



MINUTES
ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010 - 6:30 P.M.
DISTRICT OFFICE

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to convene to Closed Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(a) for the discussion of personnel and pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(c) or the discussion of property. The motion was seconded by Mari Beth Matthews and passed unanimously.

I. Closed Executive Session

- a. Pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent where the respective qualities of the individuals will be evaluated and discussed in order to fill a particular vacancy or need at the District.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(a).

- b. Pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(c) to conduct deliberations concerning the District's acquiring an interest in real property which is not owned by another public agency.**

The Board discussed a property matter pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(c).

There being no further business to discuss in Closed Executive Session, Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to convene to Regular Open Session. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

II. Convene to Open Session

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to authorize the purchase of two lots located in Waterford Subdivision, Carey, Idaho at \$39,500.00 per lot. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

III. Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Julie Dahlgren called the Annual Budget Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Present were Board Members Dan Parke, Mari Beth Matthews, and via telephone, Steve Guthrie. Also in attendance were Dr. Lonnie Barber, Superintendent of Schools, Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, and Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk.

Chairman Dahlgren stated that a quorum was present.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Discussion and Public Comments on 2010-2011 School District Budget – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer, stated that, as discussed in the School District 2010-2011 Budget Workshop held June 1, 2010, the budget is increasing \$18-million from last year. All of that money is from the Plant Facilities Levy that was passed. The combination of expenditures from the future geothermal work, Bellevue and Elementary School upgrades, a new maintenance facility, and a new cafeteria at Bellevue Elementary is about \$22-million and will affect this year's budget.

The General Fund budget is actually decreasing by \$1.8-million as compared to last year. This is because the General Fund balance is actually going down. We have been carrying enough money year to year to try and keep that supplemental override as far away as possible. This is another year that we are going to decrease another \$2-million in our General Fund Balance, next year we decrease it by another \$2-million, and eventually we will be in the situation where we will have to ask the taxpayers for additional money to run the School District; or we will start looking at ways we can cut back. In the past several months, the District Administrators have met in committee to talk about all the District programs and have been analyzing their effectiveness. Is it worth the money that we're spending on these programs? We are looking at all the situations we have in the District to look at ways we can make ourselves better.

Mike stated that he met individually with each of the Board Members to answer any of their questions about the budget, even if they were not in attendance at the Budget Workshop.

Chairman Dahlgren asked for questions or public comments regarding the 2010-2011 School District Budget.

Public Comment: Tommy Richmond

My name is Tommy Richmond. I was born and raised in the Wood River Valley and am a concerned taxpayer. I see I am the only person to show up and speak with regard to budget concerns. If anyone is interested and goes to the Mountain Express, in relation to the article last Friday, there are 95 posts on there with a lot of concerns. Evidently those people don't have the courage to come to the meeting and speak to their Board.

My concern lies with the relationship with the McKinstry Corporation. I have spoken at some of the special meetings since December 12th; I have not spoken at an actual public Board meeting. I think things are out of whack with the School board's relationship with McKinstry. Two years ago they did a RFP from several large corporations similar to McKinstry. In that RFP only one company responded; McKinstry itself. Since then, this is where the shoe go put on the wrong foot, McKinstry has been telling the School District what they need to do with these energy audits and the upgrades and so on. Thus, last summer, the start of the Plant Facilities Levy, which a lot of that was instrumental in partially renewing the old expiring ten-year levy and starting a new levy to take this \$60-million levy through all these geothermal upgrades. There was a breakdown given to all the local general contractors at the December 13th meeting. My opinion of what I see going on is the McKinstry Corporation tells Blaine School District (Mr. Chatterton) what we need to do. Mr. Chatterton takes that information and presents it to you guys (Board) and tells you what to do. You're not construction experts; you're not heating or design-build experts. You have to rely on the information presented to you, and quite frankly, I'm not sure that anybody, even the facilities person, is qualified to handle that magnitude of projects. \$60-million in construction projects is huge projects. To run out and do all these upgrades to the schools, and don't get me wrong, I think they may need upgrades, but I don't think we should go do it to all four of the older elementary schools not knowing if the return on investment truly is there. If it's not there and we've put all this money into Bellevue, Carey, Hailey and Hemingway, and we don't get what they're promising, who is held accountable? Is it you guys, is it them? Are they going to come back and say, hey, we screwed up, it's only 50 percent return on investment instead of the 90's that they're promising. I think I'm too little, too late. I just hope that the Board hasn't given the key or the pen to the checkbook to McKinstry. I really think they are in control of the next ten years of this levy. Thank you.

