



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2010 - 6:30 P.M.
DISTRICT OFFICE

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Julie Dahlgren called the Regular August meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Present were Board Members Dan Parke, Steve Guthrie and Paul Bates. Also in attendance were Dr. Lonnie Barber, Superintendent of Schools, John Blackman, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, and Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk.

Chairman Dahlgren stated that a quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Any Additions, Corrections, Modifications or Substitutions to the Current Agenda

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to approve the Revised Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Bates and passed unanimously.

IV. Accolade

a. Samantha Engel – Summer Grounds Crew

From Howard Royal, Director of Buildings and Grounds:

Dale Martin, our summer Grounds Crew Supervisor, sent me a nice letter to recognizing the outstanding work ethic and leadership abilities of one of our students employed by the District this summer. Sam Engel is spending her second summer with us and has set the benchmark for others that follow. I have to concur with Dale that we have never had a student that has taken the ownership, or had the natural leadership characteristics that Sam has displayed this year. Sam is a great employee, and has gone well beyond our expectations. Thanks.

From Dale Martin, Summer Grounds Supervisor:

Sam Engel has been employed by the Blaine County School District the past two summers working for the summer ground crew. This summer she has become the crew foreman. Sam is the hardest working, most dedicated grounds employee we have employed during the nine years I have supervised the program. She is always on time, never misses work, and is constantly working to make sure the areas we maintain look their best. Sam does a very good job of motivating those on her crew making sure they maintain the standard required by the District. Without Sam's efforts I do not think the grounds would look as good as they do.

One more thing . . .

The following is taken from the People and Places section of the August 3, 2010 edition of the Mountain Express:

Samantha Engel, a sophomore from Hailey and a 2009 Wood River High School graduate, was among 1,120 students named to the Gonzaga University President's List for the 2010 spring semester. Those chosen for the distinction must earn a 3.7 to 4.0 grade point average.

V. Consent Agenda

a. Consideration of Minutes

Annual and Regular Meeting – July 13, 2010
Special Meeting/Trustee Workshop – July 20, 2010

b. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report – Payment of Bills

[Please click here to view the July 2010 financial reports.](#)

c. Approval of Personnel – Exiting and Entering

Certified Staff – Recommending for Hire

Sara Loomis – 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher – Wood River High School
(Category 1 Contract)

Rebecca Martin – 1.0 FTE Music/Orchestra Teacher – Wood River Middle
School (Category 1 Contract)

Administrative Staff – Recommending for Hire

Patricia McLean – Director of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning – District
Office (Approved at Special Meeting 7/20/10)

Board Member Paul Bates made a motion to approve items “a” through “c” of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

VI. Public Comments

a. Laurie Kaufman – Board Clerk, Blaine County School District

My name is Laurie Kaufman; I am the Clerk of the Board of Blaine County School District.

I would like to briefly address comments made by Trustee Guthrie and Mr. Lyman Drake during the July Regular Board meeting regarding posting notices and agendas prior to public meetings of the Blaine County School District Board of Trustees.

Dr. Barber and I agree, as Mr. Drake stated, that the School District “should be using every practical means at their disposal to raise the visibility of what the District and the Board does.”

In the past, the Board has approved four public places for the posting of notices and agendas, three more than required by Idaho Code. In preparation for tonight’s Regular Board meeting, I have posted and/or sent notices and agendas to the following public entities and will continue to do so for all future public meetings of the Board:

- *The District Office (required by Idaho Code)*
- *The Bellevue Post Office*
- *The Hailey Post Office*
- *The Ketchum Post Office*
- *The Mountain Express*
- *The Weekly Paper*
- *The Community Campus*
- *Wood River Middle School*
- *Sue Bailey at KECH Radio*

During the school year I plan to notify the Principals of all eight District Schools prior to each public Board meeting with the request that they post the notice and agenda on their announcement bulletin boards.

These public entities, plus the District website, are 17 more posting places than required by Idaho Code, which leads me to this:

Last week, while checking off the new posting places for tonight’s meeting, it completely slipped my mind to send the August Regular meeting agenda to the most obvious place, the District website. I just plain forgot. The realization didn’t hit me until I visited the website yesterday while searching for an unrelated item. The correction was made.

In lieu of tonight's Information/Action agenda items, I thought it prudent to express my regret about this oversight publically now instead of reading about it in a future newspaper headline.

