



# Joint School District No. 2

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SUPERINTENDENT  
Dr. Linda Clark

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 28, 2006

Date, Place & Time The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Joint School District No. 2, convened on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, 5:32 p.m., at Mountain View High School, 2000 S. Millennium Way, Meridian, Idaho.

Trustees in Attendance Chairman Mike Vuittonet, Robert Chandler, Reid Olsen, Louis Pifher, Anne Ritter

Staff in Attendance Dr. Linda Clark, Dr. Bruce Gestrin, Wendel Bigham, Eric Exline, Trish Duncan

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Mike Vuittonet

**WORK SESSION** *Legislative Issues* – Dr. Clark reviewed ongoing conversations with legislators regarding the bill sponsored by the Meridian district, and proposed property tax changes. Trustee Ritter shared concerns regarding the Idaho School Boards Association's position on the 3% mill levy. Trustees discussed opposition to any change and Chairman Vuittonet suggested that a letter be drafted reaffirming their support of the 3% mill levy and their opposition to any effort to alter the resolution which was adopted at the annual meeting.

*Trustee expresses viewpoint* – Trustee Pifher expressed his displeasure with the organization of the work session at the February 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Mr. Pifher stated that he would no longer discuss any items that are not part of the written agenda.

Trustees discussed concerns that had been raised by Trustee Pifher and will have administration seek clarification from counsel regarding those issues. The board will review the attorney's opinion and will talk about issues raised by Trustee Pifher during the work session on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ada County Legislative Update Trustee Pifher answered questions that board had raised during the work session on February 14<sup>th</sup> regarding the work of the Ada County Legislative Committee. Mr. Pifher informed trustees that the committee was focusing all of their efforts this year on the Idaho School Board's adopted resolution regarding the maintenance of the .04% property tax equalization funding for Idaho public schools.

At the conclusion of the work session, the board took a short break.

**REGULAR SESSION** Chairman Vuittonet welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for coming.

Staff in Attendance As above, Dr. Jan Horning, Dr. Mandy Saras, Todd Phillips, Howard Peck, Penny Andrew

Guests

Melinda Stave, Bill Cosdon, Anastasia Miles, Jennifer Fletcher, Bryan Fletcher, Taylor Fletcher, Amy Jorgenson, Mary Berg, Jody Haun, Mark Helms, sherry Fawcett, Joan Sherk, Brenda Menz, Judie Bradburn, Debbie Beal, Melissa Maxey, Julie Hart, Elinda Schuler, Judy DeBoer, Bill Nary, Betsy Buckley

**Consent Agenda**

Trustee Olsen moved, Trustee Ritter seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the consent agenda after Item #1 (minutes of the February 14, 2006 board meeting) was moved to the discussion/action portion of the meeting. Approved items are:

Employment recommendations;

Requests for leave without pay for:

- Susan Bellamy, teacher, two (2) days;
- Doris Blakely, extended resource assistant, twelve (12) days;
- Carole Coker, food service tech, seven and one-half (7½) days;
- Tonya Kingery, teacher, five (5) days;
- Kelli Lemken, teacher, four (4) days;
- Ryan Liberty, teacher, three (3) days;
- Kesha Roerick, teacher, one (1) day;
- Susan Simon-Prestel, teacher, eighteen (18) days;

Requests for professional leave for:

- Penny Andrew, three (3) days, International Baccalaureate School visit, Colorado Springs, Colorado;
- Vicki Dooley, Carrie Nolan, Barbara Oldenburg, three (3) days; Kimberly Atkinson, four (4) days, National Professional Development Schools Conference, Orlando, Florida;
- Phil Atkinson, Kelly Davies, Bonnie Drick, Mary Ann English, Heather Evans, Nancy Heath, Jenn Hocklander, Dana Knudsen, David Moser, Elisha Richardson, Jared Rotzien, Pam Rouda, Shay Ruhl, Michelle Sichak, Mary Vogt, Shelly Williams, one (1) day, 2006 Idaho Middle Level Association Conference, Pocatello, Idaho;
- Tanya Bethel, four (4) days, International Annual council of Exceptional Children Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah;
- LeAnn Carlsen, two (2) days, National association of Secondary Principal's Conference, Reno, Nevada;
- Cynthia Clark, three (3) days, Learning and the Brain, Cambridge, Massachusetts;
- Sheryce Davis, Patsy Shouse, three (3) days, National Art Education Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois;
- Don Howell, three (3) days, Annual DECA International Competition, Dallas, Texas;
- Barbara Leeds, three (3) days, National Association of Elementary School Principals Conference,
- Berlene Mace, Tina Perry, three (3) days, Waterford Institute Visit, Salt Lake City, Utah;
- Howard Peck, one (1) day, Doing Whatever It Takes Conference, Pocatello, Idaho;
- Teri Powell, Jacalyn Thomason, off contract, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Chicago, Illinois;
- Jason Robarge, three (3) days, California Association of Directors of Activities, Reno, Nevada;

Consent Agenda – cont.

