

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, Board Clerk Jennifer Hatch, Director of Student Support Services Lynette Carter, Federal Programs Director Becky Walker, Child Nutrition Director Kimberly Jepperson, Accounts Payable Clerk Christy Bissonnette, Principal Roger Thomas, Principal Debbie Steele, and Principal Cory Loveland.

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

Public Forum – No one came forward during Public Forum.

Superintendent Update (Information) – Mr. Kress gave an update on construction projects in the district. We are in the final phase of the BTEC project. The I.T. Stoddard renovation will start in the next few weeks. The tennis courts should begin construction in the next few weeks. They will be built along Walker St. They should be ready for the 2026-27 tennis season. We must demolish the current tennis courts as soon as the current season concludes. The new courts will include 6 pickleball courts that will be open to the public. The city will be responsible for providing the lights on the courts. The lights on the current courts cannot be relocated to the new courts. Tomorrow, April 24th, will be a rehoming event to distribute the remaining items from the I.T. Stoddard building. There are some surplus items, desks, tables, and filing cabinets that need a new home. The public is welcome to come and pick anything up at noon. We are in the middle of ISAT testing. BHS focused on improving their performance in the tests this year. They are showing scores that are 7% above state average in Math and ELA. It is impressive progress. Other schools' scores are coming in, and Mr. Kress will update on those in the future. We are having our 3rd annual Food Truck Extravaganza on May 12th in the BPAC parking lot. We will have 14 trucks this year. We are excited for our upcoming graduations. BHS will hold their ceremony on May 28th. BOSS and IHS will hold their ceremonies on May 29th.

March Financial Report (Information) – The March Financial Report was presented by Mr. Kress. (See Attachment A)

Legislative Update (Information) – Mr. Kress discussed some bills that were passed in the recent legislative session. HB785- Online Behavior defines and regulates student cyberbullying, it does include off campus events; HB623- Moment of Silence mandates that public schools (K-12) must implement a 60-second daily moment of silence at the beginning of each school day; ISCR128 mandates that certified staff must only use district approved platforms and devices for communication with students; SB1448- Library Protections Act clarifies definitions in the library bill; HB623- Schools as Polling Places prohibits in-person instruction on election days beginning January 1, 2028; HB516aaS- Teacher Union Bill restricts which union activities can take place within school districts; HB822- Pediatric Secretive Transitions Parental Rights Act mandates that school officials notify parents of a minor student requesting a social or medical transition; SB1339- Strategic Performance Plan- mandates that schools must develop long-term plans with “measurable goals” for student success; SB1339- Civics Education outlines new requirements for instruction in history and government classes.

Board Policy 677.8: Indian Policies and Procedures (Information) – This policy must be reviewed yearly. This is part of our partnership with the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. We do not need to make any changes to the policy this year.

Indian Education Update (Information) – Mrs. Walker shared information about our Indian Education program. We provide services for 650 JOM students. Everything we do is guided by the Indian Education Parent Committee. They make sure the resources are used where they matter the most. The committee believes in student-led, rather than student attended activities. The committee wants to encourage students to be leaders in their culture, leaders in their community, and leaders in their schools. There will be a student-led District pow-wow on May 2nd. It is one of the largest school run pow-wows in the state. We will have 49 native students graduating this year- 33 from BHS, 9 from BOSS, and 7 from IHS. Each graduate will be honored with a stole purchased by the IEC. Parents were asked to complete the comprehensive needs assessment. This year we sent home papers but also made a google form available. Parents like this option and we had good participation. Some suggestions were additional help with homework, math, and reading within the schools. We will continue to meet this need with our Indian Education paraprofessionals. A common theme was the desire to feel at home in our schools. Parents suggested bringing more tribal members into the buildings to share their culture. The parents also requested that the JOM funds are available to families in need. We use these funds to pay for caps and gowns, library fees, etc. The Tribe is working on their truancy policies. We share attendance reports with them. If a student has 5 or more unexcused absences, the tribe visits the family. The IEC would like to have an incentive plan so that if a student has less than 5 days absent, they will receive an incentive prize. We are excited that the program is empowering students and parents and building leaders for the future. Mr. Kress invited the Indigenous Club to present to the Rotary Club a few weeks ago. The members were amazed and impressed with the students and their plans for the future. Mrs. Marlow is so pleased with the relationship we have with the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. We want to give our Native students every opportunity to succeed and achieve their goals.

