

Minutes

Chairwoman Mary Jo Marlow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Marlow welcomed the audience and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members in attendance were Chairwoman Mary Jo Marlow, Treasurer Cleon Chapman, and Trustee Taryn Shoyo. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, and Board Clerk Jennifer Hatch.

Approval of the Agenda- There were no changes to the posted agenda.

Board Vacancy (Action) – Mrs. Marlow thanked the candidate for being here and for their willingness to take on this responsibility. Due to the resignation of Zone 3 Trustee Bonnie Hepworth, the board must appoint a trustee to fill her spot for the remainder of her term. We received 4 letters of interest for this Trustee position. We are going to have each candidate address the board. She invited them to introduce themselves and talk about why they would like to be on the board.

Cameron Baker is grateful to have the opportunity to be considered for this position. He believes that the support of public education is vital in today's world. Having a school board made up of people who believe this can positively impact the world we want to see. We need people who are willing to work together. We all want educational success for our youth. He would like to devote time and energy in becoming a valuable board member. As a community member and former employee of the district he feels like he would be a valuable asset to the Board.

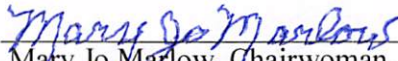
David Barlow believes that education is important. He is grateful for his own education. He recognizes the economic need for people with skilled trades. That in no way diminishes his belief in the importance of all education. He believes in effective communication. He finds education enjoyable. Educated citizens can make informed decisions. We need good public education so that we can have an informed electorate. He loves this community and is optimistic about the future of our country and our community because of our young people and the decisions they are making.

David Case feels that it is a privilege to be here. He wishes to serve. The Blackfoot School District has been great for him and for his family. He will serve with his whole heart. He worked as a Director of Special Education and as an Administrator in the Blackfoot School District. He was in the education field for 30 years. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Dawn Enterprises. He has served in many community service positions. He understands how the Board works.

Donovan Harrington was unable to be in attendance. Mrs. Hatch read a letter that he submitted to the board. Mr. Harrington has served the greater Eastern Idaho community in the transportation field for the past 36 years. He has served as a Bingham County Commissioner and is currently serving in the capacity of the Bingham County Assessor. He believes he can bring a business approach to the Board. He is experienced in contract negotiations and in balancing budgets.

The board members filled out and signed their ballots and there was a 3-way tie between David Barlow, David Case, and Donovan Harrington. It was decided to postpone the re-vote until Wednesday, February 18th when the 3 remaining candidates can be present.

Adjournment (Action) – Mr. Chapman moved that the special meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.


Mary Jo Marlow, Chairwoman


Jennifer Hatch, Clerk

Board of Trustees' Meeting
District Office
270 East Bridge Street
Blackfoot, Idaho

February 18, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Chairwoman Mary Jo Marlow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Marlow welcomed the audience and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members in attendance were Chairwoman Mary Jo Marlow, Treasurer Cleon Chapman, and Trustee Taryn Shoyo. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, Federal Programs Director Rebecca Walker, and Board Clerk Jennifer Hatch.

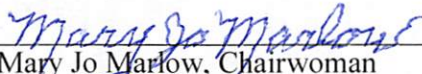
Approval of the Agenda- There were no changes to the posted agenda.

Board Vacancy (Action) – Mrs. Marlow thanked the candidates for being here tonight and for their willingness to serve on the board. The board members asked each candidate 2 questions and the candidates were given 3 minutes to respond in alternating order. The board members filled out and signed their ballots. Mr. Barlow received a majority of the votes.


Mr. Chapman made the following motion: Whereas Zone 3 Trustee Bonnie Hepworth resigned her position; and whereas the board of trustees declared a vacancy for Zone 3 Trustee on January 22, 2026; therefore, be it resolved that the board of trustees appoint to fill the Trustee Zone 3 vacancy as per Board Policy 246: Trustee Vacancy and Idaho Code 33-504. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Mr. Barlow will be sworn in as Board Trustee of Zone 3 at the February 26, 2026, regular board meeting.

Adjournment (Action) – Mr. Chapman moved that the special meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.



Mary Jo Marlow, Chairwoman



Jennifer Hatch, Clerk

Minutes

Chairwoman Mary Jo Marlow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Marlow welcomed the audience and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hatch administered the Oath of Office to David Barlow.

Board members in attendance were Chairwoman Mary Jo Marlow, Treasurer Cleon Chapman, Trustee Taryn Shoyo, and Trustee David Barlow. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, Board Clerk Jennifer Hatch, Federal Programs Director Becky Walker, Principal Anthony Peterson, and Principal Cory Loveland.

