

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

June 10, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Chairwoman Bonnie Hepworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Hepworth welcomed the board and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members in attendance were Chairwoman Bonnie Hepworth, Treasurer Sonya Harris, Trustee Karen Driscoll and Trustee Dewane Wren. Trustee Mary Jo Marlow was present remotely via Zoom. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, Assistant Board Clerk Ronna Park, and via Zoom Christian Anderson from Zions Public Finance, and Nicholas Miller from Hawley Troxell.

Mr. Kress said that there needs to be an amendment to the agenda. Item B1 should show the amount of \$23,900,000 and the good faith reason is that it was a typo that was overlooked. Mrs. Harris moved that we approve the amended agenda changing the amount with the good faith reason, and Mrs. Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion passed.

Mr. Kress told the board there are many legal obligations related to the bond, and introduced Mr. Nicholas Miller from the legal firm of Hawley Troxell. Mr. Miller then shared his screen for a PowerPoint presentation outlining the legal obligations related to the bond. He said that often bond elections are a referendum on management, so the good showing reflected well on Mr. Kress and the Board of Trustees. He reviewed the April board meeting, and in so doing clarified that Christian Anderson is not the seller of the bonds, he is an advisor to the district.

Hawley Troxel gives the legal opinion that the bonds are valid and tax exempt. There is a check list that must be gone through, and the desire was to issue bonds as quickly as possible after the election while interest rates were favorable. On June 24 the bids will be opened, and the district is authorized to accept the lowest bid. The blind bidding closes at 9:30 am on the 24th, and immediately the window opens with the ability to see the bidder with the lowest interest quote. July 8, 2021 is when the district receives funds at closing.

Christian Anderson said that interest rates have moved in a good direction, and he is optimistic about the rates two weeks from the sale when interest rates are locked. We have been seeing better interest rates since the election. On the ballot the estimate was just over 20 million dollars, which will actually be less than the amount we are borrowing, due to incredibly low interest rates and high subsidies. Based on today's interest rates, it will be closer to 19 million dollars. He will advise on the recommendation at the time.

Mr. Wren asked if the district had to wait the two weeks rather than locking in interest rates now. Mr. Anderson clarified that tonight the board will vote to approve the bond so it can post tomorrow. This will give market recipients at least a week as a practical matter, for the market to absorb the information so we can have the most bids. Technically we are authorized tomorrow, but it is a rare occurrence, though possible, to pick a new date. June 24 is thirteen days away, and he is confident we will get solid bids. Bidders can be aggressive, and historically low rates make this a good time for our voters to approve this bond.

Mr. Miller said this is a single action item to approve this resolution. Section 208A says we are going to sell a competitive bid. Electronic bid opening is included in resolution. He spoke about the bid process, and that bonds are secured by a property tax. The resolution has been refined through several drafts. The district reports annually on its bond. The delegated officers are Mr. Kress and business manager Ms. Teresa Rowe acting jointly, and both must sign.

Mr. Kress asked if there were any questions before the roll call vote. Mrs. Hepworth asked if the district is obligated to accept a bid. Mr. Miller said no, the district reserves the right to reject bids and to resell the bonds, and that is a provision the bidders know about. Mr. Wren asked if all those who are bidding will be licensed and credentialed to take on something this big. Mr. Miller replied yes, they must all be financial institutions who are licensed to resell to the public. The bid process is completely blind, and most of the bids will come in the last 60 seconds as electronic bid opening means bidders can make changes until 9:30. The computer will calculate the best combination of rates and fees. We can expect from 3 to 8 bids depending on the day. The most they've ever had is 12. Mr. Kress expressed confidence in both men. They have never led the district astray as he has worked with them previously, and he is glad to be working together in this new endeavor.

Roll call vote Mrs. Hepworth, yes. Mrs. Harris, yes. Mrs. Marlow, yes. Mr. Wren, yes. Mrs. Driscoll, yes. The motion passed unanimously. The board expressed excitement that this has just taken place. Mrs. Hepworth thanked Christian and Nick for their presentation.

Item C Reports – Mr. Kress said getting back to normal after Covid has been some work, and it's harder to go out of town for our football team. Regarding football practice with full pads, usually the team will attend camp at another facility, but this year will be holding it on our home field. IHSAA asks the board be aware of it, any questions? Mr. Wren asked to remind coaches of hydration. Mrs. Hepworth asked if these were mandatory practices. This is just an optional camp open to anyone of high school age. This does not require a vote. Mr. Kress just wanted to make the board aware.