Request Permission for School Meal Price Increases (Information) – Mrs. Jepperson requested permission for school price increases for the 2026-27 school year. The increase will be \$0.10 for students and \$0.10 for adults. Milk prices will increase by \$0.10 as well. Reduced meal prices will not change. The state sets the price for the adult meals. Those will see a small increase as well. The increase is due to freight, delivery, product, and gas price increases. Blackfoot Child Nutrition is in the midrange in our area, even with those proposed increases.

T-Mobile Tower Lease (Information) – T-Mobile reached out to us regarding the opportunity to use some of our unused land to build a cell phone tower. They would pay us a monthly lease fee. They went through several possible location sites. The tower would be 60x60 foot fenced in area. It will be located beyond the fence line of the JV softball outfield. They will be paying \$1,000 per month in perpetuity. The construction costs, permits, and any other miscellaneous costs are the responsibility of T-Mobile.

Bark Connected Communities Debrief (Information) – Last week we had the opportunity to have the Bark Connected Communities team come in and do a presentation for our 4th and 5th grade students. The focus was on Digital Citizenship. There was a parent night, and each 4th and 5th grade class had 2 class sessions. The team talked about what it is like to be online. The Bark Connected Communities team focuses on training and protecting our students. They teach students to be mindful of their online presence and realize that they may not always be chatting with who you think they are. They would like to help build relationships with parents and their kids and model how to set healthy guidelines. Images and comments are around forever. Colleges and employers now use social media for research when making decisions. Decisions made as a child are not made with a fully developed brain, but the consequences can follow you into adulthood. The district sent home about 300 training phones for parents and students to do homework lessons with. The phones will be returned after 2 weeks. It was a successful event. We hope

to continue this training in the future. We would like to do more advertisement and make it a community event.

Superintendent Evaluation (Information) – Mrs. Marlow talked about the superintendent evaluation process. Mrs. Hatch will email each board member the completed 2024-25 Strengths and Areas of Growth form that was completed at last year’s evaluation. She will also send a blank evaluation form. The evaluation paper you will receive is for your own thoughts and evaluations. This remains confidential. Mrs. Hatch will provide the cumulative scores and all combined comments to you at the May Board Meeting. Together you will come up with new Strengths and Areas of growth for Mr. Kress to focus on in the 2026-27 school year. Mrs. Marlow would like Mr. Kress to do a self-evaluation. She would like him to talk to the board about what he feels that he did right, and where he can improve. She would also like him to talk about what the board could do to support him.

Board Trustee (Information) – Mr. Carlos Mercado met with Mr. Kress shortly after the last board meeting. He expressed the desire to start a different path; he has many opportunities to travel in the future and would like to spend more time with his family. He expressed his desire to resign from the board of trustees. The board has appreciated his input and perspective and has loved working with him. He has had some amazing life experiences that helped bring new ideas and views to the board. He will be greatly missed.

Trustee Vacancy (Action) – Because of Mr. Mercado’s resignation, the School Board will be posting a Zone 2 vacancy notice. We will have a special board meeting to appoint a Zone 2 Trustee. Information on this vacancy and how to apply will be posted on Monday on the District Facebook page and District website. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees accept the resignation of Board Trustee Carlos Mercado and declare a Board Trustee vacancy for Zone 2. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Extended Resource Consolidation (Action) – Mr. Kress read the following statement:

We have conducted a survey with the parents of current extended resource room (ERR) students. A copy of the survey can be found in your packet. This survey was sent home with students, and we collected the hard copy of the surveys. For all responses, the following is the result of the survey:

62% - Consolidate all ERR services at Ridge Crest Elementary School

27% - Keep things as they are

11% - Consolidate K – 3rd ERR services at Ridge Crest Elementary School

This shows a super majority (73%) are in favor of some sort of consolidation of services. If we remove 5th grade ERR students from the responses, since they will be exiting the program, the results are a little different:

72% - Consolidate all ERR services at Ridge Crest Elementary School

24% - Keep things as they are

4% - Consolidate K – 3rd ERR services at Ridge Crest Elementary School

This shows even a higher majority are in favor of some sort of consolidation.

I reached out to a couple of regional superintendents who also have ERR programs. Both agreed that consolidation of services is a burden for the school that houses the program. More specifically the administration. As a district leadership team, we have discussed this at length. I believe there are two options to support Ridge Crest Elementary School.

Option #1 – Hire a “Dean of Students” at Ridge Crest Elementary School who would assist with the monitoring of services for the ERR students and assist with any additional discipline that would come from the consolidation.

Option #2 – Have our two consulting teachers, Lecia Lopez and Sandra Eldredge, assist in the monitoring of services for the ERR students. Any additional discipline would continue to fall on the current principal at Ridge Crest Elementary School.

