

SYNOPSIS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007, 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 several personnel matters.

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

II. Return To Open Session

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

III. Call To Order And Welcome

IV. Pledge Of Allegiance

V. Accolades

a. Mary Gin Barron And Alicia Hollis, Woodside Elementary School Fifth Grade Teachers

Dr. Lewis stated that he received a complimentary e-mail from Sheri Thomas, Woodside PTA President, who wanted Mary Gin Barron and Alicia Hollis to be recognized for their hard work and dedication. She stated that Mary Gin Barron was instrumental in incorporating the Wolf Paws program at Woodside Elementary School. They've had a great response from the kids, who exhibited much enthusiasm and positive attitudes. The behavior problems have been reduced, and the excitement for achievement of Wolf Paws is in all grades throughout the school.

Dr. Lewis then stated that Sheri felt Ms. Hollis deserves recognition for her efforts with the winter program. She not only showed her excellent organizational skills but also the great utilization of parental resources. Sheri feels that Ms. Hollis is excellent in her classroom because she does not see the parents as the "enemy" but rather works with them to achieve the best results for each student as an individual.

Dr. Lewis congratulated Mary Gin Barron and Alicia Hollis for their efforts on behalf of their students.

b. Tom Goicoechea, Julie Nelson, Brian Sturges, Holly Bailey, And Jill Clark, Wood River Middle School Teachers

Dr. Lewis stated that Brent Carnduff sent an e-mail to Fritz Peters and Pete Jurovich concerning the great Talent Show the middle school presented. He stated that he was most impressed by it, not only the talent on display, but the support that the students received from the other students and teachers. Tom Goicoechea, Julie Nelson, and Brian Sturges played the roles of “Simon”, “Paula”, and “Randy”, respectively, from the television show, “American Idol”, and they were great hosts. In addition, Holly Bailey worked very diligently to make this event happen and getting the students ready for it. Jill Clark built the set and was the main organizer of this event.

Dr. Lewis congratulated this team for their creativity in making the Talent Show a complete success!

c. Max Stimac, Wood River High School Choir Teacher

Dr. Lewis stated that he received a very complimentary letter from Ms. Trinita Brunoehler, the parent of a tenth grade Wood River High School student. She wanted the Board to know what an outstanding teacher we have in Max Stimac. She stated that Max is one of the finest teachers she has had the privilege to know in this valley.

Ms. Brunoehler further stated that the Wood River High School Music Department is an integral part of the whole school. Mr. Stimac brings that department to a different level by demonstrating his love of the teaching profession, possesses such a passion for music and all of his students, and is willing to travel with his students to various competitions. He brings other musicians into the school to show students a variety of levels of music, and his students perform at many of the school assemblies. Ms. Brunoehler concluded that Mr. Stimac works above and beyond the norm. He is a passionate man about his love for music and his students.

Dr. Lewis congratulated Max for a job very well done.

d. Deb Straiton, Wood River Middle School Language Arts Teacher

Dr. Lewis stated that Fritz Peters forwarded him a copy of an e-mail he received from Ms. Kitty Durtschi, a parent of a former Wood River Middle School student, who had the privilege of having Ms. Straiton as his teacher while at the middle school. He entered another story into the Idaho Magazine Short Fiction Contest and was awarded third place this year.

Ms. Durtschi thanked Ms. Straiton for all of her efforts on behalf of her son and concluded by stating that they miss the middle school. It was a special place and time for her son, and they will always appreciate the time he spent there.

Dr. Lewis congratulated Ms. Straiton for a job well done.

e. Lynda Pyrah, Carey School Principal Secretary

Dr. Lewis stated that he received a very complimentary letter from Lee Pace, from Carey School, who wanted Lynda Pyrah to be commended for the phenomenal achievement she accomplished over the past several weeks in putting together the Adamson/Hennifer fundraiser that was held on Saturday, 10 March 2007. Lee stated that there were hundreds of people in attendance. They were all fed, entertained, and their children were entertained as well. The fundraiser consisted of dinner, raffles, a silent auction, a live auction, and a children's carnival. Both faculty and students were involved with the event. Every task, ticket takers, cooks, servers, auctioneers, spotters, 'carnies', and supervision had a person assigned to perform the task, including schedules for relief personnel. The entire event was orchestrated flawlessly.

Dr. Lewis then stated that Lee further stated that John Peck was continually amazed by the tremendous amount of work and organization required to make such a huge undertaking a success. Over \$30,000.00 was raised to support the Adamson and Hennifer families, and none of it would have happened without Lynda. John stated that Lynda saw the need, addressed the need to the student council, and the rest is history.