Mrs. Harris moved that the board of trustees recess into executive session in the manner and for the purposes authorized by section 74-206 (1)(a)and(b), Idaho Code (j) To consider labor contract matters. Mr. Wren seconded that motion, a roll call vote was taken. Mrs. Hepworth, aye. Mrs. Harris, aye. Mrs. Marlow, aye. Mr. Wren, aye. Mrs. Driscoll, aye. The motion passed.

Executive Session

June 10, 2021
7:33 p.m.

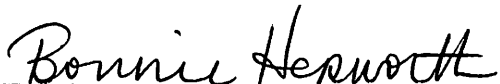
Mr. Kress called Mrs. Marlow for executive session on her home phone so she could mute the zoom call which occurred at 7:36 pm. BEA Negotiations and labor/contract matters were discussed. Returned to open session at 7:58 pm.

Mrs. Hepworth asked the board to return to the business items for ratification, and asked if there was any further discussion. Mrs. Karen Driscoll moved that the board ratify the 2021-22 Negotiated agreement between the Blackfoot Education Association and the Board of Trustees.

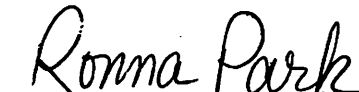
Mrs. Sonya Harris seconded that motion. All ayes, the motion passed. Mrs. Sonya Harris moved that the board approve the compensation for Administrators, and Mr. Dewane Wren seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion passed. Mr. Dewane Wren moved that the board approve the compensation for the Superintendent, and Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion passed.

Mrs. Harris moved that the board approve the consent agenda which included trips for BHS teams to attend summer camps. Mrs. Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion passed.

Mr. Dewane Wren moved that the June 10 meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Bonnie Hepworth, Board Chairwoman



Ronna Park, Assistant Board Clerk

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

June 24, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Chairperson Bonnie Hepworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She welcomed the audience and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members in attendance were Chairperson Bonnie Hepworth, Vice-Chairperson Mary Jo Marlow, Treasurer Sonya Harris (via Zoom), Trustee Karen Driscoll and Trustee Dewane Wren. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Board Clerk JaNae Smith, Teresa Rowe, Joy Mickelsen, Ronna Park, Amy Wren, Ame Johnson, Tammy Sorensen, Linsey Martin, Vicki Chase, Brenda Thibeault, Jaden Galloway, Matthew Butler, Elyna Galloway, Kenny Dahle, Hailey Dahle, Teresa Watson, Summer Jackman, Claire Anderson, Julie Anderson, Misti Taufu'i, Malia Taufu'i, and Olivia Taufu'i.

BHS Tennis, Softball, and Cabinetry Teams - On behalf of the board of trustees, Mrs. Hepworth welcomed BHS coaches and teams. Tennis Coach Amy Jo Johnson said that the tennis team has done well this year. Coach Tammy Sorensen shared information about the softball team. Mr. Kenny Dahle and student Jaden Galloway spoke about Jaden's experience winning the state cabinetry competition.

Public Forum – Lindsey Martin came forward during the public forum. She asked the board to consider more representation from the Ridge Crest Elementary School zone area when the trustee rezoning occurs.

Superintendent Update (Information) – Mr. Kress said that some services at the district office have been relocated. Transportation and Child Nutrition Department will be located at the District Office. ABM and Christina Alvarez will be in the Irving Student Support Center. He reminded them that there may be extra meetings in July and August as part of the bond process.

May Financial Report (Information) – Ms. Rowe gave the May financial report. (See Attachment A.)

Bond Update (Information) – Mr. Kress stated that behind the scenes everyone has been very busy. He displayed a bird's eye view of the softball and baseball fields. Idaho Central Credit Union donated money to provide an indoor batting area. They discussed that some of the existing trees in that area will be relocated. He displayed plans for restrooms, concessions, storage, a field house, and dugouts. Coaches have been involved in the process. Mr. Kress emphasized that these are preliminary plans. He showed the preliminary plans for the new elementary school which can accommodate 450 students. He showed the BTEC building with the proposed classrooms and various proposed views of the BHS Student Center.

Communication Specialist (Information) – Mr. Kress said that he is tasked to staff the district. He feels a need to have a communication specialist. He would like to have someone designated to keep the public informed by way of newsletters and social media. The District Office is the only building that has not been fully staffed since the recession. This position will not only be a benefit

to the district, but it will fill a need. Board members expressed support for adding this position and would like to reevaluate the position after one year.