[Please click here to view the 2010-2011 School District Budget.](#)

There were no further questions or comments regarding the proposed 2010-2011 School District Budget.

VI. Approval of School District Budget

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 School District Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment of Annual Budget Hearing

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to adjourn the Annual Budget Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mari Beth Matthews and passed unanimously.

REGULAR JUNE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

Chairman Dahlgren stated that tonight's Regular Agenda is revised and there is an additional revision: Item "j" of the Action Agenda.

j. The Hiring of a Part-time Dual Immersion Coordinator

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to accept the revised agenda. The motion was seconded by Mari Beth Matthews and passed unanimously.

IX. Accolades

a. Brad Henson – Principal, Woodside Elementary School

Dear Dr. Barber.

I am writing after so many years of having students in your district to tell you that Brad Henson has been doing a fantastic job as Principal of Woodside Elementary. I have been at Woodside from the first year it opened and feel Mr. Henson should be commended for stepping in and stepping up all the great programs at Woodside. He is especially attentive to the paramount Dual Immersion program, and as we all know, if administrators are behind a program it will excel for sure. Personally I feel that Mr. Henson has helped out with students in a way that shows compassion and understanding.

Please take time to give this amazing Principal the accolade he deserves.

*Thanks so much,
Sheri Thomas*

b. Max Stimac, Choir/Strings Teacher and Jim Watkinson, Music Accompanist

Hi again, Max!!!

Just wanted to thank you, Jim Watkinson, your endlessly energetic, fearless and verrrry talented music students, and everyone else who had ANYTHING to do with making that "Nights at the Liberty" concert last night in Hailey soooo entertaining and inspiring!!!!!!!!!!

I managed to get seven of my music-loving friends to the Liberty last night -- and ALL of us came out of there some two hours later smiling ear-to-ear, humming and otherwise feeling VERY, VERY privileged and fortunate that we DID see that incredible concert you organized!!!!!!!!!!

I can totally see why you put in the often very long hours you do as a teacher, Max; your students are really amazing!!!!!!!!!!

Hope you have a great weekend... :)

John Pluntze

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X. Guest Presentations

a. Silver Creek High School Student Leadership Report

Please click here to view the Silver Creek High School Student Leadership Report presentation.

b. CFES College Trip - 2010 – Carla Stewart-Donaldson, Wood River High School College and Career Counselor

Please click here to view the College for Every Student Trip presentation.

XI. Consent Agenda

a. Consideration of Minutes

Regular Meeting of May 11, 2010

Special Meeting of May 17, 2010

Special Meeting of June 1, 2010

b. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report – Payment of Bills

Please click here to view the May 2010 Financial Reports.

- c. **Any positions still open and hired subsequent to July 1st shall be deemed “Emergency Hires.”**
- d. **Approval of Wood River High School Principal**
- e. **Approval of Counselor Internship for David Horras under the Direction of Kimberly Hochendoner, Wood River High School**
- f. **Approval of Request for Up to Twelve-Week Family Leave**
Lucia Loera – Woodside Elementary School ESL Paraprofessional

g. Approval of Personnel – Exiting and Entering

Classified Staff - Exiting

Jessica Fletes – Special Education Paraprofessional, Hemingway Elementary School

Mabel Brady Webb – Special Education Paraprofessional, Woodside Elementary School

Classified Staff – Recommending for Hire

None.