- Kevin Roberts, three (3) days, Annual conference on Urban Education Students at Risk: Challenging Learners with Untapped Potential, Scottsdale, Arizona;
- Loid Sherwood, three (3) days, FIRST Robotics Northwest Regional, Portland, Oregon;
- Cirstin Zimmerman, off contract, National Association of School Psychologist's National Conference, Anaheim, California;

Non-resident enrollment requests for the 2005-2006 school year:

- Devon and Tess Hally – Lewis & Clark Middle School;
- Sterling Crawford – Meridian High School;
- Thomas Prather – Lewis & Clark Middle School;
- Brad Fisher – Mountain View High School;
- Cassie Kinney – Mountain View High School;

Agreement for educational services at pepper Ridge Elementary with Children's Therapy Place, February 21, 2006 through June 7, 2006;

Alternative Graduation Requests;

Placement of student intern Lisa Bray (University of Phoenix) at Discovery Elementary, March 6, 2006 through May 22, 2006;

Improvements/alterations to school property at:

- Discovery Elementary, installation of Jogging Fitness System, funded through the PTSO;
- Star Elementary, installation of ceramic mural project, labor donated by local contractor;

Rental fees waived for use of district facilities contingent upon receipt of required deposit, proof of insurance and hold harmless agreement:

- DeMeyer Homeowners Association annual meeting at Joplin Elementary;
- The Summer Fun Program (summer youth program) at Pepper Ridge Elementary;

Meridian Middle School Ski and Snowboard Club request for travel to Brundage Ski Resort, Saturday, March 4, 2006;

Invitation to participate in the School Health Policies and Programs Study, 2006;

ISU Center for Economic Education to administer the Test of Economic Literacy to high school classrooms participating in the NCEE/Goldman Sachs Economic Challenge (Meridian High School);

Construction Change Orders:

- Desert Sage Elementary, change order #2, to various contractors in the amount of \$20,414;
- Prospect Elementary, change order #2, to various contractors in the amount of \$8,960;

Easements:

- Idaho Power Company relocation of overhead power line at Victory Middle School site;

- Consent Agenda – cont.
- ACHD perpetual storm water drainage easement, sidewalk easement, and warranty deed for right-of-way, Heritage Middle School site;
- Bids awarded to lowest responsible bidder for:
- Pump state relocation at Hunter Elementary to W.T. Seufert Construction, in the amount of \$33,864;
  - Construction of Heritage Middle School to low bidders in the total amount of \$16,781,982;
- Settlers Irrigation District license agreement for irrigation diversion structure at Hunter Elementary School.

### **Discussion / Action**

February 14, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes Approval Delayed

Trustee Pifher moved, Trustee Olsen seconded and the vote was three to one to delay the vote on the approval of the February 14, 2006 board meeting minutes for review and clarification. Trustee Olsen voted yes, Trustee Chandler voted yes, Trustee Pifher voted yes and Trustee Ritter voted no.

### **Personnel**

Chief Joseph Elementary Principal Named

Trustee Ritter moved, Trustee Pifher seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve a recommendation by Dr. Mandy Saras, elementary director, to hire Todd Phillips as the new principal at Chief Joseph Elementary beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Clark advised trustees that final interviews for the Meridian High School principal will be conducted on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., and requested that one of the trustees be a part of the interview team. Chairman Vuittonet volunteered to serve.

Boundary Recommendations Approved

Eric Exline, public information officer, reviewed the timeline for establishing a patron committee to work on the boundary process to establish a student population at Prospect Elementary and Desert Sage Elementary, set to open fall 2006; and to relieve overcrowding at Lake Hazel Middle, Sawtooth Middle and propose new boundaries for Heritage Middle School. At the end of his presentation, Mr. Exline introduced Rosemary DeMond, Bob Gardner, and Betsy Buckley, committee spokesmen, who reviewed the process by which the committee gathered public input, reviewed population figures, and considered busing, neighborhood criteria and future growth in the development of the proposals. Trustees questioned the committee regarding magnet school students and how they are figured into building capacity; how the students who have been reassigned to another building due to a cap at their home school are being considered in the enrollment process, and if they had considered sending students currently enrolled at Andrus Elementary to Eagle Middle instead of Heritage Middle School in the fall of 2007. Trustees discussed the possibility of closing enrollment at some schools in the fall of 2006 if needed.

Boundary  
Recommendation – cont.

Chairman Vuittonet opened the floor to public comment at 8:10 p.m.

Bill Nary, patron, requested that trustees consider allowing students living south of Linder on Chateau be allowed to finish their middle school years at Sawtooth Middle School. Mr. Nary explained that these students had been moved to Sawtooth Middle when it opened and in the proposal, would now finish their middle school years at Meridian Middle. He stated his concern for the difficulties middle school students have adjusting and that the move back to Meridian Middle would have an adverse affect on them. Trustee Ritter questioned Mr. Nary regarding the number of students that would be affected by this decision and expressed her concern that granting his request could hamper the district's ability to remain fair and offer the same benefits to each school affected by the changes.

Mr. Exline detailed the process for requesting an in-district transfer request and reminded patrons that school enrollment would factor into approval of their requests. Dr. Clark explained that information regarding in-district transfers would be distributed via newsletters, newspapers, the district web site and through the President's Council.

Jennifer Reid, patron, questioned trustees regarding the transition of students moved from one school to another through this process, and how students would have an opportunity to participate in student body elections normally held in the spring of the year. Dr. Horning, assistant superintendent, stated that the elections would be postponed so students have a fair chance to participate. Ms. Reid thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

Chairman Vuittonet closed the floor for comments at 8:43 p.m.

Trustee Olsen moved, Trustee Chandler seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the recommendations of the boundary committee as proposed.

Chairman Vuittonet thanked the committee for their work on a grueling task.

Trustee Ritter thanked the committee for putting their personal interests behind and working for the greater good, and acknowledged the difficult position they were in.

Special Board Meeting Set

Trustee Chandler moved, Trustee Ritter seconded and the vote was unanimous to convene a special meeting to review legislative issues Friday, March 3, 2006, 7:00 a.m. at the district administration office.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Trustee Chandler moved, Trustee Olsen seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk