

**West Jefferson School District #253
Terreton, Idaho 83450
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 11, 2017**

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

SUPERINTENDENT: Dwight Richins

BUSINESS MANAGER: Patti Bingham

**Executive Session
6:00 p.m.**

- 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.

At 6:00 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. Mrs. Tanis Cherry seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Smith (AYE), Mr. Allen (AYE), Mrs. Cherry (AYE), Mr. Ashcraft (AYE), All in favor, motion passes.

I, Ryan Ashcraft, President 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.

Ryan Ashcraft, *Chairman*

At 6:25 P.M. Mr. Burt Allen made motion to leave executive session and begin The Pre-Budget Hearing. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

Pre-Budget Hearing
6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Ryan Ashcraft, Willy Schmitt, Burt Allen, Bruce Smith, Tanis Cherry, Dwight Richins, Val Sawicki, Larry Soderquist, Patti Bingham, Mary Blackham

- I. Patti Bingham presented proposed budget amounts for the General Fund. She explained how the numbers were determined and answered questions from the board.
 - a) Federal and Title 1 funding is being cut approximately \$20,000 a year.
 - b) The General Fund account is growing. Some of the money needs spent. Board discussed how to use it. They would like to see the environment of the school improved, and to supplement teacher's salaries so they will want to stay here and teach the students. Mr. Richins will be pro-active on this.
- II. Board discussed updating the textbooks and curriculum. Mr. Richins will check on this.
- III. Val Sawicki, representing the Elementary/ Jr. High staff, told the board how important the Paraprofessionals and Aides are to the programs and students. She presented letters to the board requesting that the number of aides remain the same for the next school year.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman of the Board

Date

Regular Board Meeting
7:40 p.m.

In attendance: Ryan Ashcraft, Willy Schmitt, Burt Allen, Bruce Smith, Tanis Cherry, Dwight Richins, Larry Soderquist, Patti Bingham, Mary Blackham, Val Young, David McDonald

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Ryan Ashcraft

- II. OPENING CEREMONIES
 - a. Welcome to Visitors: Ryan Ashcraft
 - b. Pledge-of-Allegiance: Willy Schmitt
 - c. Prayer: By Invitation: Bruce Smith

- III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Additions: add VIb Credit system/Graduation/5.0 grading

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to adopt the agenda with the above addition. Mr. Bruce Smith seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed

- IV. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Board Meeting Minutes April 20, 2017- changes to be made as follows: VI b.The size of the storage unit to 20 ft. (8x10), and VI c Remove “in Executive Session”.
 - b. Approval of Bills
 - c. Approval of Payroll
 - d. Monthly Budget Reports
 - e. Personnel Actions: TAB 3

Willy Schmitt asked about the class funds of already graduated classes. They have been asked to use the money to leave a legacy to future students at West Jefferson. Mary is to check the spelling on Glens Ferry in the bills paid.

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to adopt the consent agenda. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed

- V. REPORT/INFORMATION
 - a. Patron Input: None
 - b. Board Member Input:
 - Bruce Smith asked Mr. McDonald about scholarship applications for the Sullivan scholarship. None have applied at this time. Mr. McDonald will talk with Mr. Gemar about this.

- Bruce wondered if the Elementary was planning on the board to cook hamburgers for field day. Mr. Richins will find out.
- Burt Allen told board members of a phone call he received from a parent. The parent was concerned because a teacher had sent a letter home telling the parent that they did not need to attend parent/teacher conference because their student was doing well in class. Parents should be encouraged to attend parent/teacher conference.
- Burt is concerned about the inconsistency in the amount of homework students have. Is there too much, not enough, etc. The board discussed the need for homework. There are studies being done on the effect of homework.
- Burt wondered about having a pre-school/ kindergarten afternoon bus. Mr. Richins will have Mike Pincock do a cost analysis. There is also concern about the costs of keeping the Hamer Elementary open.
- Tanis Cherry complimented Sam Rodriquez on the video he made about the high school. The pictures that Issi Winder is taking of events are great.
- Tanis is concerned about people using the school parking lot and grounds during the eclipse in August. School for 2017-2018 starts the day after. She wonders if people will still be here.
- Tanis asked Mr. McDonald about applications for the School Board Scholarship. No one has applied for it. He will remind the seniors about scholarships available. Each board member is to write their check to the Ed Foundation and give it to Patti for this scholarship.
- There have been some complaints from parents about not knowing what teacher will be teaching what grade. This makes it difficult for the parent to request a teacher for their child.
- Willy Schmitt reminded the board that the scholarship recipients must be chosen by the 17th for the awards night.
- Willy would like to have data tracked on attendance next year for Early Release Friday vs Early Release Monday. Mr. Richins will take care of this.
- Willy asked about field trips for students. Mr. Richins said that all the grades have gone, or are going.
- Ryan Ashcraft and his wife went as chaperones on the music trip. The students represented West Jefferson very well. A special award was given at the end for the school that showed sportsmanship behavior and overall excellence. The WJ music students won this award. Ryan said there was a communication breakdown at the Primary Children's Hospital, but overall it was a fun trip and a good opportunity for the students.
- There is a school in Salt Lake that hires students as maintenance workers. Might be something to look at.