Thanks very much for your time.

b. Leslie Dilley

I'm Leslie Dilley and I just noticed long distance that you guys had a resignation on the Board, so I would like a public clarification of the laws and how the process for this election of the new Board Member is going to proceed. I just want to know the particulars, if there's a vote, who is voting, if there is a tie; I'd like clarification on how that is going to work. If someone could, at some point, let the public know that process and how it applies to the law, I'd greatly appreciate it.

I also would like to ask, at one of your future meetings, to hear about our graduation rate at the high school and how it has changed in the last four or five years. Maybe you could have a report on that to hear how we do next to the rest of the state and the nation. I think it's of interest of everyone in the public. Thanks.

VII. Curriculum Report - Information

a. Introduction of Patricia McLean, Director of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning – Dr. Lonnie Barber, Superintendent

From Patty McLean, Blaine County School District's Director of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning:

I am pleased to be here in Blaine County Schools as your new Director of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning. I want to thank the Board for the approval of my candidacy for this role and the confidence this demonstrates to me. Particular thanks to Mr. Guthrie and Ms. Dahlgren for serving on the committee. I feel that all members of the hiring team are the people I can look to for support during a transition to a new district.

Some background:

- Former teacher
- Founder of an international school
- Professional Development Coach
- Elementary School Principal
- Consultant/Advisor to school principals opening new schools in the Middle East
- Received undergraduate and Masters degrees from University of Washington, Seattle
- Lived and traveled in Southeast Asia, Europe, Middle East
- Originally from Montana and spent many years coming to the Wood River Valley for summers and ski holidays

- Enjoy my work; love working with ideas that lead students to increased achievement.

I want you to know that I feel very welcome, and many people have been generous with their time so that I can make the most of the beginning of the school year. Thanks to Dr. Barber and Mr. Blackman, I have an understanding of my direct responsibilities and the priorities for this year, as well as possible direction for work on the horizon.

Curriculum – Worked as a Foreign Language Curriculum Specialist, and created frameworks and original curriculum for a 6-12 school. Integrated and interdisciplinary experience that aligned with PBL planned for Blaine Schools. Investigated Math curricula and programs in preparation for closer work next year (Developing Mathematical Thinking).

LEP Program – Excited, as I am a former language teacher myself, and I worked closely with teachers and administrators in newcomer centers.

Gifted and Talented Education – GATE – Worked with parents of exceptionally gifted, read books on the subject, researched topic of identification for schools in the Middle East – not just high achieving.

Supervise Dual Immersion Coordinator and Program – Background in immersion language programs and world language programs in general.

Supervise IB Coordinator and Program – MYP

Working with the entire District team on 21st Century Learning, Team 21, 10 Goals of the Strategic Plan, to accomplish work in the interest of students.

VIII. Construction Report – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer – Information

a. Bellevue Elementary School Construction Update

Mike updated the Board on the Bellevue Elementary School construction progress. The ceiling grid in the east-west hallway will start going in next week; the north-south hallway will go in the following week. The goal is to have all the classrooms cleaned and ready to go when the staff comes in on August 23rd.

[Please click here to view Bellevue construction photos.](#)

IX. Board Chair Report – Information

a. Board Appointee Update – Julie Dahlgren

As of today there are eight more days to advertise for the Zone 3 Trustee position. We have three applicants so far. The Board will get together after the August 18th deadline to

set a date for interviewing, which will take place in a public meeting when it is convenient for all applicants.

X. Information Agenda

a. A Brief Comment on District Performance and AYP – Dr. Lonnie Barber, Superintendent

My comment this evening briefly responds to a newspaper article published August 6, 2010 and speaks to our District's progress toward State goals in academic areas as reported by the Idaho Standards Achievement Test commonly referred to as ISAT.

Each year, all school districts are required to reach goals in Reading, Math, and Language Arts. Districts must meet the proficiency targets in 41 different areas. Based on the 2010 spring ISAT scores, Blaine County School District made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 39 out of the 41 required target areas.

Although Blaine County School District met all the State required targets the previous school year, the District must meet the bench marks established by the State Department of Education in all 41 areas each year. This year Blaine County School District did not meet the State prescribed academic targets in Reading and Math for our students with disabilities sub group, despite the fact that our test scores lead the state in both of these areas. In fact, Blaine County School District is ranked number one in Reading for students with disabilities, and number two in Math. Blaine County School District outperformed the State of Idaho averages in both of these areas by 16 – 19%. The full report is available from the Office of the Board of Education at the following website: <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/saa/ayp/AYP-2007-008%20District&SchoolReport.xls>

This report provides information on how Blaine County School District compares with all other districts in the State.

Still, we do not take missing any goal lightly. Our staff and administration are dedicated to the continuous improvement of our District and employing the best strategies and practices in order to help each and every student reach their potential. To that end, we have sharpened the focus of all School District Staff regarding 21st Century Learning, curricular assessments, intervention, and follow-up practices.

b. Annual Determination of Special Education Compliance and The Consolidated Plan/Title I Budget – Debi Gutknecht, Student Services Director

Please click here to view Debi Gutknecht's presentation on The Consolidated Plan and Title I Budget.

c. Summer School Update – Ron Martinez, 2010 Summer School Administrator and Carla Scanlon, Summer School Reading Specialist

Please click here to view the Summer School presentation outline.

d. All Day Kindergarten Update – Angie Martinez, Bellevue Elementary School Principal

The School District implemented All Day Kindergarten at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Angie Martinez presented a follow-up report to the Board regarding All Day Kindergarten's first successful year.

[Please click here to view the All Day Kindergarten presentation.](#)

XI. Information/Action Agenda

a. Wood River High School Cheerleaders Student Travel – Amanda Ornelas and Jane Lopez, WRHS Coaches

The Wood River High School Cheerleaders have been invited to perform at the 2011 NFL Pro Bowl (January 27–31, 2011) and requested the Board's permission to attend. Since this trip has not been taken in the past, action was necessary to approve the trip as presented.

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to grant permission to the Wood River High School Cheerleaders to attend the NFL Pro Bowl in January 2011. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

b. Variable Schedule Implementation at Wood River High School for the 2011-2012 School Year – John Blackman, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

A Special meeting of the Board/Trustee Workshop was held July 20, 2010 to discuss the proposed implementation of a Variable Schedule for the 2011-2012 school year at Wood River High School.

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to move forward with the plan to implement the Variable Schedule at Wood River High School at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. The motion was seconded by Paul Bates and passed unanimously.

c. Design of Bellevue Elementary School Addition – Buffalo Rixon and Nick Latham of Ruscitto/Latham/Blanton, Preston Ziegler and Greg Strong of Sawtooth Construction

[Please click here to view the design presentation for Bellevue Elementary School.](#)

Board Member Paul Bates made a motion to approve the Bellevue Elementary School schematic design process. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

d. Board Discussion: Town Hall Meetings

Board Member Steve Guthrie led a discussion regarding the possibility of town hall meetings during the 2010-2011 school year.

As previously stated by Trustee Guthrie:

- The Regular monthly Board meetings are intended for District business, curriculum, policy and Board deliberation, and are not necessarily structured for public comment.
- Town hall meetings would give the Blaine County School District Board of Trustees and Administration an opportunity to reach out and listen to our constituents in an environment structured for this specific purpose.
- Two town hall meetings were previously proposed, one in the fall and one in the spring. These dates were not pre-decisional but provided as a baseline for discussion.
- Our community has played an enormous role and has always supported the education and wellbeing of our local youth. Our Board positions and the work that we do are always done in the best interest of children. The proposed town hall meetings would possibly preserve and enhance community trust ensuring future support of our children's education.

Trustee Guthrie stated that he would like to propose a pilot program to give the town hall meeting environment a chance with a meeting in October and another possibly in the spring. The Board and Administration would then reevaluate.

The Board discussed possible subject matter, structure and facilitation of future town hall meetings.

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to pilot two town hall meetings during the 2010-2011 school year. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

e. Board Discussion: Public Places for Posting of Public Notices

After listening to public comments made in the Regular July Board meeting regarding the posting of public meeting notices, Board Clerk Laurie Kaufman expanded the posting of notices for the August Regular meeting to include the public entities listed in her public comment at the beginning of tonight's meeting.

Board Member Paul Bates made a motion to accept the expanded posting of public notices in public places. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

f. Board Discussion: Places of Regular Meetings

Chairman Dahlgren reminded the Board that this topic was discussed at the October 2009 Regular Board meeting and is archived in the Minutes. During that conversation there was a review of past attempts to hold Regular Board meetings in venues other than the District Office Board Room. The Administration weighed in on the discussion and in summary, changing venues was not successful.

Board Member Steve Guthrie stated that at the time of that discussion, he was thinking more on the order of roaming meetings at different schools. At this point, he said, he thinks we have outgrown the District Office Board Room as a meeting venue. He would like to look at another viable option; maybe in one of the other District facilities.

Board Member Paul Bates suggested that the Board continue to explore other options for meetings since there is not one optimal venue available at this time.

The Board also discussed the possibility of expanding and/or redesigning the current Board Room.

Chairman Dahlgren stated that everything goes back to student achievement. How does changing the venue really help? I think that it's going to detract from the ability of all the people in this office. This is the engine, the heart; this is where all the information is kept. I just think taking the Board meeting from this building would be a mistake. I don't think it is good public policy to start switching Board meeting venues; we should be here.

Board Member Dan Parke agreed that if the Board should continue to meet in the Board Room where it's more convenient and the Board has access to everything the District has to offer.

Dr. Barber offered to get information regarding reconfiguring and/or expanding the Board Room and will bring options back to the Board.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item.

XII. Action Agenda

a. Review and Approval of Tax Levy Certification – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

The Tax Levy Certificate is an annual certificate that is filed with the County to show levies the School District will be asking for from property taxpayers for the coming fiscal year.

[Please click here to view the 2010 Tax Levy Certificate.](#)

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to approve the 2010 Tax Levy Certificate. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

b. Permission to Award Bid for Sale of School Busses – Rex Squires, Director of Transportation

The Bid Opening for the sale of school busses was held August 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

[Please click here to view the bid summary and award recommendation.](#)

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to award the bid to Western Mountain Bus for the sale of bus #14 in the amount of \$4,500.00, bus #20 in the amount of \$4,500.00, and bus #30 in the amount of \$4,500.00. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

c. Permission to Award Bid for the Purchase of Automotive Fuel for the 2010-2011 School Year – Rex Squires, Director of Transportation

The Bid Opening for the purchase of automotive fuel for the 2010-2011 school year was held August 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

[Please click here to view the bid summary and award recommendation.](#)

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to award the bid for all fuels in Hailey to United Oil, and to award the fuel bid for gas and diesel in Carey to Adamson's for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Bus Routes, Non-Transportation Zones, Authorized Backing Areas, and Safety Bussing – Rex Squires, Director of Transportation

[Please click here to view memos from Rex Squires regarding Bus Routes, Non-Transportation Zones, Authorized Backing Areas and Safety Bussing.](#)

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to approve Bus Routes, Non-Transportation Zones, Authorized Backing Areas and Safety Bussing for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion was seconded by Paul Bates and passed unanimously.

e. Permission to Award Bid for the Purchase of Propane for Carey School for the 2010-2011 School Year – Howard Royal, Director of Buildings and Grounds

The Bid Opening for the purchase of propane for Carey School for the 2010-2011 school year was held at the District Office August 3, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

[Please click here to view the bid summary and award recommendation.](#)

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to award the bid for the purchase of propane for Carey School for the 2010-2011 school year to Valley Co-Ops. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

XIII. Public Comments Regarding Tonight's Regular Agenda

a. Penfield Stroh

My name is Penfield Stroh and I live across the street. I just want to thank the Board for passing the Flex Variable Schedule. I am very excited that as my son becomes a sophomore, that the schedule will be working for him. I just glanced at his new schedule and he won't be able to take Math throughout next year so he will have to take it in the fall and in the spring. I think it's really exciting that he will have continuity of service starting as a sophomore in his core subjects that are so important. Thank you very much.

b. Paul Bates, Trustee

Regarding Ron Martinez' Summer School presentation, I have a teacher at Hemingway who is teaching under him. She has come home three or four times saying that she has found a new strategy for dealing with these kids. She's dealing with a small group of kids who are challenged and she has just had an absolute fabulous experience with your support and she's absolutely loved it.

Also, regarding All Day Kindergarten, I talked to the kindergarten teachers at Hemingway on the last day of the year and they were so giddy-happy to have full day kindergarten, they were beside themselves. I told them they have to tell the Board! It was a great response.

There being no further business to discuss, Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to adjourn the Regular August meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

The Regular August meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 10:05 p.m.