Bond Rate Results (Action) – Mr. Kress said the bonds were sold this morning. On June 10th the board authorized the superintendent and business manager to make a decision on the results of the bond rate, therefore this should not have been listed as an action item. Nine entities expressed interest and in the end, there were six entities which placed bids. On the ballot, voters approved a proposed 2.18% interest rate, and the winning bid from Robert W Baird & Co Inc locked in at 1.87% which is a big difference. The district received a very good deal today.

ELA Curriculum Recommendation (Action) – Mr. Kress and Ms. Silzly (via Zoom) presented information on the English Language Arts Curriculum. Mr. Kress has attended the ELA committee meetings. Ms. Silzly thanked the committee members, Sonya Harris, Karen Driscoll, Brian Kress, Lynette Carter, Joy Mickelsen, (parents) Lucy VanOrden, Summer Jackman, Sunflower Begay, (teachers) Becky Walker, Paige Hyde, Teresa Watson, Brenda Thibeault, Jason Dietz, and Amy Wren. The committee came to a consensus. They recommended Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for 7th and 8th graders and McGraw Hill (Study Sync) for grades 9th-12th. The committee wanted to be consistent with the k-6 curriculum, so they recommended HMH for the 7th and 8th grade. Summer Jackman spoke about the considerations that were made. Mr. Kress has spoken to staff at Idaho school districts who use HMH, and they were pleased with the curriculum. Mrs. Driscoll likes the ability of the curriculum to work with various student levels. Mrs. Thibeault said the English teachers at BHS are excited for the adaptability and ease of Study Sync. Mr. Wren asked how it will work for middle school students to have HMH and then as 9th graders to have Study Sync. The transition should work out well for high school students. Ms. Mickelsen talked about the pedagogy of k-8 students. Data shows that students in the pilot of HMH scored very well. Study Sync has 4 different levels of student learning. Mrs. Marlow would to see a definitive booklist that everyone feels comfortable with. Students do not have access to online books unless the district purchases the book and teacher assigns the book. Mr. Kress wants the students to read hard copies of books and not have an online library. It's more practical and less expensive to use the hard copies of the books that we have. Mrs. Harris stated that she has had concerns. She expressed appreciation for all the hard work of the staff, ELA committee, and parents. She appreciates knowing that students will have limited access to online books. She appreciates that there was a thorough look at the content; data and evidence were used to make the decision; and other districts were consulted. Board members were able to ask clarifying questions. They discussed that they have a goal to expand a variety of ELA options. Mrs. Hepworth said she knows there were some difficult moments and thanked them all for the time they have spent reviewing the curriculum. Mr. Kress agreed with her. The district followed a process and have arrived at a very good place. Mrs. Hepworth asked for a motion.

Mr. Dewane Wren moved that the board of trustees approve adopting Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) curriculum for Mountain View Middle School (7th – 8th grade). Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Mrs. Karen Driscoll moved that the board of trustees approve adopting McGraw Hill (Study Sync) curriculum for Blackfoot High School and Independence High School (9th – 12th). Mr. Dewane Wren seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Marlow moved that the board of trustees approve awarding the paper bids to WCP Solutions as presented by Ms. Rowe. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Trustee Rezone (Action) – Mr. Kress said that due to the census which happens every 10 years, the district is required by statute to rezone. Ten years ago we used Quadrant Consulting. Trustee zones need to have comparable populations. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow moved that the board of trustees approve the agreement with Idaho School Boards Association and Quadrant Consulting to assist with the trustee rezoning. Dewane Wren seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

2021-22 Budget Hearing (Action) – Mr. Kress said there are many unknowns in the funding and has prepared a safety net just in case. There is a reduction of the supplemental levy in this budget. With the healthy fund balance, the tort levy has been removed. Mr. Kress presented the summary information as published in the Bingham News Chronicle. The Blackfoot School District has improved its financial standing by approximately \$350,000. He presented the district’s revenues, transfers in, expenditures, school personnel, contingency reserve of 1,000,000, M&O Budget, Plant Facilities Fund, and remaining funds. Mr. Wren commended the staff and Mr. Kress for the good progress that has been made in the last 7 years. Mr. Dewane Wren moved that the board of trustees approve the 2021-22 budget as presented by Mr. Kress. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Motion to Executive Session (Action) – Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow 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; and (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. Chairwoman Hepworth noted that this is proper business for consideration in executive session as per Idaho Code 74-206. Mrs. seconded the motion. All board members voted in the affirmative in a roll call vote. