

**West Jefferson School District #253
Terreton, Idaho 83450
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 17, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS: Tanis Cherry – Chairman
 Willy Schmitt – Vice Chairman
 Bruce Smith – Clerk
 Burt Allen – Treasurer (via Phone)
 Nedra Perkins- Board Member

SUPERINTENDENT: Dwight Richins

BOARD CLERK: Mary Blackham

4:00 P.M. Executive Session

- I. Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need, (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student.

At 4:00 P.M. Mr. Bruce Smith moved to go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(a): To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, or public school student. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Schmitt (AYE), Mrs. Nedra Perkins (AYE), Mr. Bruce Smith (AYE), Mrs. Tanis Cherry (AYE). All in favor, motion passes.

- II. I, Tanis Cherry, Chairman of the West Jefferson School Board of Education, certify and swear that the purpose of the above Closed Executive Session was concerning Idaho Code 74-206 (a): To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student.

Tanis Cherry- Chairman

At 5:05 P.M. Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to leave Executive Session and begin Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed.

**Regular Board Meeting
May 17, 2018 5:00 p.m.**

In attendance: Willy Schmitt, Tanis Cherry, Nedra Perkins, Bruce Smith, Burt Allen (via telephone), Dwight Richins, Patti Bingham, Mary Blackham, Teri Smith, Mack Smith, Mikki Williams, Julie Hall, Cory Hall, John Hansen, Sam Hillman, Trace Hillman, Jimi Burtenshaw, Jeremy Shaffer, Tiffany Shaffer, Mari Palmer, Laurel Dalling, Kelsee Dalling, Rand Dixon, Jim Perkins, Sharee Perkins, Lori Eddins, Afton Ellis, Loretta Ashcraft, Renae Torgerson, Brian Dixon, Karli Dixon, Annie Dalling, Janice Wilcox, MaryBeth Grimes, Camden Shupe, Kirk Jacobs, Tracy Johnson, Jill Owen, Karen McGarry, Elizabeth Moss, Kaylene Young, Barbara Neville, Stan Neville, James Neville, Travis Neville, Larry Niederer, Jayne Niederer, Phyllis Violette, Candie Reyes, Erin Wood, Jolee Sarbaum, Carl Ball, Alecia Nef, Travis Neville, Kaysha Scott, Jeff Haroldsen, LeiLani Neville, Branson Neville, Shyla Sauer, Tonisha Sauer, Cody Telford, Billy Nelson, Ron Hillman, and McKell Carpenter

I. CALL TO ORDER- Tanis Cherry

II. OPENING CEREMONIES

- a. Welcome to Visitors: Tanis Cherry
- b. Pledge-of-Allegiance: Nedra Perkins
- c. Prayer: By Invitation: Bruce Smith

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to adopt the Agenda. Mrs. Nedra Perkins seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed

IV. CONSENT AGENDA TAB 3:

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Mr. Burt Allen seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed

V. REPORT/ INFORMATION AGENDA

a. Patron Input

- Teri Smith gave a public apology to Mr. Richins for stating that Mr. Richins wanted to **close** Hamer Elementary on the flyer that she put together. However, she still stands by her figures that if Hamer was utilized in a better way, the district could bring in a net gain of \$206,000. She would like to see the district work together, instead of having a Terreton vs Hamer split.

- Trace Hillman would like to see more students be brought to Hamer. It was a thriving school when he attended. Busing students from Hamer to Terreton is a very long bus ride, especially for the children in the younger grades.
- Trevor Belnap thanked the board and Mr. Richins. He is aware that the enrollment keeps declining, but is grateful for the opportunity to choose which school to send his elementary children. He would like to have the 4th grade class stay at Hamer.
- Kirk Jacobs hopes that the decision isn't totally made because of dollar signs, but that the students and families are remembered as well.
- Jill Owen expressed how Hamer is a great school. She told of the spirit there and how the smaller class sizes help the children to grow.
- Barbara Neville expressed that there is money that Hamer could bring in if the district used Hamer to its full capacity.
- Elizabeth Moss stated that Hamer is 20 miles from the Terreton schools, library, and community events. She asked the board to please give consideration to all aspects, when making a decision about Hamer. She also asked the board to please leave the 4th grade in Hamer.
- Jayne Niederer commended the Hamer teachers for the great job they do. Hamer is a hard-working community and they are proud of their school. She asked why everyone can't get along?
- Tiffany Shaffer told the board about the positive experience it was going to both Hamer and West Jefferson. She has chosen to live in Hamer to raise her children in a small school environment. She is thankful for the choice to choose where to send her children.
- Annie Dalling loves Hamer. This isn't a Hamer vs Terreton issue. It is a District issue. Please make a decision that is best for the students because in the end, they are what matters.
- Ryan Ashcraft letter (read by Tanis Cherry): We can all do hard things when required. Please remember the children and the communities where they live in mind as you make decisions. (Complete hard copy of letter on file at the district office).

Mrs. Tanis Cherry thanked public for their comments.

Board discussion

Nedra Perkins suggested to have 1 3rd, 1 4th, and 1 3rd/4th grade split classes at Terreton and leave the 4th grade in Hamer. Her research has shown that the children in split classes learn to be more independent, have a more positive attitude, and tend to do better in core subjects because the older students help the younger students and vice versa. If the 3rd graders that should be attending Hamer, that are now attending Terreton, would attend Hamer as 4th graders, it would be a nice size class. Nedra would like the board to think creatively instead of bringing a teacher and 4th grade down from Hamer.

