

SYNOPSIS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006, 6:30 P.M.,  
DISTRICT OFFICE

Action was taken to convene to Closed Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(b) for the discussion of personnel.

**I. Closed Executive Session**

The Board of Trustees discussed a personnel matter.

Thereafter, action was taken to return to Regular Open Session.

**II. Return To Open Session**

Action was taken to remove a certificated employee from probation.

**III. Call To Order And Welcome**

Vice Chairman Kim Nilsen called the Regular September meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 to order at 6:46 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Present were Board Members Howard Royal, Julie Dahlgren and Mari Beth Matthews. Chairman Alexandra Sundali was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools, Jim Lewis; Assistant Superintendent, Mary Gervase; School District Treasurer, Mike Chatterton; and Board Clerk, Cathy Zaccardi.

Vice Chairman Nilsen stated that a quorum was present.

**IV. Pledge Of Allegiance**

**V. Accolades**

**a. Krista Jones, Bellevue Elementary School Technology Teacher**

Dr. Lewis stated that he received a letter from Kevin Collins, Science Coordinator for the State Department of Education, informing him that Krista Jones, Bellevue Elementary School Technology teacher, has been selected as a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics teaching. Krista was chosen from a

group of quality applicants throughout the state. Mr. Collins stated that Krista's application clearly identified her as an outstanding educator.

Dr. Lewis then stated that the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics teaching is the highest award our nation bestows on a teacher of Math or Science. Selection as a finalist speaks volumes about the level of professional expertise and commitment Krista brings to her classroom. The applications for Idaho's three finalists have been forwarded to Washington, D.C., where the final selection will take place. The White House will announce the national awardees after the first of the year.

Dr. Lewis congratulated Krista and stated that this honor reflects well on the School District and the quality education it offers to its students.

**b. Jane Nixon, Hailey Elementary School Secretary; Sharon Boyle, Bellevue Elementary School Secretary; And Andrea Jost, Woodside Elementary School Secretary**

Dr. Lewis stated that he received a very complimentary e-mail from Tom Bailey, Hailey Elementary School Principal, who asked that Jane Nixon, Sharon Boyle, and Andrea Jost be acknowledged for the great work they performed. These dedicated employees have worked above and beyond the call of duty to get their schools ready for the first day of students and staff. Normally, the opening of school is a very hectic time for everyone, but with the opening of Woodside Elementary School and the addition of the Skyward, the new student management system, this has been a very demanding time for them.

Dr. Lewis then stated that Tom further stated that adding to the complications were that Sharon did not have access to her new school files until the first of August, and Andrea didn't even have a workspace or a computer until the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, one can see the extreme conditions they had to work under. They needed to determine who was attending which school, enter all the student information into the new system, determine class lists, enter new staff information into a new system, help gather bus information, and answer a thousand questions from teachers, parents, and principals.

Dr. Lewis then stated that these ladies banded together in a true collaborative nature and worked after hours, weekends, and at home. If they had their work done, they drove to another school to help each other. They are truly a team, dedicated to doing a professional job for this School District.

Dr. Lewis then stated that Tom concluded his e-mail by stating that teachers and staff put in lots of extra hours in this District every week so that kids will get the best in education, but watching these three professionals was truly an inspiration.

Dr. Lewis commended Jane, Sharon, and Andrea for a job very well done.

**c. Joni Cashman, Woodside Elementary School Art Teacher And Marsha Azorsky, Wood River Middle School Sixth Grade Social Studies/Language Arts Teacher**

Dr. Lewis stated that Mary Gervase received an e-mail from Dale Thornsberry, Associate Superintendent for the Twin Falls School District, thanking Joni Cashman and Marsha Azorsky for the fine work they did with their group during their recently concluded Interest Based Bargaining. Dale stated their talents and skills helped them complete negotiations in a reasonable amount of time. The process was very efficient and effective, and the Twin Falls School District sincerely appreciated all of their efforts.

Mr. Thornsberry further stated that the Twin Falls Education Association approved the bargaining agreement with a 98% approval vote, and Mr. Thornsberry attributes part of their success to Joni and Marsha.

Dr. Lewis congratulated Joni and Marsha and thanked them for a job very well done.

**d. Blaine County School District Board Of Trustees**

Dr. Lewis stated that it is with pleasure that he present an accolade for Alex, Kim, Howie, Julie, and Mari Beth. The Idaho School Boards Association recognizes that School Board Trustees are volunteers who give enormous amounts of time in dedicated service to the students in their school districts. When Trustees choose to increase the amount of time they volunteer to seek professional development, the ISBA believes they should be recognized for that effort.

Dr. Lewis then stated that Ms. Renee Sessler, the Associate Executive Director of ISBA, provided a customized training module on School Board Governance and Effective Meetings which assisted the Board in understanding their roles and responsibilities. Ms. Sessler stated that it was a pleasure to work with our Board and realized what a great job they are doing in our School District.

Dr. Lewis concluded by stating that certificates of completion have been placed on the Board Room wall to celebrate the Board Members' accomplishments, and he commended each Board Member for participating in this professional development opportunity.

**e. Kate Heinecke, District Office Administrative Assistant/Public Relations Coordinator**

Dr. Mary Gervase stated that she received a copy of a very complimentary letter from Heather Crocker, Blaine County Education Foundation Executive Director, thanking Kate Heinecke for doing such a fabulous job with the "Face of the Education

Foundation” brochure. Heather stated that Kate’s design, input, and ideas made the brochure highly effective. She also appreciated Kate’s willingness to take on the task right before school started, and made the deadline and workload look easy, but she knew it was not.

Heather further stated that the brochure was well received by a number of teachers and staff, and she hopes to see increased participation in the payroll deduction program as a result. She is looking forward to sharing the brochure with the rest of the Foundation Board, and she is sure they will be inspired and impressed.

Heather concluded her letter by stating that Kate’s design skills, professionalism, and can-do attitude do not go unnoticed, and she is a joy to work with.

Dr. Gervase then showed many of Kate’s brochures that she developed to the Board. Some examples were the Milepost brochure, the Face of the Education Foundation brochure, the Grow Your Own brochure, and the Woodside Elementary School Grand Opening invitation. She congratulated Kate for a job well done.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Consideration Of Minutes**

Regular Meeting Of August 8, 2006  
Special Meeting/Board Retreat Of August 15, 2006  
Special Meeting Of August 16, 2006

### **b. Acceptance Of Monthly Financial Report – Payment Of Bills**

### **c. Approval Of Application For Study/Travel By Student Group – Hollis Pincock, Carey School Music Teacher**

### **d. Approval Of Request For Professional Leave**

James Foster, Wood River High School Social Studies Teacher

### **e. Approval Of Personnel Requests**

#### **Exiting Staff (Classified):**

Robert Floyd, Bus Driver  
Nicki Abraham, Bellevue Elementary School ESL Paraprofessional  
Susan Dreyfus (Bates), Bus Driver

**Recommending For Hire (Classified):**

Robert Lewis, Wood River High School/Community Campus After School Technology Assistant  
Kate Nelson, Wood River High School/Community Campus After School Technology Assistant  
Lisbeth Gonzalez, Roaming Custodian  
Carole Lamarche, Wood River High School ESL Paraprofessional  
Katherine Weihe, Hemingway Elementary School Paraprofessional  
Todd Thorn, Hemingway Elementary School Paraprofessional  
Diane Arters, Student Services Paraprofessional  
James West, Bus Driver  
Chandra Barney, Bellevue KidShop Childcare Assistant  
Deiysi Santacruz, Bellevue Elementary School ESL Paraprofessional  
Kimberly Young, Hailey Elementary School Paraprofessional

**Exiting Staff (Certified):**

Dennis Murphy, Wood River High School Technology Teacher

**Recommending For Hire (Certified):**

Sara Gilman, 1.0 FTE Woodside Elementary School Student Services Teacher  
Judith Mark, 1.0 FTE Hailey Elementary School Second Grade Teacher

Action was taken to approve Items “a” through “e” of the Consent Agenda.

**VII. Public Comments**

None.

**VII. Curriculum Report – Information/Action – Mary Gervase**

**a. Curriculum Highlights**

Dr. Gervase’s Curriculum Report consisted of a report on the Assessment Blueprint, the AYP Press Release, AYP letters to parents of Hailey Elementary School and Wood River High School students, the AYP website, the Open House schedule, the District Committee calendar, committee description, proposed graduation requirements, new teachers’ meetings, Linda Biehl presenting at Wood River High School, IRI, and the Silver Creek Alternative School monthly update.

**VIII. Action Agenda**

**a. Approval Of Budget Stabilization Levy - Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer**

Action was taken to approve the Budget Stabilization Levy as presented.

**IX. Information Agenda**

**a. Opening Enrollment Report – Cathy Zaccardi, Board Clerk**

Ms. Cathy Zaccardi, Board Clerk stated that the enrollment figures stabilized by the fourth day of school, and the Day Four tallies came in as follows:

Bellevue Elementary School:	297
Carey School:	244
Developmental Preschool:	26
Hailey Elementary School:	388
Hemingway Elementary School:	388
Woodside Elementary School:	339
Silver Creek Alternative School:	29
Wood River High School:	850
Wood River Middle School:	704
<b>Districtwide Total:</b>	<b>3,265</b>

Ms. Zaccardi then stated that the District enrollment is down one (1) student from last year.

**b. Discussion Of Class Sizes At Woodside Elementary School – Lita Sullivan And/Or Designee**

Ms. Tiffany Lago, Ms. Lita Sullivan, Ms. Bege Reynolds, and Ms. Liv Jensen all addressed the Board with their concerns pertaining to the Kindergarten class sizes at Woodside Elementary School. They asked the Board to consider moving one Kindergarten teacher back to Woodside Elementary School for the morning Kindergarten session and to hire a part time teacher or long term substitute to be hired for the Hailey Elementary School morning Kindergarten session. Their concerns were in regard to class size, one teacher being split between two elementary schools, ethnic populations in the class, and special education needs.

Vice Chairman Kim Nilsen thanked Ms. Lago, Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Reynolds, and Ms. Jensen for the comments and stated that the Board will take the matter into consideration.

**c. Blaine County Education Foundation Monthly Update – Heather Crocker, Executive Director**

Ms. Heather Crocker, Executive Director of the Blaine County Education Foundation, thanked the Board for the opportunity to increase communication between the School District and the Education Foundation. The Foundation held a Retreat in June, and goals were developed as follows:

- To increase donations and visibility;
- To hold a donor event on 26 Oct 2006 at Woodside Elementary School to thank past donors and get new donors;
- To have a direct mail solicitation before Thanksgiving.

Ms. Crocker then stated that the Foundation may use funds from the Hooty and the Blowfish concert to create a down payment plan for work force housing, and that a committee will be created to have dialog with the PTA groups and others.

Ms. Crocker concluded by stating that she presented an idea for creating an internal fundraising calendar for the District.

**d. ISBA Conference Planning – Cathy Zaccardi, Board Clerk**

Ms. Zaccardi stated that the ISBA Annual Conference is scheduled for 08-11 Nov 2006 at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise. A tentative agenda from ISBA has not yet been sent out, but it is time to begin thinking about who will be attending so that reservations can be made.

**e. Assistant Superintendent’s Goals**

Dr. Gervase stated her goals as follows:

- With the building administrators, monitor student standardized test performance results. Meet regularly with principals to monitor the effectiveness of interventions, overall student growth, and subgroup performance on AYP. Monitor school improvement plan development and implementation as per the state requirements.
- Facilitate committees as appropriate and as needed. CORE, New Teachers, Mentors, Mileposts, content areas, Early Childhood, Computer Skills, etc.
- The two pilot preschool programs will be monitored during the 2006-2007 school year by myself and the Early Childhood Committee.
- Meaningful professional development will be presented to the staff and administrators for the 2006-2007 school year.

There being no further business to discuss in Regular Open Session, action was taken to convene to Closed Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(b) for the continued discussion of personnel.

**X. Return To Closed Executive Session**

The Board of Trustees continued their discussion of personnel items.

Thereafter, action was taken to reconvene to Regular Open Session.

**XII. Return To Regular Open Session**

No action was taken as a result of the continued discussion held in Closed Executive Session.

There being no further business to discuss, action was taken to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular September meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 9:00 o'clock p.m.