

SYNOPSIS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008, 6:30 P.M.,  
DISTRICT OFFICE

Action was taken to convene to Closed Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(b) to conduct a formal Expulsion Hearing for a Blaine County School District student and for the discussion of personnel.

**I. Closed Executive Session**

The Board of Trustees conducted a formal Expulsion Hearing for a Blaine County School District student.

The student nor his parent/legal guardian were in attendance.

After hearing testimony from the school administrator, the Board excused the administrator so they could deliberate.

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

**II. Return To Open Session**

Action was taken to expel Student No. 2007-08:2 for one calendar year.

Thereafter, action was taken to return to Closed Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(b) for the discussion of personnel.

**III. Return To Closed Executive Session**

The Board of Trustees discussed personnel issues.

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

**IV. Return To Regular Open Session**

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

## **V. Call To Order And Welcome**

Chairman Alexandra Sundali called the Regular March meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Present were Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren and Board Members Kim Nilsen, Mari Beth Matthews, and Dan Parke. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools, Jim Lewis; Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Lonnie Barber; School District Treasurer, Mike Chatterton; and Board Clerk, Cathy Zaccardi.

Chairman Sundali stated that a quorum was present.

## **VI. Pledge Of Allegiance**

## **VII. Accolades**

### **a. Debi Gutknecht, Hailey Elementary School Special Education Teacher, And Nita Trenkle, District Office Administrative Assistant/Special Education Paraprofessional**

Dr. Lewis stated that Blake Walsh requested that Debi Gutknecht and Nita Trenkle receive an accolade for their thoroughness as well as their support for Special Education record keeping in the District. Recently, the State Department of Education increased its Child Count Verification process from reviewing 1% of our files to reviewing 5% of our files. This meant that thirty-five files will be reviewed instead of five.

Dr. Lewis then stated that during the weeks of February 11-25, 2008, Debi, Nita, and Blake reviewed these files with a fine tooth comb. It was a very demanding task, involving many calls to Excent, calls to teachers requesting further documentation, visits to schools, and intense discussion. After sending the files to the State Department of Education, Blake received the following e-mail:

*“We have received your Child Count Verification submission. Thank you for submitting the data in a timely manner. We have looked over the records and verified that you have sent all of the required components. Again, thank you for your timely and accurate submission.*

*Blake, the records you sent were EXCELLENT!! They were in order, documents easy to locate, and notes where there might have been questions. Thanks to you and your staff for making our job easier.”*

*- Maxine Klossner*

Dr. Lewis stated that this is another great example of our dedicated staff doing top notch work. It isn't often that we receive positive feedback from the State Department, and this communication reinforces what an excellent job our staff is doing.

Dr. Lewis thanked Debi and Nita for their efforts and congratulated them on a job very well done!

**b. John Blackman, Wood River High School Principal**

Dr. Lewis stated that he received a very complimentary e-mail from George Arrossa, retired Athletic Director at Kimberly High School and currently one of the Tech Prep Coordinators for the College of Southern Idaho. Mr. Arrossa visited Wood River High School and stated how impressed he was with the school, the staff, and especially Mr. John Blackman. Mr. Arrossa wrote that John was professional, friendly, supportive, and helpful. The thing that impressed him the most was how proud John is of his staff, students, and all of the programs in place for students at Wood River High School.

Dr. Lewis then stated that Mr. Arrossa concluded his e-mail by stating that we have some progressive, outstanding programs for our students, and he sees John Blackman as an outstanding leader.

Dr. Lewis congratulated John Blackman for all of the great things he has done and is doing as Principal of Wood River High School.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

**a. Consideration Of Minutes**

Regular Meeting Of February 5, 2008  
Special Meeting Of February 27, 2008

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

**c. Announcements Of Retirement**

Elaine Redman, Hemingway Elementary School Reading Specialist  
Lynda Pyrah, Carey School Principal Secretary

**d. Approval Of Request For Sabbatical Leave For The 2008-2009 School Year**

Valerie Thor, Wood River Middle School Eighth Grade Science Teacher

**e. Approval Of Requests For Up to Twelve-Week Family Leave**

Laura Crist, Hemingway Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher  
Stephanie Spindler, Wood River High School English Teacher

