

**West Jefferson School District #253**  
**Terreton, Idaho 83450**  
**Board Work Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 29, 2018**

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

SUPERINTENDENT:         Dwight Richins

BUSINESS MANAGER:       Patti Bingham

**Board Work Meeting**  
**9:00 AM**

**In attendance:** Tanis Cherry, Nedra Perkins, Willy Schmitt, Burt Allen, Bruce Smith, Dwight Richins, Daren Bitter, Chad Larsen, Stan Neville, Janice Wilcox, Scott Jacobs, Ryan Ashcraft, Trevor Belnap, David McDonald, Jeff Haroldsen, Larry Soderquist, Officer Keller, Mary Blackham

I.    CALL TO ORDER- Tanis Cherry

1.   **Calendar Proposals:**

Mr. Richins explained the calendar option ideas- a) stay as is, with spud harvest, b) no spud harvest, c) grades 7-12 out, elementary in school. Board listened to patrons as follows: **Daren Bitter** requests that spud harvest break continues. He hires around 13 students for his operation. It is a good income for school students that they can't get elsewhere. Hay farming is going on at that time also. **Chad Larsen** requests that spud harvest break continues. He hires 12-15 students. It teaches the students good work ethics. His children are in high school and they work during the break. **Scott Jacobs** requests that spud harvest break continues. They hire around 10 students. He explained that the community farmers plan on the help during the break to complete the harvest. It teaches the kids life skills and how to work. **Janice Wilcox** explained that the Wilcox Farms tries to help the community by hiring community students. There are other jobs besides working the potatoes such as babysitting, and preparing meals for the workers. She explained that by taking away harvest break it will hurt the

community. **Ryan Ashcraft** thanked the board for the work that they do. He said that he can do hay and grain without the help from the high school students, but that the potato growers need the extra help. He would like to see the board consider a year-round schedule with a six week break during the harvest. We are in an agriculture community and need to continue to help our students learn good work ethics. **Stan Neville** runs a family operation. His grandchildren are crucial to the farm. His request is to leave harvest break in place to allow the students of all ages to learn working skills and to earn money. **Trevor Belnap** knows of over 50 students and faculty members that work during harvest break. Carl Ball hires approximately 30 students. His request of the board is to keep harvest break in place, and suggested shortening Spring Break if academic seat hours are needed. Board discussion: Talked about having work-release- there is too much catchup work. Mr. McDonald figures that about ½ or more of the high school student body work during the break. Mr. Richins recommends keeping Harvest Break as is. He explained that there must be 2 readings of the calendar in regular board meetings, and must be done by the end of March. The board asked Mr. Richins to have the two calendar options ready, both with Harvest Break, for the February board meeting.

**2. Drug Testing Policy:**

Board discussed the drug testing policy drawn up by Nedra Perkins. The board asked Mr. Richins to check into who, by law, can be tested. Discussion on consequences was held. Questions from the board were asked of Officer Keller. A student cannot be arrested if he/she fails the drug test, however, if they are found with drugs or selling, they will be arrested on the spot. Mr. Richins will have the Drug Testing Policy ready for the February Regular Board Meeting.

**3. PA System:**

Mr. Richins and Jody Weekes will have the information for the board at the February regular board meeting. Right now, the telephone system can send a message to all classrooms, but is hard to hear. Terreton Elementary is using a whistle to alert, along with the bell ringing continually. The need is to be able to talk to all staff, inside and out.

**4. School Safety:**

Mr. Richins explained the training to be held in Pocatello in February that he and Officer Keller will be attending. It will cover safety procedures at activities. There is also a training in Sun Valley in April dealing with substance abuse. The safety committee is working on the policy to make sure that it covers all issues of safety. Students need to be taught safety procedures. Tanis Cherry has been checking into apps available. There aren't many options.

**5. Day on the Hill:**

Willy Schmitt and Burt Allen will be attending.

Other items discussed:

The District Girls Basketball starts this week. We play Firth Tuesday night.

West Jefferson is hosting a Wrestling Match Wednesday.

Changing to LED lights has reduced the power bill by \$500.

Mr. Richins will prepare a recognition at the February regular board meeting for volunteers Paulynn Simmons, Kaylene Shupe, and Kimery Capell.

Burt Allen asked Mr. McDonald how the new grading system is working. He has had a concerned parent. Mr. McDonald said that it works well and all balances out in the end.

Board will waive the \$500 deposit for the building use for the Rodeo Club Donkey Basketball fund raiser. Mr. Richins will let Patti know.

Nedra Perkins asked the board if the topic of Hamer closure is really needed. The board discussed and came to an agreement to drop it for now, with the understanding that Nedra will come to the board within 6 months to answer the question: When *should* Hamer Elementary be closed?

The February Regular Board Meeting is moved to Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 at 11:00 am, with Executive Meeting at 10:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to adjourn. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded the motion. All in favor- Passed**

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*Clerk of the Board*

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*Chairman of the Board*

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*Date*