Certified Staff – Exiting

Lana Taylor* – 1.0 FTE Social Worker, Hailey Elementary School

Lois Standley* – 1.0 FTE 1st Grade Teacher, Bellevue Elementary School

Matthew Murray – All Contracts, District Office

*Retiring

Certified Staff – Recommending for Hire

Cornelia Lewis – 1.0 FTE Speech Language Pathologist, Bellevue Elementary School and Carey School

Kerstin Swenson – 0.5 FTE Preschool Teacher, Hemingway Elementary School

Susan Worst – 1.0 FTE Speech/Debate and English Teacher, Wood River High School

Jan Morey – 0.5 FTE Preschool Teacher, Carey School

Karyn Slotten – 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Dual Immersion Teacher, Bellevue Elementary School

Jana Fitzpatrick – 1.0 FTE Reading Teacher, Hemingway Elementary School

Wendy Baumgardner-Jones – 1.0 FTE Math Teacher, Wood River High School

Jodi Barsch – 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher, Hailey Elementary School

Administrative Staff – Recommending for Hire

Peter Jurovich – Principal, Wood River High School

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to approve items “a” through “g” of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

XII. Public Comments

a. Jamie Harding – Hemingway Elementary School Teacher

Good evening. I'm here representing the Dual Immersion teachers from Hemingway Elementary School and some of the other Dual Immersion teachers, as well. We are here to express, not only our gratitude for the leadership Matt Murray has offered to the Dual Immersion program, but also our concern that the District Office now lacks experience and leadership to guide the Dual Immersion program into the future.

With Matt's guidance, the Dual Immersion program had the leadership it needed to develop some key components. He put into place the Spanish reading fluency measure to accompany our English fluency measure and to track student's progress in Spanish reading skills. He proactively engaged the dual immersion committee in planning for the program's entry into the high school. At the same time, a detailed k-12 plan was developed for the first time. This included a placement consideration criteria to help teachers and families make the best decisions regarding placement in the program. This past year, Matt and the Dual Immersion Committee developed the DI handbook, and made it available on the District website as a resource for everyone interested in Blaine County's Dual Immersion program. We would like to express our appreciation for Matt's hard work and dedication in accomplishing so much for the Dual Immersion program and in such a short time.

We feel strongly that with Matt's departure, we, not only as a Dual Immersion program but as an entire district that is affected by dual immersion decisions, are left without the expertise and leadership we need at the district level. It is imperative the District make their best effort to replace Mr. Murray with a person who is knowledgeable about dual immersion and bilingual education and shares our goals and passion for a program that offers such educational opportunity and provides our students with the skills they need for the 21st century. In an effort to find the best possible person to lead dual immersion into the future, it is critical that Dual Immersion teachers and parents from all levels are represented on the hiring committee.

Teachers and families involved with Dual Immersion have made a big commitment to Blaine County's Dual Immersion program. It's been recognized by parents, teachers and past and current school board members as something to be proud of. We'd like to see the District acknowledge and honor this pride and commitment in our future. Thank you.

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

a. LEP Progress Report

Last fall Matt Murray shared some information with the Board regarding the LEP Program, the direction it was going and the plans the committee had to track students who had either just barely made proficiency on the ISAT or who were below proficiency on the ISAT and were at a point where the committee thought they could attain proficiency. These students were tracked through the course of the year using a fluency measure that is in place in the District for all kids.

[Please click here to view the LEP Progress Update.](#)

XIV. Chairman's Board Report – Julie Dahlgren

a. Board of Trustees Self-Assessment Summary

We, the Blaine County School District School Board, take our jobs seriously and sincerely want to be the best we can be. We demand it of ourselves and the community demands it of us.

In planning for continual improvement we annually assess where we are so we can continue to grow.

Nine areas were analyzed:

- Board Member Team
- Board/Superintendent Relations
- Board/Staff Relations
- Board/Community Relations
- Member Orientations and Continuing Development
- Planning
- Policy
- Budget/Finance
- Instructional Programs

This detailed assessment tally is available from Laurie for anyone desiring to read it and it is now projected behind me. Many areas range across the board from Very Good to Needs Improving so we have clearly established our individuality in how we view

ourselves. Also we are a diverse board in careers and board experience. I think a well-rounded board is an asset. The assessment reveals we have work to do on improving community and superintendent relationships. The Board/Staff relationship seems to be a strength, as well as understanding the instructional programs, budget, and finance.

Know we're working, like all our professionals at Blaine County School District, on being better board members.

