



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – 4:00 P.M.
DISTRICT OFFICE

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2346. Open legislative meetings required, and pursuant to Idaho Code §33-504. Vacancies on boards of trustees, Board Chair Julie Dahlgren called the open session Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Present were Vice Chairman Dan Parke and Board Members Steve Guthrie and Paul Bates. Also present were Board Clerk Laurie Kaufman and Zone No. 3 Trustee candidates, David Gardner, Kathryn Graves, Jackie Mizer and Tommy Richmond.

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

Board Member Steve Guthrie made a motion to accept the current agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Paul Bates and passed unanimously.

III. Opening Remarks – Julie Dahlgren, Board Chair

Julie Dahlgren stated that the Board agreed not to have public comments at this Special Meeting for the following reason: It's an appointment process; not a campaign. There will plenty of time to campaign in May if the candidates choose to run again. It's not that we're trying to be obstructionists or that we don't appreciate public comment; not having public comment levels the playing field and makes the process as fair as possible for the candidates.

a. Introductions of Zone 3 Trustee Candidates

David Gardner
Kathryn Graves
Jackie Mizer
Tommy Richmond

b. Meeting Format

Each candidate will make a voluntary three-minute opening statement. Following opening statements, Board Clerk Laurie Kaufman will read all eight questions, allowing

each candidate two opportunities to answer a question first and two opportunities to answer a question last. One of the candidate's names will be drawn "from a hat" to start the question-answer period. Following all questions, the Board will fill out a simple matrix with their first, second, third and fourth candidate choices. Laurie Kaufman will transfer the Board's data to the final matrix and bring the totals to Julie Dahlgren to announce the appointment decision. In the case of a tie, the Board will verbally deliberate until there is consensus.

IV. Opening Statements – Zone 3 Trustee Candidates

David Gardner, Kathryn Graves, Jackie Mizer and Tommy Richmond delivered their opening statements.

V. Question – Answer Period – Laurie Kaufman, Board Clerk

Candidate Jackie Mizer's name was drawn to begin the question-answer period. Laurie Kaufman read each of the following questions to the candidates:

1. What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities? Of these responsibilities what do you think is the number one job?
2. What attributes are valuable for a successful school board member?
3. Describe your personal experience and involvement with the Blaine County School District public schools. (If not in BCSD, experience in other districts).
4. Do you feel you have the ability to listen objectively to those with concerns, yet make a decision that you feel is best for the entire district? Explain.
5. What are the current challenges facing public education?
6. Why or why not did you support the \$59,800,000 Plant Facilities Levy that was passed and supported by our community last fall?
7. Blaine County School District has a strategic plan put together by over 200 community members and district staff, which is our guide through 2015. Are you familiar with the plan? And how will you support or govern it?
8. Do you have an area of education that you are particularly interested in? Explain.

Following the question-answer period, Board Chair Julie Dahlgren asked the candidates if they had questions for the Board.

Kathryn Graves: What are you looking for in a Board Member?

Julie Dahlgren: We're looking for a lot of the qualities that the candidates have already talked about, communication, time to put research into projects, various passions. We talk about the "whole child" – we need a "whole Board Member;" someone that isn't tied to special interests.

Paul Bates: I just wanted to add, with a little more emphasis, someone who is a good listener. I think that's the root of good communication, that's where it starts; and you all seem to be good listeners.

Steve Guthrie: It's about respect, communication and listening, and really I think you all probably have those skills.

Dan Parke: I agree with everything the Board Members have said; thanks for making it tough on us!

Tommy Richmond: How did you guys vote on the levy? Just kidding.

Julie Dahlgren: We did have a straw vote in public.

Steve Guthrie: For record, I want these candidates and the public to know that I asked that that question be struck. It's a personal issue. As far as my personal deliberation, I'm going to consider eliminating, although I appreciate your responses; I think I will eliminate those responses from my deliberations.

Paul Bates: I think that is very well put, Steve. I enjoyed listening to the responses, because, to be honest with you, I felt from all of you, and the fact that you articulated your reasoning in a way that it was meaningful to me. Personally, it doesn't matter to me whether you voted for it or not if you had put good thought into it. That's the critical mechanism. If you put good thought into it and didn't vote for it, you have as much respect from me as if you had voted for it and not thought about it at all.

Dan Parke: I agree, we're very respectful of either position, because we're all entitled to our own opinions and own positions.

There were no more questions. Julie Dahlgren called for a five-minute break in order for the Board to put their thoughts together before deliberation.

Julie Dahlgren then asked the Board Members to fill out their individual matrices and give them to Laurie Kaufman for calculation.

Dan Parke: Madam Chair, could I just say one thing? I just think that in the spirit of fairness, I would encourage Steve to consider those responses because the questions were voted on by a vote of three to one by the Board. You know that you were out-voted; that was the consensus vote of the Board.

Laurie Kaufman collected the individual matrices from the Board Members and transferred their numbers to a final results matrix. Upon completion, she asked the Board Chair for someone else to check her work. Audience member Jeff Neel came forward to double-check the numbers transfer and math. Jeff confirmed Laurie's numbers; Laurie then delivered the final matrix to Julie Dahlgren.

Julie Dahlgren announced: We have a clear winner; Kathryn Graves.

<i>FINAL MATRIX</i>	David Gardner	Kathryn Graves	Jackie Mizer	Tommy Richmond
<i>Julie Dahlgren</i>	1	2	4	3
<i>Dan Parke</i>	1	3	4	2
<i>Steve Guthrie</i>	4	1	3	2
<i>Paul Bates</i>	4	1	3	2
<i>TOTALS:</i>	10	7	14	9

Paul Bates: I think any school district would be very happy to have any of you participate. For those of you who are not going to be the next Board Member, there's an election next spring, there are several Board meetings between now and then, you have a Board that you can contact whenever you want if there's something you want to talk about. Don't stop here; thank you, all of you.

All Board Members thanked the Zone 3 candidates for their participation.

Kathryn Graves will be sworn in as the appointed Trustee representing Zone 3 at the next Regular Board meeting, October 19, 2010.

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

The Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blaine County School District No. 61 adjourned at 6:00 p.m.