



SYNOPSIS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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 two formal Expulsion Hearings for Blaine County School District students.

I. Closed Executive Session

The Board of Trustees conducted a formal Expulsion Hearing for Student No. 2008-09:5.

After hearing testimony from Wood River High School Administration, the student and the student's mother, action was taken to return to Regular Open Session.

II. Return to Open Session

Action was taken to expel Student No. 2008-09:5 for one calendar year with the ability to return to Wood River High School on December 10, 2008 under certain conditions.

Action was then taken to return 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.

III. Return to Closed Executive Session

The Board of Trustees conducted a formal Expulsion Hearing for Student No. 2008-09:6.

After hearing testimony from Wood River High School Administration, the student and the student's mother, action was taken to return to Regular Open Session.

IV. Return to Open Session

Action was taken to expel Student No. 2008-09:6 for one calendar year with the ability to return to Wood River High School at the beginning of the first trimester of the 2009-2010 school year under certain conditions.

REGULAR DECEMBER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

V. Call to Order and Welcome

VI. Pledge of Allegiance

VII. Accolades

a. Lane Durtschi, Carey School Teacher

Dr. Lewis stated that Carey School Principal John Peck sent him an email regarding Carey School Science teacher, Lane Durtschi. Mr. Durtschi has been named "Teacher of the Year" for the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He was nominated by members of the Carey community and traveled to northern Idaho with his wife Nancy to be recognized. Mr. Durtschi will automatically be nominated for the national award as well.

The nomination stated that they really appreciate Mr. Durtschi and his support of the Blaine County Soil Conservation District and its activities (speech contest, envirothon, soil testing and other youth related projects). He received his award; \$100 cash and a very nice recognition plaque, at the IASCD Annual Conference in Coeur d'Alene on November 17th. This award is designed to recognize elementary and secondary teachers for their innovative activities to teach an awareness and appreciation of the value of conservation education and to stimulate efforts by teachers to advance the wise use, protection, and enhancement of the nation's soil, water, and related resources.

Dr. Lewis then stated, "Congratulations Mr. Durtschi! The work you do and your dedication to the students at Carey school is greatly appreciated!"

b. P.A.W.S. (Partnerships Always Work for Students) - Bellevue Elementary School Third Grade Students, Vicki Smith and Elaine Zhang, Bellevue Elementary School Teachers

Dr. Lewis stated that Bellevue Elementary School Principal, Angie Martinez, shared a thank you letter sent to her third grade students from Ms. Tilda Hannebaum. Each year the Bellevue third graders rake leaves for elders in the community, a service-learning project that promotes leadership and citizenship. Ms. Hannebaum's kind words illustrate the P.A.W.S. (Partnerships Always Work for Students) connection that Bellevue Elementary students are attempting to make between their school and the community of Bellevue.

Bellevue Elementary's P.A.W.S. program defines their partnerships as any person or group that positively contributes to the success of their students. They include parents, other relatives, elders, volunteers, older youth mentors, outside service agencies and programs, other educational institutions, and our business community. This also includes the provision of student services to the Bellevue community.

One of Bellevue's Collective Commitments specifies that, *our parents and community actively participate in our students' successes*. There are many ways to demonstrate partnerships with parents, staff, and community:

- Working collaboratively and cooperatively with interdependence in our school and district
- Welcoming and embracing the partnerships
- Volunteering service to the school and to students
- Bridging schools with families through our PTA
- Networking services between the school and other resources
- Providing enriched learning opportunities within and outside of the school for staff and students
- Offering educational opportunities to parents and families
- Linking school and students with community, other education, the arts, and business
- Providing learning opportunities for students that offer community service to help our neighborhood
- Bridging learning with the real world
- Collectively celebrating our successes as a neighborhood school family
- Communicating between all stakeholders with transparency
- Sharing of ideas, talents, and treasure to enrich our school and community
- Acknowledging the importance of always being a good neighbor

Ms. Tilda Hannebaum's letter:

Dear Third Grade Students,

That Wednesday morning, November 12th, I had no idea what was in store for me. I put on clean clothes with my eyes half closed. Somehow, I made it to my living room. Stopping dead in my tracks, I looked out my south window and noticed no leaves on my back patio! It was then that I noticed two or three heads working almost around the corner.

