



SYNOPSIS
ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009, 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 and pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(c) for the discussion of property.

I. Closed Executive Session

After the Board discussed personnel and property, action was taken to convene to Regular Open Session.

II. Convene to Open Session

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

III. Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Alex Sundali called the Annual Budget Hearing 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 Jim Lewis, Superintendent of Schools; Lonnie Barber, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer; Matt Murray, Director of Curriculum/Dual Language Learners; Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer; Katie Palmer, Director of Human Resources, and Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk.

Chairman Sundali stated that a quorum was present.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Discussion of and Public Comments on 2009-2010 School District Budget

Superintendent Jim Lewis commented that he was out of town during the June 2nd *School District Budget Workshop* and he just wanted everybody to know that he has heard nothing but compliments regarding Mike Chatterton's presentations in the Workshop.

Chairman Sundali also noted that *Budget 101* was sponsored by the Education Foundation and was held in a morning and evening session on May 20th for the public. There were 15-20 people in attendance at the morning session and unfortunately only two members of the public showed up for the 6:30 evening session. One of the two attending was Idaho Representative Wendy Jaquet. The *School District Budget Workshop* began at 5:30 p.m. on June 2nd and all aspects of the 107-page budget were covered until the Workshop adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Chairman Alex Sundali asked for public comments regarding the proposed 2009-2010 School District Budget. Mr. Tom Richmond commented that he was a little shocked at the size of the school budget. He asked why it costs so much more money to educate children in Blaine County versus 65-85 miles south. Board Member Kim Nilsen answered that just one of the reasons is that it costs more to live in Blaine County, which means we have to pay teachers more, pay more for the buildings, groceries, everything we do here costs more money. Mr. Richmond also commented that bussing students and maintenance could be subbed out and that class size in the secondary schools is too low. Kim Nilsen answered that class size has been very well dictated by the community. The public demands small class size and would not stand for 30 or 40 students in a classroom.

No additional comments were received regarding the School District Budget.

VI. Approval of School District Budget

Action was taken to approve the 2009-2010 School District Budget.

There being no further business to discuss, action was taken to adjourn the Annual Budget Hearing.

REGULAR JUNE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Action was taken to move the *Consent Agenda* to item number VII. and *Accolades* to item number VIII.

Action was then taken to amend the Consent Agenda by adding three items.

VII. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Resignation of Dr. Jim Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

Board Member Kim Nilsen read Dr. Lewis' letter of resignation:

*Blaine County School District
Board of Trustees*

June 9, 2009

Dear Trustees,

It is with great respect and admiration for this school district and the people associated with it that I submit my resignation as Superintendent of Schools. I would ask to vacate my employment with the District on August 31, 2009 and will serve in whatever capacity the Blaine County School Board deems necessary from this point in time until that date.

During my tenure as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, I was fortunate enough to work for a committed district with dynamic teams and outstanding individuals all focused on one mission which was to make Blaine county School District a "world class, student focused, community of teaching and learning." I feel very comfortable in knowing that together we moved this district a considerable distance along that path and developed some models for others to follow. I will always consider that body of work as the greatest accomplishment I have been associated with in my 39+ years in education. I am attaching an accounting of this progress and hope that it will serve as a foundation for all of the quality work, projects, partnerships, and programs dedicated to student success that will surely follow.

*Respectfully,
Dr. Jim Lewis*

Kim Nilsen then encouraged every patron of Blaine County Schools to get on the District's website and look at the document that Dr. Lewis referenced in his resignation letter, entitled *Promises Made, Promises Delivered*. Mr. Nilsen also noted that Dr. Lewis has graciously chosen to forego much of the compensation that is due to him in his contract at a time when everyone else has had to cut budgets and tighten up the belt.

Board Member Dan Parke stated, “During the time I have been on the Board, I have appreciated Dr. Lewis’ vision. He always seems to have an eye towards the future and he always seems to have the best interest of every student at heart. I know by working with him that he cares considerably about every student in the School District and it is his goal that every student has a chance to receive an education. He is a great example of a solid leader and someone that has served our District very well. I also appreciate Dr. Lewis foregoing some of his contract; it actually becomes somewhat of a financial advantage for the District for him to do this at this time.”

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews stated, “I second what Dr. Parke said and I too, offer my appreciation to Dr. Lewis for all he has done for the School District. When my family moved to this District ten years ago we made it our mission to seek out the best school district in the state of Idaho. We went through every single school district in the state before deciding on the best; Blaine County School District.”

