental health crisis, including students of the District, which likewise impacts the operation of the District; and whereas multi-district litigation is pending against multiple social media companies, in Federal Court; and whereas the Board, having considered the inclusion of the District in this multi-district litigation and having found it to be in the best interest of the District and its students, I hereby move that the Board take all necessary steps to join this lawsuit as a Plaintiff and hereby authorize and direct the Board's Chairman and/or the Superintendent to execute all necessary documents to that end.

By: 
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date: 4/17/2023

ATTEST:

By: 
Clerk, Board of Trustees

Date: 4/17/2023