Lee concluded his letter by stating that additionally, the role Lynda plays at Carey School cannot be overstated. He quoted John Peck by stating, "I doubt that there is a single graduate of Carey School that would not stop to say hi to Lynda if they saw her on the street. Every one of them know her and what's more, they know that she cared about them."

Dr. Lewis congratulated Lynda and stated that her efforts have not gone unnoticed.

VI. Consent Agenda

a. Consideration Of Minutes

Regular Meeting Of March 13, 2007

b. Acceptance Of Monthly Financial Report – Payment Of Bills

c. Approval Of Request For Child Rearing Leave For 2007-2008 School Year

Amy Stroebel-Haft, Wood River High School English Teacher

d. Announcements Of Retirement

Midge Patzer, Wood River High School P.E. Teacher
Anne Dressell, Hailey Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher
Laurie Retallic, Districtwide Speech Language Pathologist
Graham Hume, Wood River High School Principal

e. Approval Of Request For Up To Twelve Week Family Leave

Lisa Hoskins, Wood River High School Business Education Teacher

f. Approval Of Student Teaching Contracts

Sarah Parker Under The Direction Of Char Roth At Hemingway Elementary School

Rachel Pyron Under The Direction Of Barbara Tingey And Jeff Mecham At Carey School

Erin Leady Under The Direction Of Paula Doub At Hailey Elementary School

Gina Poole Under The Direction Of Nancy Resko At Hailey Elementary School

g. Approval Of Personnel – Exiting And Entering

Classified Staff – Exiting:

Brian Smith, Wood River High School Custodian
Tony Bear – Wood River High School Custodian

Classified Staff – Recommending For Hire:

Tony Bear – Wood River High School Custodian
Judy Kay White – Wood River High School Medical Technologies Academy Instructor
Reggie Barton – Carey School Weight Room Assistant
Kerry Trombetta – Wood River High School Custodian

Certified Staff – Exiting:

Jason Browning, Bellevue Elementary School Kindergarten Dual Immersion Bilingual Teacher

Mary Patzer – Wood River High School Physical Education Teacher

Robert McLaughlin – Wood River High School Social Studies Teacher

Anne Dressell – Hailey Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher

Lenora Retallic – Districtwide Speech Language Pathologist

Recommending For Hire:

Stephany Smith – Bellevue/Woodside Elementary Schools Speech Language Pathologist

Administrative Staff – Exiting:

Graham Hume – Wood River High School Principal

Mary Gervase – Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director

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

VII. Guest Presentations

a. Senior Project Presentation – Micah Floyd, Wood River High School

Micah Floyd, a Wood River High School Senior and student in the Architectural and Mechanical Design Academy, stated that his Senior Project was to design a building on Lot 4, Block 34, City of Hailey, which the District owns and is located across from the courthouse. He stated that Dr. Lewis was a great inspiration for him which kept him motivated throughout his project. Micah stated that he tried to tie in the school buildings into his design. He incorporated pieces of existing buildings such as pyramid skylights, which he inverted and put above the conference room table and staircase. The brick columns are the only portions that are masonry, so the building can be constructed by the students in the Residential Construction Academy. The design includes partition walls to make maximum use of the space.

Micah reviewed the first and second floor plans with the Board, including the conference room, offices, the staircase, and the elevator. The building is positioned facing west so that the building won't overheat by the sun shining in.

The Board thanked Micah for a very well presented design and report.

b. Wood River High School Student Leadership Report

Wood River High School student leaders, Ross Parsons, Adriana Maniere, and Leah McIlhenny, highlighted Wood River High School's programs and events with the Board.

Their report included information on the Freshman Day and Pack Leaders, Homecoming 2007, Powder Puff football, the pep assembly, the carnival, the Homecoming game, fall sports, Academies, clubs, the Music Department, winter sports, the Battle of the Bands, which raised \$400.00 which was donated to the Senior Citizen Center, upcoming events, special accomplishments, and a review of a very successful year.

Chairman Sundali thanked the students for a great presentation.

VIII. Public Comments

Ms. Tracy Atwell, Hemingway Elementary School third grade teacher, stated that she has been working at Hemingway Elementary School for nineteen years. She is also on the Language Arts Committee, and their job was to rework the curriculum. Ms. Atwell stated that this curriculum is a work in progress. As it is written, she does not endorse it, as others don't endorse it, and it needs to be re-done. The curriculum was adopted five years ago. When the District was introduced to the Professional Learning Community concept, they learned to ask themselves difficult questions concerning student learning.

Ms. Atwell then stated that she realized there was too much in the curriculum, it isn't developmentally appropriate, and it contains errors that have to be corrected. She added that the process of writing curriculum needs to change. All of the teachers and administrators need to have input into the document. As it is, she does not endorse it, and it needs to be redone next year.