NOW . . . my eyes are wide open, as I opened my front door . . . there I saw lots of students working with big rakes. I really felt blessed . . . and humbled . . . at the same time. I'm thinking, these young third grade students are working so hard to clean up my yard. All I could think was . . . I just go up, and these young students almost had all the leaves raked and bagged.

It was my dear neighbor Lisa saying, "Vicki Smith is in the back with some of the kids." Turning to the back door, I went out into Vicki's arms. I whispered, "Thank you, thank you so very much Vicki, for thinking of me and my leaves". I really don't know how to say "Thank you so very much for all of the help of the third graders."

Now, to all the Wood River third graders, I would like to say, “This kindness that you did for me . . . really sets you apart, and makes each one of you so very special! Thank you, thank you, thank you so very much for you special thoughtfulness.”

*With all my love,
Tilda Hannebaum*

P.S. This “Thank you” note should be hand written, but I can hardly hold a pen to write anymore.

Dr. Lewis then stated, “Thank you third graders, and thank you Vicki Smith and Elaine Zhang for contributing your time and enthusiasm to this very special third grade project!”

c. Teri McKenna, Hailey Elementary School Social Worker

Dr. Lewis stated that Tom Bailey, Principal of Hailey Elementary School, received the following email from a Patron regarding Ms. Teri McKenna, Hailey Elementary School Social Worker.

Dear Mr. Bailey and all Concerned:

This is a letter for a member of your staff: Teri McKenna.

Teri has been helping my family and myself in our time of need. She has counseled me when we had a small crisis in our family. Upon doing so she knew where help was needed, not only physiologically but financially as well.

She has given me names and numbers for rental assistance and has aided us in week-end food bags. Teri has outlets for winter clothing and accessories. She (Teri) calls them “Angels”. I believe she is right and I have given her many thanks and I know that she has passed it on to the “Angels”.

At this time I would like to pass on to you that Teri also is an “Angel” and deserves a huge thank you and a noticed job well done.

Dr. Lewis then stated, “This is a wonderful example of a staff member helping the whole child, the whole family. It doesn’t stop when our students walk out the door after school. Thank you Teri for being an “Angel” to our students and their families when their need is greatest.”

d. Jesse Nisson, Hailey Elementary Library Paraprofessional

Dr. Lewis stated that retired Hailey Elementary School teacher, Ronile DeJarnette Robinson sent the Board of Trustees and me a letter regarding Ms. Jesse Nisson, Hailey Elementary School Librarian. Ronile stated that she has had the pleasure of knowing Jesse for 23 of her 24 years with the School District.

Ronile goes on to say that after reading the following letter from Jesse, you will know how much of her heart and soul goes into the Ellen Morrival Library at Hailey Elementary School. Ronile wants everyone to know how hard she works for our kids and teachers to provide the best books available.

Letter from Jesse Nisson, Hailey Elementary School Librarian:

Dear Friend of Ellen Morrival,

On behalf of Hailey Elementary School, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your generous gift to Hailey Elementary School Library in memory of Ellen. I believe she would be honored to know that her memory will live on here in the library on these shelves. I was very honored, as well, to purchase books in her memory. Someone asked me what I would purchase and I told them that when I started to purchase some books, that Ellen would let me know what she wanted. Very soon after that a favorite book vendor of mine did a preview visit with all these wonderful animal books that you see pictured on the enclosed sheet, so I knew exactly what to order and felt Ellen's spirit oohing and awwing over the wonderful animal books. I'm sure you know how she adored books and on her travels would find great ones and bring them to me for our library. I don't know if she reimbursed herself for all of those books, but I hope so. She adored book shopping by herself or with me, and the results of that are very evident as you look around this library, which is so full of her dedication and love of the written word and learning. How fortunate we were to have her as our leader and we still miss her dearly.