XV. Information

a. Progress Report on the Plant Facilities Levy Projects – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

[Please click here to view Mike Chatterton's Progress Report.](#)

XVI. Action Agenda

a. Mileposts Licensing Agreement – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

The Mileposts Program is a software program that the School District has been working on for four years. We developed a piece of software, and knowing that at some point in time, it's a piece of software that the School District doesn't want to be involved in. That's not to say that we're looking to give it away, because we're definitely not. We feel that the Mileposts Program has some marketability out there. We get calls every week about Mileposts from all across the country. We have six school districts in the State of Idaho that are currently using it and six more school districts that are going online with it July 1, 2010. We got to the point a year ago when we knew, as a school district, that this software development program was way too much for us to handle. If we were going to develop this as a school district, we would have to hire a lot more programmers than we have on staff right now, and to try to improve the program to make it a marketable commodity that many school districts would love to have for their own.

We approached Dr. Jim Lewis about a year and a half ago about the possibility of him developing the software program for us. We have been working on this Mileposts contract and the software licensing agreement with this new entity. One of the things that we wanted to do as a district is to make sure the District will have a revenue stream from proceeds of the sale of the software company as long as the software company was in existence. We also wanted to be sure that all of the students in Idaho were treated fairly. Currently the pricing structure is \$5 per student for all of the Idaho Students. We have six districts in the state that are currently involved in it and it generates roughly \$35,000 a year in income stream; next year it will probably double that. We think it will continue to grow; there are a lot of school districts in the state of California that are just dying to see this program.

The development agreement allows Jim Lewis' educational entity group to move the software development package forward and hire the needed programmers to develop the software where it needs to go to make it a functional and very salable commodity in the open market. The agreement between the School District and this new educational entity will give the School District 50 cents for every license agreement/student that goes forward and purchases this software from the entity. Also, if the company ever decides to go public and issue stock offerings, the Blaine County School District will receive 15 percent of the total outstanding shares of the company that's initiated. The School District can hold on to those shares, sell the shares; they can do whatever they want to with those shares.

Our use of the Mileposts Program as a school district is completely free forever. We developed and wrote the software and part of the licensing agreement says that the Blaine County School District has the ability to use the software for all time at no cost. There is also a clause in the agreement that states if the company ever becomes successful and they start raising the price on the per seat charge, after a certain point (\$10 a share) instead of a flat per seat charge, it will go up to a percentage.

I think it's a very fair compromise for the School District, it gets us out of the software development business in September 2011, and it will be turned over to the experts that will have the chance to really develop, market, and make it very successful.

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to approve the Mileposts Licensing Agreement. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

b. Approval of New and Revised School District Policies

Katie Palmer, Director of Human Resources, presented the policy committee's new and recommended policy revisions at last month's Regular Board meeting for the Board's review.

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to approve the New and Revised School District Policies. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Jones, Yost, Hatt, Erickson P.A. to Conduct Annual School District Audit – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

This is an annual housekeeping item. Morgan Hatt comes in each year and spends ten days in the District Office and the schools going through all accounting records. He looks for any improprieties, making sure we proper documentation, etc. to make the sure the School District is held accountable financially.

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to approve Jones, Yost, Hatt, Erickson P.A. to conduct the annual School District audit. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

d. Accept Premier Insurance Company's Proposal for Property and Liability Coverage – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

We had a Request for Proposals for insurance companies. During the process we wanted to give preference to our existing insurance company and also to local insurance companies in the Valley. Everything was ranked on a point scale and so additional points were given if the company was our existing company or a local company. Five companies submitted proposals. Continental Western from Premier Insurance was the winner in terms of coverage and premiums. Last year the District spent \$247,000 on property, liability and auto insurance. The proposal submitted by Continental Western (Premier) is for \$147,859; it is almost \$100,000 less than we are currently paying. Continental Western's ranking on the point scale was also the highest; they weren't even close to our existing company or the other proposals submitted. Not only do we have better coverage than we had last year; it is also much cheaper. I recommend that we change to Continental Western through Premier Insurance.