Chairman Sundali thanked Ms. Atwell for her comments.

Ms. Brenda Southwick, BCEA Co-President, stated that she met with the building representatives to review the proposed three-year calendar, and the majority of the schools felt well represented in the Calendar Committee. Some schools felt they were not well represented as well as feeling that the process didn't have enough time to work.

Ms. Southwick concluded that overall, the majority felt well represented.

Chairman Sundali thanked Ms. Southwick for her comments.

IX. Curriculum Report – Information/Action – Mary Gervase

a. Approval Of Three-Year Calendar

Dr. Gervase stated that the Calendar Committee's task was to bring their recommendations for the new three-year calendar to the Board of Trustees for adoption. The committee met three times, and their goals were to recommend calendars to support student learning and to represent our constituents. They operated on a rating system versus a voting system. One concern was that parents have a need for evening conferences. The committee members were pleased with the last three-year calendars, so there were no significant deviations, only a few healthy tweaks. The recommendations by the committee are:

- ✓ Maintain the present calendar configurations, beginning school prior to Labor Day and ending late May or early June, with October inservice days as they presently are, a two-week winter break, and the holidays.
- ✓ The committee approached the Community School to align their spring break with ours.
- ✓ Move spring break back one week.
- ✓ Move the February inservice day to the third Monday in May.
- ✓ Parent Conference Schedules as follows:

Elementary: the same as in the past.

Middle School: two evenings instead of during the day and evening, with the following Friday no students or staff.

Wood River High School: the same as in the past but with longer evening hours.

Carey: the same as in the past.

Dr. Gervase stated she felt that the committee is providing sound recommendations to the Board.

Dr. Lewis stated that he highly recommended that the Board approve the three-year calendar.

Action was taken to adopt the three-year calendar for the school years 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 as presented.

b. Approval Of Preschool Programs Districtwide

Board Member Julie Dahlgren stated that this is a culmination of three years of research by the Early Childhood Committee. She gave a report on the state of voluntary preschool in Idaho public schools and what the current research shows. She indicated that not all studies are positive; however, the preponderance is positive, particularly for success in future schooling. Across the nation, school districts are working on many fronts to ensure that no child is left behind and that all children reach academic proficiency. Many educators are discovering that reform efforts in K-12 education systems are sometimes

too little and too late. By the time some children reach Kindergarten, they are already far behind their peers in skills and measures of school readiness. These educational gaps tend to be much more difficult and costly to close as children advance through elementary, middle, and high school. This realization has led many states to try to get it right from the start by expanding their financial investments in pre-Kindergarten services, with a goal to better prepare young children for school success.

Ms. Dahlgren then stated that with public schools facing heightened accountability requirements, preschool has emerged as an important strategy to promote school readiness and close achievement gaps in elementary school and beyond. The benefits can be funneled down to the following seven things:

- ✓ Children get a foundation for literacy and numeracy;
- ✓ Fewer children are held back in school or drop out;
- ✓ Less money is diverted to costly remedial or Special Education services;
- ✓ Higher achievement on later assessments of Reading and Math;
- ✓ More likely to go on to college;
- ✓ Higher employment rates and family income; and
- ✓ Lower incidence of criminal activity.

Ms. Andrea Minnick, Bellevue Preschool teacher, then gave a report on her program. Her presentation included information on classroom design, curriculum, program components, successes, Blocks, the Sensory Table, Art, games, puzzles, and table toys, dramatic play, discovery, the library and listening center, the writing center, problem solving skills, and motor skills.

Ms. Desna Smith, Carey School Preschool teacher, gave a report on her program. Her report included journals, whole group, small group, snack, free choice centers, outside time, and gross motor time.

Dr. Gervase stated that hands down, parents support the Preschool programs at Bellevue and Carey. The recommendations to the Board are:

- ✓ Continue offering the Carey and Bellevue Preschool programs to four-year olds;
- ✓ Expand Preschool to be offered at all elementary sites beginning with the 2007-08 school year, (adding Preschools at Woodside, Hailey, and Hemingway Elementary Schools);
- ✓ Collaborate with the YMCA on a child care, Preschool, and before and after school program at Hemingway Elementary school;
- ✓ Offer a five-day week Preschool program (with the additional option of a three-day week);