Again, thank you very much. I know I'm tardy in writing this letter of appreciation but I had to purchase just the right books and that took time to do and then it took time for them to arrive. I wanted you to see what I purchased and it was kind of emotional for me as well. By the way, there is a wonderful metal bench in our new "park" area behind the cafeteria, in memory of Ellen. She'd love that too. Stop by and see it sometime.

Dr. Lewis then stated, "Jesse, it is easy to see why you are so treasured in the School District. Your years of service and dedication to the kids and the Library at Hailey Elementary are invaluable. Thank you from the District's heart!"

e. Lane Kirkland, Lee Cook, Lane Durtschi, Carey School Football Coaches and Carey High School Football Team

Dr. Lewis stated, "As you are all aware, the Carey football team beat the Kootanei Warriors 46 to 12 last weekend to become the 1A Division II State Champions!"

Mr. Jeff Cordes does an outstanding job of keeping track of information and representing our communities and schools in the Mountain Express. Here are a few of his statistics:

- Carey has been the state champion in football four times playing in eight games, but never winning in the Kibbie Dome in Moscow until this year.

- Carey finished the season with a record of 12 and 0, becoming the all time highest scoring team in Carey with 572 points that is an average of 47.7 points per game.
- Over the past three seasons with Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Cook and Mr. Durtschi as coaches, Carey has enjoyed a 33 and 3 record, two state championships and one 2nd place finish.
- Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Cook, over the past eight years, have a 65 and 16 record.
- In the State Championship game the panthers rushed for 383 yards and added 165 through the air for a total of 590 total yards.
- In the past three years the juniors and seniors on the football team have played a State Championship game in Holt Arena at ISU, on the Blue Turf at BSU, and now in the Kibbie Dome at U of I.

Dr. Lewis went on to say that at Carey High School we have great teachers and role models like the three coaches we are honoring tonight. Carey students work to be the very best they can be on the field, on the court, and academically. This past season 77% of Carey's student body was involved in football, volleyball, cheerleading, music, the play, and other extra-curricular activities. An interesting statistic: the average first trimester GPA of students involved in extra-curricular activities is 3.353, and the average GPA of the students not involved in extra-curricular activities is 2.939.

Dr. Lewis then stated, "I believe extra-curricular activities help keep our students focused on what they need to be doing. The District appreciates the job that Lane, Lee and Lane do each year as coaches and we also appreciate the work that they do in the classroom for the students each day. Congratulations coaches, congratulations team, --- you do the District proud!"

VIII. Consent Agenda

a. Consideration of Minutes

Regular Meeting of November 11, 2008

b. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report – Payment of Bills

c. Approval of Personnel – Exiting and Entering

Classified Staff – Entering

Michele Randall – Medical Technologies Academy Instructor, Wood River High School

Action was taken to approve items "a" through "c" of the Consent Agenda.

IX. Public Comments

None.

X. Action Agenda

- a. Permission to Hire The Omni Group as the Third Party Administrator of Blaine County School District's 403(b) Retirement Plan Document – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer**

Action was taken to grant permission for Blaine County School District to hire The Omni Group as the Third Party Administrator of their 403(b) Retirement Plan Document (effective January 1, 2009).

XI. Information Agenda

- a. Behavior and Discipline Policy 507.3 Discussion**

A brief discussion was held regarding Blaine County School District's Behavior and Discipline Policy 507.3. In the interest of time it was agreed that further discussion of the policy will continue on a future date.

- b. Report on ISBA Annual Conference, Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren**

This agenda item will be readdressed at the Regular January Board meeting.

- c. NSBA Conference Planning Update – Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk**

This agenda item will be readdressed at the Regular January Board meeting.

XII. Adjournment