

West Jefferson School District #253
Terreton, Idaho 83450
Monday, October 9, 2017
Work Meeting

Attendance: Mrs. Tanis Cherry- Chair, Mr. Burt Allen, Mrs. Nedra Perkins,
Mr. Bruce Smith, Superintendent Dwight Richins

At 8:30 AM, Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to begin work meeting. Mr. Burt Allen seconded. All in favor- Passed

Mrs. Tanis Cherry commented on how lucky she is to be part of a board that works together and can work out differences.

1. Hamer Options Discussion:

- *Mr. Richins: explained the purpose of this meeting was to discuss options for Hamer Elementary. Options could be the following: 1. Do nothing 2. Establish thresholds on expense and/or enrollment. 3. Partly reassign teachers and /or aides. 4. Totally shut down the school.
- Mrs. Perkins had some statistics and researched the costs involved to run the Hamer School. The data was complete. Nedra figured it costs about \$50-\$60,000 additional funding to keep Hamer open. She feels strongly that this is a small price to pay for community good will. She also discussed the extreme busing issues and the importance of the school to the community of Hamer. Nedra pointed out that the Hamer community has supported district Bonds and Levies. She said that the community feels threatened with the issue of closing Hamer.
- Mrs. Perkins suggested not allowing students to transfer to Terreton if it bumps the class sizes in Terreton to an unmanageable level.
- Mr. Richins explained the enrollment has dropped from 45 in 2011 to 27 in 2017. The district may want to consider balancing the enrollment with teachers assigned.

- Mr. Bruce Smith would like to do more homework on figures and other issues. He expressed that this isn't a vendetta against Hamer. This is about what is best district wide. Bruce asked to have the busing issues explained.
- Mrs. Cody Telford, in her opinion, says if the Hamer Students were bused to Terreton their time might be less.
- The board discussed the thresholds that would warrant closing the school, such as; the boiler going out, roof repair, and enrollment continuing to drop.
- The board wants more specific details on the transportation issues, as well as budget. This will be discussed again in a later board work meeting TBD. It was determined not to move to Regular Board Agenda at this time.

2. Levy, Bond, district future needs discussion.

- Mr. Smith asked Patti and Larry if using the plant facility levy, without running another Bond Levy, would cover the expenses for the District.
- Mr Richins explained the Plant Facility Levy is helpful right now, but inflation will continue to chip away at it. If we drop off the bond in 2 years, it will be very difficult to pass again. We will always have continuous projects and remodels in order to maintain our old buildings.
- Board will be discussing these issues next year to determine the needs. The current bond will mature in 2020.

3. Work on district strategic plan and continuous improvement plan.

- Tabled. The Board wants to give the committee time to work on it before coming to board.

4. Hay Fund Raiser Status:

- Mr. Schmitt is actively working on this.

5. Press box Status:

- The Press box is cleared to use, but waiting for official notification from County.

6. Christmas Options:

- Mr. Smith suggested the district give money to employees for a Christmas gift. The idea of \$100 Bonus was discussed. Giving \$100 to Full-Time Employees, \$50 to Part-Time Employees. Discussion was on how to get \$100 dollars in employee pockets. With the complications of taxes and benefits it was suggested to give a flat amount in payroll, it will vary depending on each employee's withholdings. Board asked to put the topic on the Regular Meeting Agenda on Oct. 19, 2017.

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to adjourn. Mrs. Nedra Perkins seconded. All in favor- Passed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, October 19, 2017 7:30pm
- Parent Teacher Conference- Oct 26, 2017

Clerk of the Board

Chairman of the Board

Date