- ✓ Partner with the existing Developmental Preschool at Woodside to enable qualifying students to attend their neighborhood Preschool and receive Special Education services whenever possible;
- ✓ Partner with Head Start so that their students who are presently being served through their two-day a week program can also attend an additional two-days at a Blaine County School District Preschool;
- ✓ Allocate funding for 1.5 certified FTE up to 3.0 certified FTE if the numbers allow. This would enable adding three one-half time Preschool programs and up to six half-time programs, an A.M. and a P.M. program for three of the four elementary schools if enrollment allows;
- ✓ Allocate funding for 1.5 classified FTE up to 3.0 classified FTE if enrollment allows;
- ✓ Carey will continue to offer one session each half-day Preschool and half-day Kindergarten;
- ✓ The YMCA Preschool programs do not hire certified teachers but rather Licensed Early Childcare providers. We are proposing providing a certified teacher, and the cost difference between a Licensed versus a Certified provider will be made up by the District;
- ✓ Offer Preschool on a fee basis including a sliding fee scale for those families who qualify, commensurate with the YMCA program, if approved;
- ✓ Continue the present transportation options where Preschool students can be transported to and from Preschool along with the Kindergarten students;
- ✓ Consider allowing employees to send their children to Preschool free of charge; and
- ✓ Allow us to work out the details of the costs and sliding fee scale to present at the May Board meeting.

Dr. Gervase concluded by stating that expanded high quality Preschool options for our community continues the Blaine County School Boards' relentless pursuit of cutting edge education for all our youth. It is one more step in our climb toward excellence, Pre-K through 12th grade. Our motto, up to this point, has been to, "Invest early in children... and don't stop!" A commentary by Nobel laureate in economics, James J. Heckman, in Education Week, March 21, 2007, reinforces the Boards' vision of the need to not only invest early on in our youth through quality Preschool programs, but to continue to invest throughout the high school years. The author found that while experience in a comprehensive Preschool education does increase the rate of at risk youth successfully pursuing a college degree, that rate is greatly increased when Preschool is followed up with focused interventions throughout the K-12 years to ensure at risk youth continue to build school performance and work place skills such as reliability, persistence, and self-discipline.

Mr. Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, stated the we will not try to compete with the private providers. We will just be offering another choice.

Action was then taken to approve the recommendations as presented with follow-up reports to the Board.

X. Action Agenda

a. Permission To Award Bid For Hailey Elementary School Site Work – Howard Royal, Director Of Buildings And Grounds

Mr. Howard Royal, Director of Buildings and Grounds, stated that the bid opening for the Hailey Elementary School site work was held on 04 April 2007, at 2:00 o'clock p.m. at the offices of Galena Engineering in Hailey. Three bids were submitted as follows:

Burks Excavation	\$460,760.20
Idaho Sand & Gravel	\$649,563.00
KD Excavation	\$528,757.31

Mr. John Gaeddert, Land Planner and Engineer, stated that the cost of the stairway installation, the electrical package, the irrigation, and the landscaping all need to be added to the cost of the base bid.

Vice Chairman Kim Nilsen stated that we will need to heavily rely on Mr. Royal and Brian Yeager, from Galena Engineering to remain vigilant to make sure things go as per the plans. The difference in the cost of traffic control is a concern, and we cannot afford not to have topnotch, fist rate traffic control along Elm Street and 3rd Street because a lot of work will be happening in that area.

Action was then taken to award the bid for the Hailey Elementary School site work to Burks Excavation in the amount of \$460,760.20 with the understanding that the project must be done on time and within budget.

b. Permission To Advertise Call For Bids For The Purchase Of School Busses – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

Mr. Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, stated that Rex Squires, Transportation Director, is requesting permission to advertise for the purchase of three new conventional seventy-two passenger school busses with seating for sixty-five.

Thereafter, action was taken granting permission to advertise for the purchase of three new school busses.

c. Authorization From Board To Clerk To Issue Certificate Of Election If Only One Candidate Running In Zones 1 And 3 – Cathy Zaccardi, Board Clerk

Ms. Cathy Zaccardi, Board Clerk, stated that pursuant to Idaho Code §33-502B, entitled, “Board of Trustees – One Nomination – No Election”, in any election for Trustees, if, after the expiration of the date for filing written nominations for the office of Trustee, it appears that only one (1) qualified candidate has been nominated for a position to be filled or if only one (1) candidate has filed a write-in declaration of intent as provided by Idaho Code §502A, **no election shall be held for that position.**”

Action was then taken to authorize the Clerk to issue a Certificate of Election if only one candidate is running in Zones 1 and 3.

XI. Information Agenda

a. Blaine County Education Foundation Update – Heather Crocker, Executive Director

Ms. Crocker could not attend the meeting; therefore, her report was not heard.

The Board then decided that Ms. Crocker need not present a monthly report. A quarterly report will be sufficient.

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

XII. Return To Closed Executive Session

The Board of Trustees continued their discussion of personnel.

After the conclusion of their discussion, action was taken to return to Regular Open Session.

XIII. Return To Open Session

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

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

The Regular April meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 10:15 p.m.