Chairman Alex Sundali stated, “I have been on the Board for six years and have learned a lot. Much of what I’ve learned has been from Dr. Lewis. What I have really liked about being on the Board is the education I have received from the people I have surrounded myself by, and that includes Dr. Lewis. When I would attend ISBA and NSBA conferences, people would come up to me from not just Idaho, but from around the country talking to me about Dr. Lewis. They were talking about how lucky we are to have Jim Lewis as our Superintendent because he’s a smart man, he’s a business man, he’s an educator, he’s a coach, he has perspective, he recognizes what’s important in our history in Blaine County, and he recognizes what’s important going forward. Dr. Lewis has set up our community to succeed because he had the foresight to purchase property, to build schools when it was necessary, to make sure that the community always knew what was needed, what was wanted, and then *Promises Made, Promises Delivered*. I am honored to have been part of his life for six years and it is with regret that I accept his resignation.”

Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren stated, “I was particularly lucky to be able to work with Dr. Lewis for 14 years while he was Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent. Dr. Lewis has kept everyone on the edge; he is always one step ahead. He filled Phil Homer’s big shoes. When I came on the Board I was incredibly nervous. Dr. Lewis really helped me over that hump of being able to transition from an employee to a volunteer.”

Dr. Lewis thanked the Board. “I heard the call for change three weeks ago and I’m happy to oblige. At the same time, it needs to happen before the start of the new school year. It’s the very best answer right now for the District, and it’s the best action for me. Test scores have never been higher in the history of the District and I just want to say thanks, not only to the whole staff and the administrators, but to Dr. Barber. When he came to us two years ago, he got the District focused on getting over those barriers. We are right now in the best financial position to date for the Blaine County School District and I want to thank Mike Chatterton and all the work that he has done. We have the best

staff we could ever possibly have and I want to thank Katie Palmer for all the work that she's done in Human Resources.

We built a Strategic Plan with the community in *Promises Made, Promises Delivered*; and most important, we delivered. That is 110 percent complete. When Howard Royal and his staff completed Hailey and Bellevue Elementary Schools, they walked off the job at Bellevue last year with every single thing accomplished. More importantly, every single academic program that you wanted is here.

There's a reason that Blaine County School District uses a succession plan. Every district in the state is envious of us because we're capable of doing that. The reason they are envious is when you start out in a direction and you bring the community in, and you develop a plan that is a long-distance plan, you immediately head in that direction with the personnel that you have. The succession means that you have time to plan, and time to pass off what the community expected for your tenure to the new person coming in so they, in turn, can include that in what the community expects in their tenure. The reason we've been able to accomplish what we have in my tenure is because of what Phil Homer set up in his tenure with the community. I have said that since day one. Had he not laid the ground rules, I could not have possibly been able to accomplish the things that the staff and community asked us to do in the last ten years. I feel that the most important thing about this resignation at this time is it gives immediate stability to rapidly changing philosophical challenges that are coming. We need that stability, folks, -- and I need some fishing!"

Dr. Lewis received a standing ovation.

Action was taken to approve the resignation of Dr. Jim Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, effective August 31, 2009.

b. Approval of the Reassignment of Dr. Jim Lewis as Transition Coordinator, Effective July 1, 2009 until his August 31, 2009 Resignation Date

Board Member Kim Nilsen stated that in light of Dr. Lewis' resignation, the School District needs two months for him to formally turn over all of his responsibilities and finish the tutorship he has had with Dr. Barber so he can hit the ground running on September 1st.

Board Member Dan Parke reiterated that the timing of this transition is right before the new school year begins.

Action was taken to approve the reassignment of Dr. Lewis as Transition Coordinator effective July 1, 2009 until his August 31, 2009 resignation date.

c. Approval of the Hiring of Dr. Lonnie Barber as Superintendent of Blaine County School District, effective July 1, 2009, for three years

Vice Chairman Julie Dahlgren stated, "I very much approve of Dr. Lonnie Barber. I was on the search/hiring committee for an Assistant Superintendent which consisted of principals, administrators, parents, and three Board Members. It was incredibly competitive. The actual job description stated that this person is going to be mentored for one, two, or three years until the Superintendent retired. Everyone on the committee knew that. The Board Members have received enough training to know that one of our main jobs is to hire a Superintendent. The average Superintendent does not last more than three to five years in a school district, which is a shocking national number. In this District we have had consistency and longevity, enough to develop a history of the District, and we want to continue that. So, in a very competitive hiring practice, the whole committee chose Lonnie Barber. We are excited about his Strategic Plan and I am very much looking forward to working with him."

Board Member Kim Nilsen stated, "I was on the hiring committee, as well. An advertisement went out world-wide and 28 candidates applied for the job. I remember reading through resumes for three days before we narrowed it down. I would like to read to you exactly what the advertisement for the position stated:

The Blaine County School District Board of Trustees announces its search for an Assistant Superintendent to train and to replace the current Superintendent that plans to retire in the next two to three years.