Approval of the Agenda- Mr. Kress asked for an amendment to the agenda due to the need for a discussion arising earlier this morning. Mr. Chapman moved to amend the agenda to include item C,3.- Request to Bid Audit Services due to the good faith reason that the need arose after the agenda was posted. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

CTE Student Recognition- Several students came to represent our CTE programs. Mr. Kress introduced the students and their advisors. Mr. Kress introduced Mr. Harris and the BPA (Business Professionals of America) students. There are 22 students who will be attending the state competition this year. They have made it to the national competition for the last several years. Mrs. Collier and the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) students were recognized. They will be attending the state competition in March and will have 6 students participating. Mrs. Luker and FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) students were recognized. They participate in fashion, child development, and culinary arts. They are competing in state in March as well. Mr. Dahle and the Skills USA students were introduced. This program helps students become career ready. They have developed a very successful program. Mr. Gasca and the Automotive students represented the Auto division of Skills USA. They compete in Maintenance and Light Repair and Service technology categories at the state level. Ms. Coffey, Mr. Alvarez, and Mrs. Alvarez introduced the FFA (Future Farmers of America) students. FFA includes public speaking, horticulture, welding, animal sciences, and many more categories. Mr. Chapman spoke to the CTE students. He worked with the state for 18 years helping students in the CTE programs. These programs give students the opportunity to go on in post-secondary programs. It gives students the focus of what they want to do with their lives. The board is so thankful for all of the opportunities available in our district and for the fantastic, qualified teachers we have working with our students. Mr. Harris thanked the board for their support. Our district's support of CTE programs is unmatched by other districts. Mr. Kress read a proclamation declaring February as Career and Technical Education Month in Blackfoot School District #55. (See Attachment A)

Public Forum – One patron came forward during public forum. She thanked the board for sending information to the Planning & Zoning meeting. She asked the board to continue sharing information with the city and county leaders so that they can make informed decisions.

Superintendent Update (Information) – Mr. Kress reported that things are warming up just in time for Daylight Savings Time to begin and send us to school in the dark again for a while. We have had a number of participants competing at the state level. BPA, wrestling, and cheer are all competing this weekend. It is not just in the curricular realm, we have state and national level competitors in many co-curricular areas. Welding is in the process of moving into the BTEC building. We received approval to move forward with

the renovation of the I.T. Stoddard building. Today was the last day of second trimester. The school year is 2/3 of the way over. Buckle up!

January Financial Report (Information) – The January Financial Report was presented by Mr. Kress. (See Attachment B)

School Fund Reports (Information) – Mr. Kress provided a link to the Google Drive containing all School Fund Reports to the board members. When you click on the link it will take you to a folder labeled FY26. All school reports are included in that folder. You can look at each individual school's bank statement and financial report. It shows all accounts and balances at each location. There is a reconciliation page that shows any outstanding checks. You can look at any of the schools in real time.

Open Enrollment Update (Information) – Mr. Kress shared the open enrollment numbers. These numbers will be shared on our District website. Most of our elementary classrooms are under capacity. Every school is under capacity. We would love to have more students enrolled and attending our schools. We have about 100 fewer students in our district than we had last year. We are anticipating this trend to continue.

Rezoning Update (Information) – The 3rd meeting of the rezoning committee was held last night. Parents of Groveland, Wapello, and Ridge Crest students and the board members were emailed the link to the video. The committee should have a decision regarding their recommendation to the board at their March 9th meeting. Mr. Kress will keep us informed of any additional meetings that may be necessary. The rezoning is necessary primarily due to budget and financial constraints. We need to redistribute our student load and reduce the number of staff. We should be able to accomplish the staff reduction through natural attrition. We do not want to have to close a school. That causes a loss of community trust and morale. We will try other options first. Schools are the hub of the community. Rezoning is never comfortable, but we cannot maintain the financial stressor that we are facing.

Legislative Update (Information) – Mr. Kress shared some legislative updates. House Bill 710, which sought to mandate a school start date after Labor Day statewide, was defeated. Mr. Kress is concerned that the bill could make an appearance again next year. A bill seeking to reinforce the civics requirements throughout the grade levels is likely to pass. Senate Bill 1288, which is a bill seeking \$5 million to help the funding of extreme high needs students, has passed through the Senate and is in the House now. We are unlikely to see a change to the funding formula this year, but next year there may be a change to our funding formula. There should not be winners or losers and superintendents are looking for equity for the districts. There is a bill that seems to be targeting teacher associations throughout Idaho. We have a strong relationship with our teacher association. If it passes, we will have to change some of our district's procedures. Teacher Associations would not be able to hold meetings in any state funded buildings. Negotiations may have to take place off site. There would be impacts to our district. Mr. Kress discussed the budget. There is frustration, but we need to be grateful that our budget has not been cut. However, remaining flat feels like a budget cut because inflation has risen and we cannot keep up with costs.