In full transparency, option #2 would not cost any additional funds, while option #1 would cost approximately an additional \$25,000. A few of the parents’ responses either encouraged or asked about additional help for the administration. The principal at Ridge Crest is supportive of hiring a “Dean of Students” for additional support.

I will now stand for any questions you might have. We need to make a decision regarding this situation tonight. This should not be a new item. If consolidation is decided, we need to begin preparing and informing parents.

The board asked for clarification on the additional cost for a Dean of Students position. There were clarifying questions asked about the logistics of the move into one location and the staffing plans for this consolidation. The bussing would become simpler and potentially save funds for the District. All students will be bussed to one location. The new Dean of Students will help with additional meetings and service requirements and additional discipline matters. They will not evaluate staff. There will be a small amount of construction and remodeling. We will need to add 2 additional bathrooms and create doorways between the classrooms. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees consolidate the elementary extended resource program at Ridge Crest Elementary School and open a position of Dean of Students at Ridge Crest Elementary School. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Intent to Operate 2026-27 Food Service (Action) – It is a requirement for federal funding that we file an intent to operate food service application yearly. The agreement states that we will operate all Child Nutrition programs within the regulations set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Department of Education Child Nutrition program. They will also operate the National Breakfast and Lunch Programs, After School Snacks, and Summer Meals. Our Child Nutrition Program provides approximately 2,000 meals each day to students in our district; 80% of those go to children who are eligible for either free or reduced pricing. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve the Intent to Operate food service request for the 2026-27 school year as presented by Mrs. Jepperson. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Request Permission for Paper Bids (Action) – Mrs. Bissonnette requested permission to obtain bids for paper for the 2026-27 school year. We are part of a buying consortium that includes Bingham County, American Falls and Fremont school districts. This helps to keep our prices down. Ms. Shoyo moved that the board of trustees approve the request to seek paper bids for the 2026-27 school year as presented by Mrs. Bissonnette. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Roof Bid Results (Action) – Mr. Kress shared the results of the roof bid results. After reviewing bids and evaluating contractor qualifications, Mr. Silzly recommends the project be awarded to Signature Roofing. The total project cost should be \$193,831.00. The contractor is available to begin work on June 1, 2026, and has committed to completing all work at both Donald D. Stalker Elementary and Independence High School prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year. This amount came in under our budget. Mr. Chapman

moved that the board of trustees approve awarding the contract from the results of the Roof Bid as presented by Mr. Kress. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Audit Bid Results (Action) – Mr. Kress and the business office reviewed the three bids that were submitted for consideration. The committee recommends selecting Rudd & Company, PLLC for the annual audit service with the Blackfoot School District. The company is headquartered in Rexburg, ID. We have struggled the last few years with our audit services and need to make a change. Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve awarding the contract from the results of the Audit Bid as presented by Mr. Kress. Ms. Shoyo 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. The motion passed.

Executive Session

April 23, 2026
7:50 p.m.

Mr. Kress presented the personnel recommendations.

The board reconvened into open session at 8:20 p.m.

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

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

April 23rd, 2026

<u>New Hires</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Roque Alvarez	Welding/Ag Teacher	BHS
Erika Christiansen	Secretary	RB
Ryan-Matai Harrigfeld	Ag Science Teacher	BHS
Jason Lish	Activities Director	BHS
Amy Marlowe	Interventionist/Online Elementary Lead Teacher	WAP
Machelle Matthews	Kindergarten Teacher	FH
Kiana Pettit	First Grade Teacher	FH
Kelsey Rain Purin	3 rd Grade Teacher	STA
Anneke Sanchez	Extended Resource Room Teacher	MVMS

<u>New Hires within District</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Tracy Folsom	5 th Grade Teacher- RB	3 rd Grade Teacher- GRO

<u>Transfers</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Sara Dilg	Lunch Duty Para (PT)- GRO	Librarian (PT)- GRO
Tracy Folsom	5 th Grade Teacher- RB	3 rd Grade Teacher- GRO
Krystal Murdock	Science Teacher- MVMS	Alternative Teacher- MVMS
Amy Smith	1 st Grade Teacher- FH	3 rd Grade Teacher- FH
Benjamin Smith	Alternative Teacher- MVMS	Wood Teacher- MVMS
Tyler Wood	3 rd Grade Teacher- FH	5 th Grade Teacher- FH

<u>Extracurricular</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Whitney Kenworthy	Dance Head Coach	RB