We were not hiring an Assistant Superintendent; we were hiring a replacement Superintendent for Dr. Lewis. We actually interviewed five or six people for the position and we used a highly detailed matrix to judge each of the candidates. We had candidates from as far away as China applying for this job; it was a world-wide search. Dr. Barber was head and shoulders above the other candidates in his qualifications.

I cannot express my support for Dr. Barber in words. He has my undying support and my confidence. I know him well enough to know that I can testify to you that Dr. Barber has seen the vision for Blaine County Schools; he has seen what we have accomplished over the last 20 years, and he has come in and improved some of those visions by his work. There is not a better candidate in the world as far as I'm concerned. I am so grateful that we had the vision two years ago to look for and find Dr. Barber."

Board Member Dan Parke stated, "I have appreciated the last couple of years working with Dr. Barber. First of all, he is a hard worker and a go-getter. He is not afraid of a challenge. It is a little bit of a challenge to come in here and take over our test scores and starting us on the road to improving those, and he did that. He didn't back down from that challenge and he doesn't. He is very, very qualified for this job. Over the last couple of years, I have seen him grow into where he sits now in a position to take over the superintendency, and to continue our growth upward, and to continue to help us achieve our goal of being a model school district. I am glad that we have found him and I

am very, very glad for our children's sake that he will be the Superintendent of our schools. I'm happy to call him my friend and welcome him as the Superintendent."

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews stated, "We have all worked with Dr. Barber for the last two years; we know how great he is and I think our staff knows, also. I think that the teachers, the administrators, everybody realizes his vision, his work ethic, and his dedication. We are lucky to have him and we look forward to working with him in the future and look forward to the community getting to know him and watch him grow with us."

John Peck, Carey School Principal, was not able to attend the Board meeting and asked Chairman Sundali to read an email he sent to her in support of Dr. Barber:

I honestly believe that Dr. Barber was hired with the correct process; I served on that committee. He has been very focused on us being the best we can be. He has brought us to the next level with focus and test scores. We are a better District now and are moving in the correct direction. I feel sorry for anyone who has to follow Dr. Lewis in any position, but Dr. Barber has my confidence and my support with his position and in moving into the Superintendent position when the time comes.

Chairman Sundali stated, "Personally I am very excited that Lonnie is now going to be the Superintendent. We discussed hiring the replacement for Dr. Lewis in August of 2006 at a School Board retreat. Dr. Lewis had made it clear to us in 2006 that he had a couple of years left before retirement. I think we did an excellent job. The process has certainly been brought up in the public lately. I believe that it was first brought up in a debate that I attended; the people that brought up the process are not familiar with the process. They are not familiar with how the School Board is a government agency, they are not familiar with the committees that we convene and the way we conduct business. That's unfortunate for the community; it has received a lot a negative press. I feel that we have a great opportunity with Dr. Barber and I'm looking forward to watching him as a citizen going forward and participating at every level that I can. I'm very excited."

Dr. Barber stated, "I want to thank the Board, you are a phenomenal Board. Every person that wants to be a Superintendent wants to work for a progressive Board, and I was lucky. But beyond that, I will tell you that one of the luckiest days of my life was when I met Dr. Lewis. I got to learn from Jim for two years and I have to tell you, Board, that is probably one of the greatest things in my life, ever. So Dr. Lewis, thank you, and thank you, Board very much. I appreciate everything that you have done."

Dr. Lewis stated, "I just have a word of advice for Dr. Barber, and it came from your comments, Alex. Some of the public comments tended to think that this should be a popularity contest and it's not. You show me a Superintendent that wins a popularity contest, and I'll show you a mediocre school district. You have to be tough, you have to be able to say no to movements that don't go through a thorough process, and you have to know when the time is to move people and when it's time to let them get better at what

they do in the positions that they are in. Much more than a popularity contest, I'd like you to win respect for your knowledge, for your vision, for your ability to move people, many times when they don't really want to. That's how you should be measured as a Superintendent and you know that's what I'll be watching for."

Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, stated: "I have been very fortunate in my own career at the Blaine County School District. I moved here when I was 28 years old in 1987 from a school district in Pocatello. I was there for three years and went through three superintendents. I know how it is to transition between superintendencies, how often you veer from one vision to another vision to another vision, and how hard it is for a school district to focus on things that everyone is collectively working towards. Since I've moved here I have been very fortunate to be able to work first under someone I won't mention. For the last 20 years I've had the great privilege to work with Phil Homer for ten years and Dr. Lewis for ten years. While working under Dr. Lewis I think I have grown more professionally than I probably would have ever experienced anywhere else in my career. Jim, I want to thank you for that. I also want to thank you, Lonnie, because I know that the next ten years, if I make it that long, are going to be just as good, because I know our transition is going to go well, I know the District is on the vision that we've set forth for the last twelve years, and I know that we're headed in the right direction to make this one of the best school districts in the country."

Action was taken to hire Dr. Lonnie Barber with a three-year contract to become Superintendent of Blaine County School District, effective July 1, 2009.

d. Consideration of Minutes

Regular Meeting of May 12, 2009
Special Meeting of May 26, 2009
Special Meeting of June 2, 2009

e. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report – Payment of Bills

f. Approval of Requests for Up to Twelve-Week Family Leave

Deiysi Santacruz – ESL Paraprofessional, Bellevue Elementary School
Dick Simpson – Custodian, Carey School

g. Application for Study/Travel by Student Group – Hollis Pincock, Carey School Music Teacher

h. Any Positions Still Open and Hired Subsequent to July 1st Shall be Deemed “Emergency Hires”

i. Approval of Alternative Authorization - Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement Pathway I Mentoring Program to obtain ENL

**(English as a New Language) Endorsement for the 2009-2010 School Year –
Mendy Benson - ESL/Foreign Languages Teacher, Wood River High School**

j. Approval of Personnel – Exiting and Entering

Classified Staff – Exiting

Shawn Huntington – Student Services Paraprofessional (BASE Program), Hailey Elementary School (Hired in Certified Position)

Jodi Barsch – Paraprofessional, Hailey Elementary School (Hired in Certified Position)

Classified Staff – Recommending for Hire

M. Brady Webb – Student Services Paraprofessional, Woodside Elementary School

Daniel Vanden Heuvel – Student Services Paraprofessional, Wood River Middle School

Patrick Kinney – Student Services Paraprofessional, Wood River Middle School

David Allred – Certified Athletic Trainer, Wood River High School

Certified Staff - Exiting

Brian Daluiso – 1.0 FTE English Teacher, Wood River High School

Christine Cherry – 1.0 Roaming Guest Teacher, District-Wide

Certified Staff – Recommending for Hire

Amanda Ewig – 1.0 FTE 2nd Grade Teacher, Hemingway Elementary School

Anna Edwards – 1.0 FTE PE/Health Teacher, Wood River High School

Andrew Lewis – 1.0 FTE Music/Orchestra Teacher, Wood River Middle School

Jennifer Rierden – 1.0 FTE 6th Grade Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, Wood River Middle School

Helga Gabrielli – 1.0 FTE 5th Grade Teacher, Bellevue Elementary School

Shawn Huntington – 1.0 FTE Math/Science Teacher, Silver Creek School

Carla Stewart-Donaldson – 1.0 FTE College/Career Counselor, Wood River High School/Wood River Middle School/Carey School

Action was taken to approve items “d” through “j” of the Consent Agenda.

VIII. Accolades

a. **Wood River Middle School 7th Grade Blue Team – Julie Nelson, Sue Harley, Tom Goicoechea, Jonah Torseth, Jill Clark, Al Amato, Shaun Merrick, and Jeremy Silvis**

Fritz Peters, Wood River Middle School Principal, forwarded me an extremely complimentary letter sent to him from Steve Guthrie, one of our newly elected Board Members, regarding the Wood River Middle School's seventh grade Blue Team.

Steve writes on May 26, 2009:

Dear Mr. Peters:

Hard to believe we are nearing the end of yet another school year, an indication of just how fast time passes. As you are aware, much of what occurs during the K thru 12 experience will impact our children's future, the very reason our schools must maintain and strive for excellence. This said, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to you and your staff, specifically your seventh grade Blue Team, Core Members, Ms. Julie Nelson, Ms. Sue Harley, Mr. Tom Goicoechea, Mr. Johah Torseth, elective staff, Ms. Jill Clark, Mr. Al Amato, Ms. Shaun Merrick and Mr. Jeremy Silvis.

My son Quinn Guthrie has nearly completed his seventh grade year at WRMS; I am very proud of what he has accomplished. It is my belief that Quinn's successes are due in large to the teaching excellence of your above-mentioned staff. As a parent I would like to recognize some of the practices that I have observed during the past year.

Examples of Excellence – Practiced by staff as referenced above:

- *It is obvious that communication takes place on a regular basis, your Blue Team staff are aware of each other's schedules, ongoing projects, curriculums and teaching strategies.*
- *The ability to connect and communicate with their seventh grade students; this is obviously due to the simple fact that these professionals make learning fun, enjoy their chosen career path and respect both their peers and students.*
- *School work is primarily completed during the seven hour school day (8:30 – 3:30), allowing Quinn to enjoy afterschool activities, i.e. time with family, friends, sports, music and good old fashioned play. A special note, I cannot emphasize how wonderful it has been to have my son available during after school hours and weekends, this*

unfortunately has not always been the case in past years – THANK YOU!