- c. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Student Safety at the Elementary is being addressed. Larry is working on putting up Do Not Enter signs where the busses load.
 - 2. The technology committee has met. Mr. Hansen is gathering more information on the Chromebooks. Mr. Weekes said that next year the district could go to 500 gigs, with the possibility of even more.

VI. PROPOSALS/DISCUSSION: Tab 4

- a. Maintenance update: Larry Soderquist updated the board on the findings for the crow's nest. He has received the recommendations from the structural engineer, but not from the county. The engineer recommended three upgrades to bring the nest to code. 1) The foundations on the legs need to be larger, 2) A beam needs to be put between the posts going East to West and 3) Each bay needs to be braced. Mr. Siddoway is aware that changes need to be made.
The company to polish the concrete will be here to look over the job.
The smokestack replacement is scheduled for July. Bruce asked Larry to get bids on painting the bus barn. Tanis asked Larry to get bids on fixing the hallway in the lunchroom.
The pumps for potable water are not working correctly. Larry is working on fixing the problem.
- b. Credit System/Graduation/Grading to 5.0
Mr. McDonald presented a proposal for changes in credit requirements for graduation. The state requires 46 credits, WJ requires 51 to graduate. The proposal is to lower the number of credits required in the Social Science category, and allow 2 more credits as electives. This would keep the number of credits the same, 51, but change where the credits come from. This change would be effective 2017-2018 school year. Education is changing and there is a need to determine how many credits from online classes will be counted towards graduation.

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to move the Credit requirement proposal to the Action Agenda for a 1st reading. Mrs. Tanis Cherry seconded the motion. All in favor- Passed

Mr. McDonald explained the need for going to a 5.0 grading system. This would allow changing the grading by taking away the + and – on grades. Schools are moving more to a proficiency score system. Bruce Smith told of a situation where students in the workforce are not able to do general math. He is concerned that their learning is not transferring to life skills. Val Young said the problem is that our schools are teaching to the test, not teaching to life. Board discussed the wording in the policy.

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to move the Grading change policy to the Action Agenda for a 1st reading. Mr. Bruce Smith seconded. All in favor- Passed

VII. ACTION AGENDA:

- a. Wellness Policy- 2nd reading

Board discussed the rules and regulations. A page in the policy was missing.

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to move the Wellness Policy to a third reading at the June meeting to allow more study. Mr. Burt Allen seconded the motion. All in favor - Passed

- b. Approve 2017-2018 Teacher Salaries

Mr. Richins and Ryan Ashcraft explained the negotiations with the teachers.

Overall, the teachers are happy with the proposal and insurance increases.

Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to approve the salaries for certified personnel for 2017-2018. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded the motion. All in favor- Passed

- c. Approve 2017-2018 Classified Salary Schedule

Mr. Richins explained that the proposed classified salary schedule is 3% for all.

The district struggles getting and keeping employees.

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to approve the classified salary schedule for 2017-2018 year.

- d. Approve Exempt Classified

Mr. Richins explained that the salary for Exempt Classified is 3% for all. Mr.

Richins appreciates the time and work spent by these employees.

Mr. Willy Schmitt made motion to approve the Exempt Classified Salary for 2017-2018. Mr. Bruce Smith seconded. All in favor- Passed

- e. Approve Stipend Salaries

Mr. Richins explained that these salaries are hard to set.

Mrs. Tanis Cherry made motion to approve the Stipend Salaries for 2017-2018. Mr. Burt Allen seconded. Mr. Bruce Smith asked for a roll call vote. Burt Allen-aye, Bruce Smith-nay, Tanis Cherry- aye, Ryan Ashcraft- aye, Willy Schmitt- aye. One nay, four aye- Motion Passes

f. Approve Administration Salaries

Mr. Richins proposed two plans: 2% increase and 3% increase. Mr. Richins answered questions from the board. Burt expressed that he has a hard time giving automatic raises.

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to approve the 3% Administration Salaries for 2017-2018. Tanis Cherry seconded. All in favor- Passed

g. Approve Teacher Mastery Agreement

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to approve the Teacher Mastery Agreement for 2017-2018. Mr. Bruce Smith seconded. All in favor- Passed

h. Graduation Credits

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to approve the 1st Reading of the Graduation Credit Requirements. Mrs. Tanis Cherry seconded. All in favor- Passed

i. Grading Policy

Mr. Burt Allen made motion to approve the 1st reading of the 5.0 Grading Policy. Mr. Willy Schmitt seconded. All in favor – Passed

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:58 pm, Mr. Bruce Smith made motion to reenter Executive Session. Mr. Burt Allen seconded. All in favor. -Passed

At 9:59 p.m., Mr. Burt Allen made motion to adjourn Executive Session. Mrs. Tanis Cherry seconded. All in favor- Passed.

At 10:00 p.m., Mr. Burt Allen made motion to adjourn. Mrs. Tanis Cherry seconded. All in favor- Passed

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 31, 2017 Graduation
- June 1, 2017 Last Day of Classes Teacher Workdays June 2 and 5, 2017
- June 8, 2017 6:00 pm Executive Session
- June 8, 2017, 6:30 pm Budget Hearing- Revised 2016-17
- June 8, 2017, 7:00 pm Budget Hearing -Proposed 2017-2018
- June 8, 2017, 7:30 pm Regular Board Meeting

Clerk of the Board

Chairman of the Board

Date