Willy Schmitt wonders if we could better utilize the aides and volunteers. He feels that it is not in our best interest to throw Hamer under the bus right now because the supplemental levy is coming up and if they are mad, they might not pass it.

Tanis Cherry told the public present they need to be careful with threatening how they will vote on a levy because their anger will hurt all students, their own included. She told the board that the Title 1 funding has been cut drastically for next year. The district already doesn't have any aides in the high school and can't replace the ones in the elementary that are leaving this year. We are one District. Overall our class sizes are dropping and so consequently so is the funding.

Mr. Richins explained that Hamer is not making the district money. His guestimate is that this year Hamer is \$100,000 in the hole. He talked with Leadore and Challis, they have split classes and one room schools. We are very blessed to have what we do. Whatever decision is made tonight will be tough and not everyone will be happy. Without setting boundaries, Hamer numbers continue to drop.

Burt Allen (via phone) it's the numbers. If Hamer was a newer building it would be easier to maintain.

Mr. Richins reminded the board that the decision tonight is what to do with the 4th grade and a teacher, not whether to close Hamer. He would like to do a study this summer to find all data to tell the full story of what it costs to keep Hamer open.

Nedra Perkins wonders if Hamer might be an overflow school for students from out of district.

Via. Mrs. Nedra Perkins made motion to kill Action Agenda Item VIa: Approve moving a teacher and 4th grade from Hamer to Terreton to split 4th grade classes in Terreton. Mr. Willy Schmitt 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Bruce Smith would like to table all until next meeting. Mr. Richins explained that a decision needed to be made tonight. A panel could then be built to put the particulars in order.

Roll call vote: Mr. Burt Allen (NAY), Mr. Bruce Smith (NAY), Mrs. Nedra Perkins (AYE), Mr. Willy Schmitt (AYE), Mrs. Tanis Cherry (NAY) Motion Failed 3-2.

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to approve Action Agenda Item VIa: Approve moving a teacher and 4th grade from Hamer to Terreton to split 4th grade classes in Terreton. Mr. Bruce Smith 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Bruce Smith expressed how hard this decision is. He cares about all of the children.

Roll call vote: Mr. Burt Allen (AYE), Mr. Bruce Smith (AYE), Mrs. Nedra Perkins (NAY), Mr. Willy Schmitt (NAY), Mrs. Tanis Cherry, (AYE). Motion Passed 3-2.

V.

- b. Board Member Input-
 - Tanis Cherry thanked Patti Bingham for all her help and for doing a fantastic job.
- c. Superintendent Report-

Mr. Richins reminded the board that Graduation is on Wednesday May 30, 2018. BPA did a good job at nationals. They represented our school well. The softball and track teams went to state. Teacher negotiations went well. The teachers were pleased that the district will pay for the insurance cost increase and that all received a small raise.

- VII. For Proposals/Discussions: TAB 4
- a. Approve raising school lunch prices by 10 cents.
Tabled
 - b. Retire/Rehire Policy

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to move Retire /Rehire Policy to the Action Agenda, item J. 1st reading. Mr. Bruce Smith 2nd the motion. All in favor - Passed

- VIII. Action Agenda: TAB 5
- a. Table
 - b. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the 2018-2019 Classified Salary Schedule. Mr. Bruce Smith 2nd the motion. All in favor- Passed**
 - c. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the 2018-2019 Extra Curricular Stipends. Mrs. Nedra Perkins 2nd the motion. Roll call vote- Mrs. Nedra Perkins (AYE), Mr. Burt Allen (NAY), Mr. Bruce Smith (NAY), Mr. Willy Schmitt(AYE), Mrs. Tanis Cherry (AYE). Motion Passed**
 - d. **Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to approve the 2018-2019 Exempt Employees' Salaries. Mr. Willy Schmitt 2nd the motion. All in favor – Passed**
 - e. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the 2018-2019 Administration Salaries. Mr. Bruce Smith 2nd the motion. All in favor Passed.**
 - f. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the purchase of the Niquet PA System for the district. Mrs. Nedra Perkins 2nd the motion. All in favor- Passed.**
 - g. **Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to approve Jefferson County putting a gun safe in the principal office at each school. Mr. Willy Schmitt 2nd the motion. All in favor- Passed.**
 - h. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the 1st Reading of the Student Policy for Activity Participation. Mr. Bruce Smith 2nd the motion. All in favor – Passed.**
 - i. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the 1st Reading of the Homeless Policy. Mr. Bruce Smith 2nd the motion. All in favor – Passed.**
 - j. **Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the 1st reading of the Retire/Rehire Policy. Mrs. Nedra Perkins 2nd the motion. All in favor- Passed.**

Mrs. Nedra Perkins made motion to reconsider the original motion VIa. No second – Motion Fails

Work Meeting set for Friday June 1, 2018, 8:00 A.M. Executive Meeting, 8:30 A.M. Work Meeting

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 P.M. Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. Mrs. Nedra Perkins seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Graduation May 30, 2018
- Last day of School June 1, 2018
- Teacher Work Day June 4, 2018
- 2018-2019 Budget Hearing June 21, 2018
- Regular Board Meeting June 21, 2018

Clerk of the Board

Chairman of the Board

Date