- *My concerns and questions have always been listened to and responded to in a timely fashion.*
- *Quinn and his peers have been given the opportunity to take an active part in class curriculum, able and encouraged to think through and solve problems.*

In closing, I would again express my thanks for providing Quinn and his fellow students with a safe, caring, learning environment. Hoping the remainder of your school year goes well and that you enjoy the coming summer, please pass this onto your above-mentioned seventh grade staff, they are truly incredible people.

*Sincerely,
Steve Guthrie, WRMS Parent*

Way to go, Blue Team! You should truly be proud of yourselves and your kids when parents like Mr. Guthrie are moved to write letters like this! Thank you for your continual devotion to your students' well being and academic excellence.

b. Lee Pace – Math/Science Teacher, Carey School

Lee Pace sent me an email I just had to share. He's very excited and I certainly understand why!

Lee writes on May 28, 2009:

So, I just received my chemistry final exam scores for my dual credit class. The final exam is an ACS (American Chemical Society) exam that is normed nationwide. I have attached the scores provided by the College of Southern Idaho. The scores are obviously good (or I wouldn't have sent them to you), but the normed class average rocked my world! My normed class average (NATIONWIDE) is the 94th percentile! How 'bout that?!!!!

Lee, there's no way I could have said it better; you are a world-class teacher with world-class credentials! Congratulations Lee!

c. Dr. Lonnie Barber – Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Wiley Dobbs is the Twin Falls School District's Superintendent of Schools and President of the Region IV Superintendents. Dr. Dobbs sent me a copy of a letter sent to Dr. Lonnie Barber.

Dr. Dobbs writes on May 26, 2009:

Dear Lonnie,

At the May 20, 2009 Region IV Superintendents' meeting you were acknowledged for your excellent contributions to the education of students in Region IV. Specifically, Blaine County School District's outstanding ISAT scores this spring (90.6% proficient or advanced in reading and 88% proficient or advanced in math). It is noted that the growing Hispanic population in Blaine County is reflected in the high ISAT scores! Each month Superintendents make note of fantastic employee contributions within their schools. Congratulations on this honor.

As with all successful organizations, it takes all of us working together to be most effective. Thank you for your dedication! Way to go, Lonnie!

Sincerely,

Wiley J. Dobbs

Region IV President

Twin Falls School District Superintendent

This is high praise, Lonnie, -- and well deserved. This is just another illustration of your unending dedication to the children of Blaine County and the School District.

d. Bellevue Elementary School

It's official! Mike Chatterton's challenge has been answered! Larry Barnes, Wood River High School Science Teacher, sent us the long-anticipated results.

Larry writes:

For more than five years the Environmental Practices Committee, the Environmental Resource Center, and Mike Chatterton have been researching the feasibility of purchasing recycled paper for the School District. However, the higher cost of recycled paper compared to virgin paper and budgetary constraints have so far prevented the District from purchasing recycled paper. This year Mike Chatterton issued a challenge to the District to reduce paper use (as estimated from copy machine use at each school) by 15% during the months of February, March, and April. If we succeeded, Mike would purchase recycled paper for the District in the 2009-10 school year. Collectively, we reduced our use 14.1% during this time and Mike decided to go ahead and purchase recycled paper. Wood River High School's Environmental Club will sponsor a pizza party for the staff at Bellevue Elementary School whose decrease (41%) was greater than all of the other schools!

Here is a summary of the schools and their paper use change during the test period.

Bellevue Elementary School: 41% Decrease

(THE PIZZA PARTY WINNERS, CONGRATULATIONS!)

Hemingway Elementary School: 24% Decrease

Silver Creek Alternative School: 19% Decrease

Woodside Elementary School: 19% Decrease

Wood River High School: 13% Decrease

Carey School: 12% Decrease

Wood River Middle School: 7% Decrease

Hailey Elementary School: 12% INCREASE (ouch!)

Michael Breen, Carey School English Teacher and Environmental Practices Committee member, presented Angie Martinez, Principal of Bellevue Elementary School, a certificate for the much deserved pizza party. Congratulations Bellevue; way to step up to the plate!

IX. Public Comments

a. Thank you Alex and Kim from Woodside Elementary PTA!

Sheri Thomas, representing the Woodside Elementary School PTA, presented Alex Sundali and Kim Nilsen with “Hemingway” notebooks as a thank you for their years of volunteer service as Blaine County School District Board Members. Sheri suggested they use the notebooks to write their memoirs!

b. Letter of Opposition to All Day Kindergarten Proposal

A hand-delivered letter in opposition to the All Day Kindergarten proposal was brought to the Board of Trustees signed by Sean and Ann Guisasola. Chairman Sundali read the conclusion paragraph of the three-page letter aloud and announced that the entire letter would be published in the Synopsis and Minutes of the Regular June Board meeting.

Please click here to view Sean and Ann Guisasola’s public comment letter.

c. Thank you from Board Member Kim Nilsen

Board Member Kim Nilsen took the public opportunity to thank specific people he has worked with over the years as a Board Member. Kim thanked his fellow Board Members, Alex Sundali, Julie Dahlgren, Mari Beth Matthews and Dan Parke and said that he has had a thoroughly enjoyable experience and has been honored to serve on the Board with people of such great integrity. Kim thanked Howard Royal, Mike Chatterton,

Katie Palmer, Blake Walsh, Matt Murray, Debi Gutknecht, Jerry Hutchins, Teresa McGoffin, Rex Squires, the Administrators, and the District Office Staff. Kim stated, “It is a rare occasion when a person gets to be associated with a world class organization, and Blaine County School District is a world class organization.”

X. Assistant Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Lonnie Barber, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

a. Final Preliminary ISAT Results

Dr. Barber reported that the District has received the preliminary ISAT results for the 2008-2009 school year and they show significant improvements across the board in all categories and subjects.

- All tested students improved 3.9% in Reading, 2.5% in Math, and 3.5% in Language.
- Hispanic students - 10.3% more students that are proficient in Reading this year versus last year.
- Limited English Proficiency Students - 12.7% more students that are proficient in Reading.
- Special Education Students - 11% more students proficient in Math and 10% more students proficient in Reading.
- 49% of ALL our students are at the ADVANCED level in Reading, wow!

These are just a few highlights and the amount of these increases is phenomenal! In every category we increased our levels of proficiency. A job well done to our teachers and students!

[Please click here to view all of Blaine County School District’s preliminary results.](#)

XI. Action Agenda

a. Approval of School District Policy Revisions – Katie Palmer, Director of Human Resources

- Policy No. 202.1 – Code of Ethics
- Policy No. 300 – Organizational Chart
- Policy No. 402.6 – District Hiring Practices: Recruitment of Certificated Personnel
- Policy No. 408.3b & 425.6 – Leaves: Family Leave
- Policy No. 415.4, 426.4, 502.6 – Health & Safety: Harassment
- Policy No. 500.6 – Attendance: Residency
- Policy No. 504 – Student Records
- Policy No. 507.9 – Behavior and Discipline: Disciplinary Violation
- Policy No. 510 – Graduation Requirements
- Policy No. 600 – Statement of Guiding Principles

- Policy No. 603.2 – Student Services: Compensatory Education
- Policy No. 800 – Statement of guiding Principles
- Policy No. 900.7 – Public Communications: Parent Involvement

Katie Palmer presented the above-listed proposed policy revisions at the Regular May Board meeting and was present at the June meeting if there were further questions.

[Please click here to view the red-lined policy revisions.](#)

Action was taken to approve the School District Policy Revisions.

- b. Approval of Strategic Plan Goal #10 – Bridges – Making Connections Between School and Community – Goal #10 Strategic Planning Committee Members, Debi Gutknecht, Head Cognitive Coach/Hailey Elementary School Special Education Teacher and Angie Martinez, Bellevue Elementary School Principal**

Debi Gutknecht and Angie Martinez presented Goal #10 – “Bridges” at the Regular April Board meeting. Angie was present at the June meeting if there were further questions.

[Please click here to view the Goal #10 presentation material from April.](#)

Action was taken to approve “Bridges”.

- c. Approval of Strategic Plan Goal #8 – Safe and Secure Schools Committee Plan and Approval of Chief Security Officer – Katie Palmer, Director of Human Resources**

Katie Palmer presented Goal #8 – Safe and Secure Schools at the Regular May Board meeting and was present at the June meeting if there were further questions. Chairman Sundali noted that there is a slight revision in the job description for the Chief Security Officer. Under “Essential Duties and Responsibilities,” an item is being added: Wearing a uniform and carrying a weapon (gun) at work. In addition, the School District Budget will have to be amended because the Budget as presented did not include this item.

[Please click here to view the Goal #8 presentation material from May.](#)

Action was taken to approve the Safe and Secure Schools Plan and to hire a Chief Security Officer.

Action was then taken to authorize the Chief Security Officer to carry a weapon at work.

d. Permission to Advertise for Sale of Three School Busses – Rex Squires, Transportation Director

It is the time of year to sell three school busses that have achieved their maximum life. Rex Squires submitted a memo describing the three busses he recommends selling.

[Please click here to view the memo description of the three busses.](#)

Action was taken to grant permission to publish a Call for Bids for the sale of three school busses.

e. Approval of Jones, Yost, Hatt, & Erickson, P. A. to Conduct Annual School District Audit

It is the time of year to enter into an agreement with Jones, Yost, Hatt & Erickson, P. A. to conduct the annual School District audit. Mike Chatterton explained that the accounting firm audits all of the District's financial records during August and reports their findings and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the Regular October Board meeting.

Board Member Kim Nilsen noted that the School District does not have an in-house audit; an accounting firm is hired from outside the District so there is no conflict of interest.

Dr. Lewis stated, "Normally auditors recommend that there should be 90 days operating carryover cash. The District has worked really hard to get to about 60 days. Some people think that may be too big a figure, but the auditor would like to see us have 90 days. For the District, a 90-day operation is in excess of \$10,000,000. It's important that people understand that they want us to operate the School District just like any good business would operate; that's why there's a carryover."

[Please click here to view a copy of the Jones, Yost, Hatt, & Erickson, P. A. contract with the Board of Trustees.](#)

Action was taken to approve the contract with Jones, Yost, Hatt & Erickson, P. A.

f. Certification of Resident Transfer of Blaine County Students to Minidoka County – Payment of Tuition and/or Transportation

Mike Chatterton explained that this invoice is for the students that live in Yale, Idaho. It is less expensive to educate them in Minidoka School District than it is to bring them all the way to Carey or Bellevue. The Blaine County School District pays for their tuition and transportation to cover their costs. Eight students attended school in Minidoka County last year.

[Please click here to view the tuition and transportation statement from Minidoka County Joint School District #331 in the amount of \\$5,235.20.](#)

Action was taken to certify the resident transfer of these Blaine County School District students to Minidoka County and authorize payment of the tuition and transportation costs in the amount of \$5,235.20.

g. Certification of Resident Transfer of Blaine County Students to Custer County – Payment of Tuition and/or Transportation

One student attended school in Challis Joint School District.

[Please click here to view the tuition and transportation statement from Challis Joint School District #181 in the amount of \\$1,090.26.](#)

Action was taken to certify the resident transfer of this Blaine County School District student to Custer County and authorize payment of the tuition and transportation costs in the amount of \$1,090.26.

h. Approval of IronPort SPAM Solution – Jerry Hutchins, Director of Technology, Testing and Database Management

Jerry Hutchins reported that while testing IronPort it was amazing to see that out of all the emails that came to the District on one sample day, only 2.3 percent were legitimate emails. The remaining 97 percent were SPAM and viruses. The largest volume of internet traffic is SPAM.

[Please click here to view statistics gathered during the IronPort testing period.](#)

Action was taken to approve the IronPort SPAM solution.

i. Canvass of Annual Trustee Elections – Zone 2 and Zone 4 – Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk

Laurie Kaufman presented all Zone 2 and Zone 4 election ballots, elector's oaths, absentee voter logs, and poll and tally lists from the Annual Trustee Elections and invited the Board to canvass the materials.

The Trustee Election for Zone 2 was held on May 19, 2009. There were a total of two hundred forty-seven (247) votes cast of which:

One hundred thirty-one (131) were cast in favor of Steve Guthrie;
Eighty-eight (88) were cast in favor of Jim Laski;
Twenty-seven (27) were cast in favor of Kim Nilsen; and
One (1) ballot was invalidated or "spoiled."

The Trustee Election for Zone 4 was held on May 19, 2009. There were a total of four hundred seventy (470) votes cast of which:

Two hundred fifty-six (256) were cast in favor of Paul Bates;
Two hundred fourteen (214) were cast in favor of Alex Sundali; and
Zero (0) ballots were invalidated or “spoiled.”

[Please click here to view the Returns of School Trustee Election for Zone 2 and Zone 4.](#)

Action was taken to accept the Canvass of the Annual Election for Zone 2, naming Steve Guthrie as the newly elected Board Member for Zone 2 for a three-year term of office to commence at the Annual meeting on July 14, 2009.

Action was then taken to accept the Canvass of the Annual Election for Zone 4, naming Paul Bates as the newly elected Board Member for Zone 4 for a three-year term of office to commence at the Annual meeting on July 14, 2009.

XII. Information Agenda

- a. Strategic Plan Goal # 1 Presentation – Each student demonstrates BCSD 21st Century Student Performance Indicators to ensure preparedness for college, career, and citizenship. – Tom Bailey, Hailey Elementary School Principal**

Tom Bailey presented Strategic Goal Plan #1 for his committee.

[Please click here to view the Strategic Plan Goal #1 presentation.](#)

Chairman Sundali stated, “One of the things that we have been criticized on by the public, certainly during my re-election, was parent involvement and trying to get parents involved in the committees; and you don’t have a parent on your committee.”

Mr. Bailey responded that the word was put out through the Strategic Planning Committee, and the PTAs.

Kate Heinecke, School District Communications Coordinator, addressed the issue, “In seeking members for each of these Strategic Goal planning committees, we did advertise through the District website and through the newspaper; and I don’t believe we had to turn anyone away.”

Chairman Sundali then stated, “I heard that after the Strategic Plan was in place, we were hoping to get more parent involvement but in fact, some people stepped away. I wanted to clarify this because it was a concern that I saw with this committee and I got hit pretty hard for it during my election.”

Mr. Bailey responded, “I understand and I concur with you. All we can do is ask. We certainly would have loved more parent involvement but this is what we got.”

Following Mr. Bailey's presentation, Board Member Mari Beth Matthews commented that what she thinks is missing in the presentation is details. "It needs to be more-drilled-down; how is it going to work and how are we going to implement it versus just saying that we're going to go out and do professional development? That is such a big umbrella that we put so much under already. We need concrete skills that the teachers can use next year."

The Board Members agreed that going forward, the Goal #1 Committee needs to put together far more details before implementation as it is too broad and vague. Maybe some curriculum people and parents could sit in on the committee. Budget numbers are also lacking in the presentation.

Board Member Dan Parke stated that the presentation has great guidelines but goals have to be specific and measureable.

Chairman Sundali stated that this Goal is clearly not done and recommended that the Board review it again in October or November.

b. Report of survey results from staff and public determining support for increasing teachers' collaborative teaching time without students – Tom Bailey, Hailey Elementary School Principal and Jerry Hutchins, Director of Technology, Testing and Database Management

Tom Bailey and Jerry Hutchins coordinated a survey of parents and teachers regarding Teacher Collaboration Days, which is part of Strategic Plan Goal #1. Jerry Hutchins presented the results of the survey to the Board. Of the 457 parents that responded; 77 percent support the teacher collaboration time. Of approximately 280 teachers, 147 responded to the survey, which is a concern.

[Please click here to view the Teacher Collaboration Days Survey Results.](#)

c. Strategic Plan Goal #2 Presentation – Every student receives a rigorous curriculum that prepares them for college and is supported by challenging, inspiring, and relevant instruction. - Matt Murray, Director of Curriculum/Dual Language Learners, Angie Martinez, Bellevue Elementary School Principal, Fritz Peters, Wood River Middle School Principal

[Please click here to view the Strategic Plan Goal #2 PowerPoint presentation.](#)

The Goal #2 Financial Projections have been updated since the Strategic Plan Goal #2: Rigorous Curriculum was presented at the June 9th Regular Board meeting.

[Please click here to view Goal #2 Rigorous Curriculum: Financials.](#)

d. Year-End Emergency Drill Report – Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk

Principals and staff in all buildings conducted emergency drills on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. Surprise Code Red Drills were also added to the mix and were administered professionally. Everyone agreed that much learning took place from facing problems encountered in the drills. Special thanks should be given to Katie Palmer for her ever diligent work and collaboration with law enforcement agencies to keep our students and staff safe. Our School District was severely tested in April. Through practicing these drills, our students and staff were prepared.

[Please click here to view the Year End Emergency Drill Report.](#)

XIII. Curriculum Report – Matt Murray, Director of Curriculum/Dual Language Learners – Information/Action

a. High School Physical Education Curriculum

A High School Physical Education Curriculum Committee is forming to discuss the High School Physical Education course requirements in response to a Public Comment in last month's Regular May Board meeting. The Committee will include staff, parents, students and community members. The Committee's goal will be to make a recommendation to the Board regarding the High School Physical Education requirements by November, 2009.

b. Full Day Kindergarten

Matt Murray addressed the All Day Kindergarten Proposal for the 2009-2010 school year. Benefits of All Day Kindergarten include:

- Higher academic performance
- More time for self-directed activities
- More time for interaction with peers
- Full implementation of language arts and math problems
- Long term societal improvement

All Day Kindergarten can be implemented with the addition of one full time teacher. There will be a one-time cost for materials, furniture and in some cases, curriculum. A hardcopy letter was sent to every kindergarten parent in the District asking them to make public comment. Three phone calls were made to the District, all positive. One hardcopy letter was received at tonight's meeting during Public Comments.

[Please click here to view the All Day Kindergarten Proposal implementation chart.](#)

Action was taken to approve All Day Kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year.

Blake Walsh, Director of Student Services, is retiring from the District on July 31, 2009. He addressed the Board, "I wanted to have an opportunity to thank this Board for your support of Special Education over the past eleven years and for your support of me personally. You have enabled me to develop programs that I could only dream of in other districts. You truly care about what's best for kids. Thank you."

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

The Regular June meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 11:20 p.m.