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to accept Continental Western Premier Insurance Company's proposal for property and liability insurance. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

e. Approve Resolution Authorizing Advertisement for the negotiated Private Sale of the Principal Amount of \$5,000,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2010A (Taxable QSCB-direct Pay Issuer Subsidy) of School District No. 61, Blaine County, State of Idaho, and Authorizing Related Actions and Matters. – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

This is regarding the sale of the \$5-million that we will be borrowing from the Federal Government through the Qualified School Construction Bond Program, built after the Build America Bonds that were sold years and years ago. This will allow the School District to borrow the \$5-million at zero percent interest to the District. The program is actually an interest paying program where the Federal Government pays the interest on behalf of the School District. It's the first allocation that the State of Idaho is letting out. There will be additional allocations. With this \$5-million draw-down from the State of Idaho, there will be \$12-million left for these types of debt borrowing instruments that have to be spent by the end of this calendar year, or it goes back to the Federal Government to get reauthorized. They have definitely issued this to several other school districts this year. We have a chance for another allocation in the next few months, as well as another allocation next year for additional funds at zero percent interest. Realistically, the School District can probably get somewhere between \$12-million and \$18-million at zero percent interest from this program.

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Advertisement for the negotiated Private Sale of the Principal Amount of \$5,000,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2010A (Taxable QSCB-direct Pay Issuer Subsidy) of School District No. 61, Blaine County, State of Idaho, and Authorizing Related Actions and Matters. The motion was seconded by Mari Beth Matthews and passed unanimously.

f. Certification of Resident Transfer of Blaine County Students to Minidoka County – Payment of Tuition and/or Transportation – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

This is the annual invoice that we pay to Minidoka County Joint School District to educate kids that live in the Yale area. Instead of transporting those kids to Carey, we transport them to Minidoka and they charge us the tuition rates for those students.

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to certify the resident transfer of Blaine County School District students to Minidoka County and authorize payment of the tuition and transportation costs in the amount of \$9,679.91. The motion was seconded by Steve Guthrie and passed unanimously.

g. Certification of Resident Transfer of Blaine County Students to Custer County – Payment of Tuition and/or Transportation – Mike Chatterton, School District Treasurer

This is to transport one student from the Smiley Creek area to Custer County instead of taking him over Galena Summit.

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion 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 \$1,465.56. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

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

[Please click here to view Rex Squires' Memo to the Board.](#)

Board Member Dan Parke made a motion to grant permission to advertise for the sale of three school busses. The motion was seconded by Mari Beth Matthews and passed unanimously.

i. Grant Permission to Advertise for Purchase of Four Vehicles – Rex Squires, Director of Transportation

[Please click here to view Rex Squires' Memo to the Board.](#)

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to grant permission to advertise for the purchase of four vehicles. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

j. The Hiring of a Part-time Dual Immersion Coordinator – Dr. Lonnie Barber, Superintendent of Schools

The Board met in Closed Executive Session earlier this evening pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(a): to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent where the respective qualities of the individuals will be evaluated and discussed in order to fill a particular vacancy or need at the District.

Dr. Barber stated that with Matt Murray's departure to become Superintendent at Glens Ferry School District, and after meeting with several Dual Immersion parents, the District needs to be ready and has decided to hire a part-time, not more than half-time, Dual Immersion Coordinator.

Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to approve the hiring of a part-time Dual Immersion Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

XVII. Public Comments Regarding Tonight's Regular Agenda

Board Member Steve Guthrie stated that he served on the Wood River High School Principal Hiring Committee and asked Chairman Dahlgren if the new Principal, as approved in tonight's Consent Agenda, would be announced.

Chairman Dahlgren then announced that Pete Jurovich, effective July 1, 2010, is the new Wood River High School Principal.

Steve Guthrie commented that it was a large hiring committee and there were some very, very good candidates. They started with 30 candidates and the final eight candidates were interviewed by the committee. They spent close to 13 hours deliberating and going over the candidates' information and interviews. Steve said it was a very fair process, the committee worked very hard, and he congratulates Pete!

Board Member Dan Parke thanked Steve Guthrie and Paul Bates for representing the Board in the hiring committee. Dan also thanked Steve for his effort in attending the meeting tonight via speaker phone.

There being no further business to discuss, Board Member Mari Beth Matthews made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Parke and passed unanimously.

The Regular May meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 8:25 p.m.