**f. Approval Of Student Teaching Contract**

Alisha Kirk (Crane) Under The Direction Of Becca Pierce At Hailey Elementary School

**g. Approval Of Personnel – Exiting And Entering**

**Classified Staff – Exiting**

Lynda Pyrah, Carey School Principal Secretary  
Chris Hylton, Hemingway Elementary School Custodian

**Classified Staff – Recommending For Hire**

Katrina Kolman, Wood River High School Attendance Secretary  
Brian Clore, DSB Buildings & Grounds Maintenance Custodian

**Certified Staff – Exiting**

Elaine Redman, Hemingway Elementary School Reading Teacher  
Chelle Mangum, Wood River Middle School Music Teacher  
Brent Carnduff, Hemingway Elementary School P.E. Teacher  
Amy Stroebel-Haft, Wood River High School English Teacher

**Certified Staff – Recommending For Hire**

None

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

**IX. Public Comments**

None.

**X. Guest Presentations – Information/Action**

**a. Carey School Student Leadership Report**

Carey School Student Body President, D.J. Simpson, Vice President, Ashley Harshbarger, and Treasurer, Josh Neilson, presented to the School Board Trustees the highlights of their school. Their report included a video clip presentation on another great year in football with a record 11 and 2; a video clip of the activities of the State Championship game where they came in second; Science and Technology classes; Homecoming; Trent Tyler and Jessica Parke being selected to participate in the State Music Conference; the Student Council Holiday Baskets and delivering twenty-three (23) baskets; the Holiday Music Concert; the Feature Teacher program honoring Ms. Catherine Lowden, Ms. Barb Tingey, and Ms. Susan Coon; D.J. Parke's art published in Calendar; the Construction Academy house #3 (finished), and #4 house to resume work when the snow clears; 100% of Seniors passing the ISAT; the graduation chart; the next high school play; "Tea and Arsenic", on 02 and 03 May 2008; Brooke Bingham singing the National Anthem at the Boys' and Girls' State Basketball tournament; elementary parent nights; the Winter Formal; the Elementary Dress Dinner; Panther Buddies; the State Basketball tournament for boys and girls; Tyler Parke being selected as Athlete of the Week by KMVT, and activities.

The Board thanked the students for a very informative and upbeat report.

**b. Application For Study/Travel By Student Group – Julia Grafft, Wood River High School History Teacher**

Action was taken to approve the Application For Study/Travel By Student Group submitted by Julia Grafft, Wood River High School History Teacher, less the sum of \$233.88 for the rental of tents. Ms. Grafft will be taking her AP History students to Jerome and surrounding areas to visit historic sites.

**c. Wood River High School Architectural/Mechanical Design Academy Presentation Of Home Design For Woodyard Place Subdivision – Kevin Lupton, Wood River High School Architectural/Mechanical Design Academy Teacher, And Students**

Wood River High School Architectural/Mechanical Design Academy students Roger Moran, Trent Seamons, and Max Monahan presented the finished design for the Woodyard Place Lot 1 to construct a 1,249 sq. ft. home to the Board. The changes to the original design included moving a wall two feet which increased the square footage of the bedrooms, designed a large laundry/mechanical room instead of a basement, removed an angle from bedroom #3, added an additional closet, designed passive solar additions on the south wall, and replaced the wood burning stove with a gas stove.

Mr. Lupton then discussed the integrated insulation forms with the Board, reviewed the roof system, and stated that they are ready to submit for a permit pending the Boards' approval of the design.

Action was then taken to approve the plans with a 3-12 pitch to a 4-12 pitch on a portion of the roof.

**d. Application For Study/Travel By Student Group – Edith Iler, Wood River High School French Teacher**

Action was taken to approve the Application For Study/Travel By Student Group submitted by Edith Iler, Wood River High School French teacher, to take her students to Paris, France, 03-21 June 2008.

**e. Approval Of Engineer’s Design And Concept And Permission To Advertise Call For Bids For Phase I Site Work And Excavation for Bellevue Elementary School – John Gaeddert**

Mr. John Gaeddert addressed the Board and stated that he has been working with Dave Cole, from Benchmark Engineers, Mike Chatterton, Howard Royal, and others to have the Board accept bids for the site work and excavation project at Bellevue Elementary School at the 13 May 2008 Regular Board meeting. He is anticipating breaking ground on 02 June 2008.

Referring to the site map, he tried to create a site package for a sixteen foot wide separate parent pick-up and drop off for parents, the bus pick-up and drop off area, curb, gutter, and lighting. There will be fifty-two (52) parking spaces and anticipates picking up an additional area to increase it to approximately sixty (60) parking spaces. There is also a lighting package of twenty-four (24) lights. The plan included reclaiming the area south of the portables which will be a good change into grass as well as installing perimeter sidewalks around the entire site. Preliminary engineering on the sprinkling system needs to be done, and at this time, he does not have numbers for the underground power along Birch Street.

Mr. Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, stated that it will cost close to \$900,000.00 to clean up the site.

Action was then taken to approve the engineer’s design and concept for the Bellevue Elementary School excavation and site work package and approved the publication of a Call For Bids for the project.

**XI. Assistant Superintendent Report – Lonnie Barber, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer – Information/Action**

Dr. Barber and Gary St. George, Woodside Elementary School Principal, reviewed with the Board the “Turn Around Schools” conference they attended with nine teachers. The

teachers reached consensus on the “No Excuses University”, and that the Woodside Elementary School population as well as in the Wood River Valley is changing rapidly. A diverse group of K-5 teachers, a social worker, Matt Murray, Lonnie Barber, and Gary St. George got together on what they saw at the conference, and what we want to do. Three concepts resulted of their brainstorming session:

- We desire a culture of universal achievement;
- We assume that every student is college bound; and
- We want to create exceptional systems face-to-face with parents.

**a. Update On Strategic Planning Process – Kathy Hagler And Sally Anderson, Hagler And Associates**

Ms. Kathy Hagler, Hagler & Associates, reviewed the Planning Process, gave an overview of the Planning Team, where we are now, and where we are headed.

Ms. Hager stated that she and Sally Anderson focused on what it means to be a model School District in 2015. They collected over 6,000 post it notes which listed strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. They looked at hard data, and identified goals and strategies. In the Discovery Phase, they defined the model, looked at District performance, and will have the stakeholder perception on Thursday at the Planning Team meeting.

Ms. Hagler then defined the characteristics of the Vision of a model District as:

Students Who:

- Are intellectually engaged, curious, problem solving, critical thinkers;
- Embrace the interconnectedness of world cultures and become productive global citizens;
- Exhibit high standards of achievement and responsibility and become life-long learners; and
- Realize their highest emotional, social, ethical, and physical health.

Staff Who:

- Are enabled to perform at the highest level;
- Engage all students;
- Deliver relevant, challenging, and interesting instruction; and
- Ensure social, emotional, and intellectual growth of each student.

Community Collaboration:

- Informs and engages the whole community;
- Fosters community partnerships and support;
- Implements and practices sustainability; and
- Embraces transparency and accountability.

Ms. Hagler then reviewed the:

Emerging Focus Areas:

- Cultural and economic diversity;
- High standards of educational excellence through curriculum, programs, and instructional support;
- Maximize student potential through community;
- Technology;
- Design educational programs, services, and learning opportunities that develop the whole child;
- Safety and security;
- Quality personnel;
- Model and teach sustainability/healthy living; and
- Provide facilities for optimal learning environment.

Dr. Lewis stated, “A good Strategic Plan measures the will of the community.”

## **XII. Action Agenda**

### **a. Adopt Updated Budget Amendment – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer**

Mr. Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, stated that the Summary Statement published for two weeks in the newspapers of record. He asked for the Boards’ approval to move money within the accounts to get through the end of the year.

Board Member Nilsen inquired if the District Office has received any telephone calls or comments regarding the budget.

Mr. Chatterton stated that no comments or calls were received.

Action was then taken to adopt the updated budget amendment.

### **b. Approval Of Resolution No. 08-1 Authorizing The Annual Trustee Election Zone 5 – Cathy Zaccardi**

Ms. Cathy Zaccardi, Clerk of the Board, stated that Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren's seat is up for election this year. The election will be held on 20 May 2008, the polling place will be Hemingway Elementary School, and the polls will be open from Noon until 8:00 o'clock p.m.

Action was taken to approve Resolution No. 08-1 Authorizing the Annual Trustee Election for Zone 5.

### **XIII. Information Agenda**

#### **a. Report On Technology Budget And The Tentative Classroom Technology Plan – Jerry Hutchins, Director Of Technology, Testing, And Database Management**

Dr. Jerry Hutchins presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the Tentative District Technology Plan that included the following:

#### **2006-2007 School Year**

- Attending the November 2006 Technology and Learning Conference in Dallas, Texas;
- Discussing options for expanding our network bandwidth with vendors;
- Meeting with the District Technology Committee on technology priorities; and
- Working with Larry Talbert, Technology Consultant.

#### **2007-2008 School Year**

- Continued working with Larry Talbert, Technology Consultant;
- Meeting with Dr. Barber as soon as he joined the District and regularly thereafter regarding his ideas for improving the District's use of technology;
- Technology Department meetings with Dr. Barber regarding his ideas for improving the department;
- Technology priority review with the District Technology Committee;
- Department conference calls with fiber optic vendors (Mike Chatterton and Dr. Barber participated in the calls);
- Working with Tom Miller, e-rate consultant, to assure our plans, vendor selection process, and timelines would meet e-rate requirements;
- Reviewing classroom technologies available from four vendors including on-site demonstrations; and
- Inviting two vendor finalists to return for additional on-site demonstrations in mid-February.

Dr. Hutchins stated that there are a wide variety of technologies available to improve student learning. We have identified four of them to be supported in our improved support of classroom technology:

1. Interactive White Boards
2. Interactive slates for use with White Boards
3. Student response units, and
4. Audio enhancement.

Interactive White Boards:

- Student attention; and
- Students show the class what they can do!

Slates For Interactive White Boards:

- Use board from anywhere;
- Classroom control by proximity.

Student Response Units:

- Immediate feedback to teacher and to students;
- Students get excited; and
- Track student performance.

Audio Enhancement:

- Can't listen if you can't hear!
- Conversational quality and peaceful tone of voice.

Supporting The Classroom:

- Up to date computers to run new equipment;
- Extenda Cards; and
- Classroom computer replacement cycle.

Training:

- Initial, intermediate, and advanced;
- Summer Technology Integration Academy;
- Usage follow-ups.

Behind The Classroom:

- Voice over IP = better service to the community;
  1. Bellevue and Hemingway in Summer 2008
  2. Hailey, Silver Creek Alternative School and Community Campus in Summer 2009
- High Speed Bandwidth
- Fiber in mid-valley 2009-10
- Fiber or high speed micro-wave at Hemingway and Carey 2010-11.

Five Year Goals:

- Engaging technology available in all classrooms;
- Training to continuously enhance learning through technology; and
- High speed network to support engaged learning.

Cost Overview For New Costs:

- 2008-09 \$ 581,000.00
- 2009-10 \$1,017,000.00
- 2010-11 \$1,267,000.00
- Then \$1,267,000.00 annually.

Dr. Hutchins concluded by stating, “Engaging student learners is worth it!”

**b. Discussion Of NSBA “Webinars” – Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren**

Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren stated that NSBA “Webinars” are available to Board Members at no cost. These are hour-long online information sessions that are listened to on the telephone and simultaneously view a PowerPoint and take online polls on the computer.

Vice Chairman Dahlgren stated that she has done two “Webinars” to date and learned a lot in a painless way. She urged the other Board Members to participate in this easily accessible professional development opportunity.

**c. Report On ISBA Day On The Hill – Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren**

Vice Chairman Dahlgren stated that Cliff Green is no longer the Executive Director of the Idaho School Board Association, and that Karen Echeverria is the new Executive Director.

Vice Chairman Dahlgren then stated that she sat with Jim Cobble, Jerome County School District Superintendent of Schools, Wendy Jaquet, and others at lunch during ISBA Day on the Hill. It was a very calm day, and there was not much to report.

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

The Regular March meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 9:15 p.m.