<u>Resignations/Retirements</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Roxana Ayala	Classroom Paraprofessional (PT)	GRO
Caroline Andersen	Dance Head Coach	BHS
Lori Bingham	Elementary Music Specialist	RB
Taylor Clapp	Speech/Debate Teacher	BHS
Heidi Cornell	Track Assistant Coach	MVMS
Mary Jane Cottrell	Special Education Teacher	STA
Twyla Dunn	Special Education Para (PT)	WAP
Christopher Esmerio (5/29)	Special Education Para (FT)	RB
Pacen Hayes	Football Assistant Coach	BHS
Trina Heiner	3 rd Grade Teacher	RC
Marilyn Jefferis	ERR Special Ed Para (FT)	STA
Nadene Leavitt	Secretary	RB
Lacy Neff	Child Care/Nursery Para (PT)	IHS
Jessica Nelson	Child Care/Nursery Para (PT)	IHS
Ashlyn Phillips	Media Paraprofessional (FT)	MVMS
Julie Reynolds	Special Education Teacher	RB
Cody Shelley	Athletic Director	DW
Christine Silzly	Principal	RB
Brittany Wood	Science Teacher	BHS

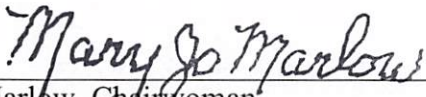
<u>Non-Renewal of Contract</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Benjamin Alvarez	Kindergarten Teacher	FH
Curtis Scott	4 th Grade Teacher	FH

<u>Released due to HC Resig.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Abbie Brower	Dance Advisor	BHS
Whitney Kenworthy	Dance Advisor	BHS

Personnel Item (Action) - Mr. Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve the personnel items as presented by Mr. Kress and place employees 2026D, and 2026E on a plan of improvement and offer employee 2026F a separation agreement. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Future Agenda Items (Information) – The board would like an update about the progress of construction at I.T. Stoddard and the CTE programs. The board would like to update Board Policy 576. They would like to add a line item that outlines how much the cost per student will be for each trip. We will need to schedule an additional board meeting to appoint a Zone 2 Trustee.

Adjournment (Action) – Mr. Chapman moved that the April meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Ms. Shoyo seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.



Mary Jo Marlow, Chairwoman



Jennifer Hatch, Clerk

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

March 1, 2026 Balance Forward:

\$ 11,449,838.94

REVENUE:

Federal - PL 81-874 Impact Aid	\$	803,052.00
Federal - IDEA	\$	231,674.71
Other State Support	\$	214,658.91
Federal - Title I-A	\$	182,834.38
Federal - Child Nutrition	\$	88,958.37
Federal - Title I-C Migrant	\$	75,203.72
Medicaid	\$	71,775.66
Earning Interest	\$	31,543.43
Local Revenue (Rent, Donations, Tuition, Etc.)	\$	31,900.50
Federal - Title IV-A Student Support	\$	16,015.72
Local - Child Nutrition	\$	15,534.94
Federal - Title II-A Improving Teacher Quality	\$	14,411.86
Local - Property Tax	\$	12,624.37
Federal - IDEA Preschool	\$	10,121.56
State - Career/Technical Education (C.T.E.)	\$	5,490.85
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$	<u>1,805,800.98</u>

EXPENDITURES:

March Payroll	\$	2,870,662.90
PERSI Delay	\$	(397,571.49)
Transportation	\$	293,111.47
Custodial Contract	\$	102,456.16
Utilities/Telephone	\$	84,907.18
Instructional Supplies	\$	67,381.16
Food Services	\$	63,534.59
IDEA Contract Services	\$	63,018.32
Contract Services	\$	26,366.77
Technology Supplies	\$	21,957.01
Bldg. Repair, Maint., Supplies, Equip.	\$	21,094.47
Technology Contract Services	\$	6,031.84
Travel, Mileage Reimb., In-service	\$	5,929.30
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$	<u>3,228,879.68</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH POSITION:

\$ (1,423,078.70)

ENDING BALANCE:

\$ 10,026,760.24

General Fund

FY26 Budgeted Revenue	\$	39,067,007.00	
FY26 Revenue To Date	\$	36,147,791.39	92.5%
FY26 Budgeted Expenditures	\$	38,783,678.00	
FY26 Expenditures To Date	\$	25,258,119.66	65.1%
FY25 Actual Total Revenue	\$	36,126,435.67	
FY25 Actual Revenue thru 06/30/2025	\$	33,230,115.62	92.0%
FY25 Actual Total Expenditures	\$	36,473,638.03	
FY25 Actual Expenditures thru 06/30/2025	\$	23,386,863.52	64.1%