Report on Day on the Hill (Information) – Mr. Kress and 2 board members attended Day on the Hill. Mr. Chapman said it was somewhat depressing this year with all the discussion on budget and the negativity directed toward public education. He spoke of the FFA students who presented and were amazing and articulate. Board Members were able to visit with our local legislators. Ms. Shoyo found it very interesting. She liked being able to watch the legislators in action. She liked the different presentations that were shared. The students who presented to the committees were very well spoken.

District IRI Data Update (Information) – Mr. Kress shared District IRI Data with board. IRI stands for Idaho Reading Indicator. It is a test administered statewide to all students K-3 in the fall, winter, and

spring. Our students are making amazing progress. We still have work to do, but our teachers and students are performing well and improving. This is the first year testing with the new state platform.

April Board Meeting Location (Information) – It is a tradition of the Blackfoot School District that the April meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at Fort Hall Elementary School in Fort Hall, ID. This meeting will be held on April 23rd, 2026.

Autism Awareness Day (Information) – National Autism Awareness Day will be recognized on April 2, 2026, in the Blackfoot School District. We will ask all of our staff and students to wear blue to recognize this day.

Curriculum Update (Information) – The curriculum committee went through the novels that have been requested for use in the 3rd trimester. Mrs. Walker also included any novels that have been previously used and could be affected by HB239. The opt-in process has been going well in our district. Hamlet will need to have an opt-in form sent. There were no questions from the board.

Quarterly Policies (Action) – Mr. Wilson presented the following policies for the second reading for the fourth quarter: Policy 502: Student Handbooks, Policy 549- Prohibition of Gang Activities, Policy 569: School Wellness, Policy 814- Budget Implementation and Execution (changed from Monthly Budget and Treasurer’s Report), Policy 818- School District Tax-Exempt Status- NEW, Policy 832- Revenues (changed from Income from Sale or use of School Property), Policy 834- Fees (changed from Increase in Fees), Policy 857.50- Contracted Educational Services, and Policy 1056- Web Accessibility. Mr. Wilson asked if the board members had any questions or concerns. There were none. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve the quarterly policy updates as presented in written format by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Request to Bid Roof Replacements (Action) – Mr. Kress shared a request to bid a large portion of the roof at Blackfoot High School, the complete roof at Independence High School, and the complete roof at Donald D. Stalker Elementary. This will be paid for by the facility modernization funds and our facilities funds. Mr. Barlow moved that the board of trustees approve the Request to Bid Roof Replacements as presented by Mr. Kress. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Request to Bid Audit Services (Action) – Mr. Kress received word that our audit was finalized this morning. There were no findings. The district audit happens in July and should be submitted to the state by November. Mr. Kress does not want to continue with this process being so drawn out by our current auditors. Our current company is outsourcing things to Chicago and a lot of the work is handled remotely. Our audit was completed very late this year. He would like to seek an RFP for a new audit company to conduct our FY26 audit. They will be assessed based on capability, staffing, location, and price. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve the Request to Bid Audit Services. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Motion to Executive Session (Action) – Ms. Shoyo moved that the board of trustees recess into executive session in the manner and for the purposes authorized by Section 74-206, Idaho Code (1) (a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, (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. Chapman seconded the motion.

Mrs. Marlow noted that this is proper business for consideration in executive session as per Idaho Code 74-206. All board members in attendance voted in the affirmative in a roll call vote. Mrs. Marlow – aye. Mr. Chapman – aye. Ms. Shoyo – aye. Mr. Barlow – aye. The motion passed.

Executive Session

February 26, 2026
7:42 p.m.

Mr. Kress presented the personnel recommendations.

The board reconvened into open session at 8:09 p.m.

Personnel Action (Action) – Mr. Chapman moved that Employees 2026A, 2026B, and 2026C be placed on a Formal Plan of Improvement as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda (Action) – Mrs. Marlow asked if there were any questions regarding items on the consent agenda. There were none. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve the prior board meeting minutes, personnel recommendations as they appear below, the payment of January bills, student trips, BPAC events, and the Elementary Fundraiser. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

February 26th, 2026

<u>New Hires</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tessa Barrow	Elementary Administrator	RB
Connie Harris	Special Education Para (28 hrs)	GRO
Hailey Waldo	Classroom Para (28 hrs)	WAP

<u>Transfers</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Samantha Staley	SpEd Para (PT)- GRO	ERR SpEd Para (FT)- MVMS

<u>Extracurricular</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Zach Campbell	Track Head Coach	MVMS
Zach Eckman	Baseball JV Head Coach	BHS
Heather Polatis	Track Assistant Coach	MVMS

<u>Resignations/Retirements</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Trudi Brooks	Softball JV Coach	BHS
Wynette Ellis (5/29/26)	Special Education Para (FT)	BHSG
Ben Hutchinson	Marching Band Director	BHS
Lana Keeler (5/29/26)	Special Education Teacher	MVMS
Maria Lowrey	ERR Special Ed Para (28 hrs)	STA
Patricia Rangel	Classroom Paraprofessional (28 hrs)	STA
Kaedon Smith	Marching Band Assistant Director	BHS

Future Agenda Items (Information) – None were discussed.

Adjournment (Action) – Mr. Chapman moved that the February meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.


Mary Jo Marlow, Chairwoman


Jennifer Hatch, Clerk

PROCLAMATION
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS: The month of February 2026, has been designated National Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS: Profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS: Career and Technical Education provides students with a school-to-career connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and provides a positive contribution to the area's economic stability; and

WHEREAS: Career and Technical Education programs of Blackfoot School District offer students lifelong opportunities to learn relevant skills, which provide career choices and personal satisfaction; and


WHEREAS: Career and Technical Education programs provide high school students with practical experience in meaningful applications and real-world work experiences, allowing them the opportunity to explore and prepare for technical careers, thus improving the quality of their education, motivating at risk students and providing students leadership opportunities in their communities; and

WHEREAS: Leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with careers in critical and growing CTE related fields and recognize the Career Technical Student Organizations such as: FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, BPA, DECA, TSA, and SKILLS USA. Providing the leadership skills and opportunities needed in industry that support CTE programs.


WHEREAS: The cooperative efforts of Career and Technical educators with industry experts to stimulate the growth and vitality of our local economy by preparing graduates for career fields forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth; and

NOW THEREFORE: The Blackfoot School Board of Blackfoot School District #55 hereby proclaims the month of February 2026, as


CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH



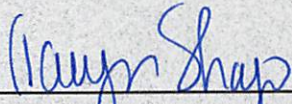
Mary Jo Marlow, Chairwoman




Carlos Mercado, Vice Chairman



Cleon Chapman, Treasurer



Taryn Shoyo, Trustee



David Barlow, Trustee

BLACKFOOT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
ALL DISTRICT FUNDS
For the Month Ending:
January 2026

January 1, 2026 Balance Forward:

\$ 10,682,070.45

REVENUE:

Local - Property Tax	\$ 735,866.25
Other State Support	\$ 354,770.40
Federal - Child Nutrition	\$ 64,997.50
Earning Interest	\$ 36,936.40
Local - Child Nutrition	\$ 19,644.98
State - In Lieu of Taxes	\$ 7,220.75
TOTAL REVENUE:	<u>\$ 1,219,436.28</u>

EXPENDITURES:

January Payroll	\$ 2,705,710.95
Transportation	\$ 252,596.98
Security Contract Services - SRO's	\$ 105,000.00
Custodial Contract	\$ 102,456.16
Utilities/Telephone	\$ 77,207.24
IDEA Contract Services	\$ 70,149.70
Contract Services	\$ 57,165.59
Instructional Supplies	\$ 46,775.35
Food Services	\$ 44,374.91
Bldg. Repair, Maint., Supplies, Equip.	\$ 22,815.96
Perkins Equipment	\$ 8,160.70
Curriculum	\$ 7,008.25
Travel, Mileage Reimb., In-service	\$ 5,053.35
Technology Contract Services	\$ 4,851.18
Sales Tax	\$ 837.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	<u>\$ 3,510,163.32</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH POSITION:

\$ (2,290,727.04)

ENDING BALANCE:

\$ 8,391,343.41

General Fund

FY26 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 39,067,007.00	
FY26 Revenue To Date	\$ 28,150,897.17	72.1%
FY26 Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 38,783,678.00	
FY26 Expenditures To Date	\$ 19,745,852.59	50.9%
FY25 Actual Total Revenue	\$ 36,126,435.67	
FY25 Actual Revenue thru 06/30/2025	\$ 25,401,035.33	70.3%
FY25 Actual Total Expenditures	\$ 36,473,638.03	
FY25 Actual Expenditures thru 06/30/2025	\$ 18,167,038.22	49.8%

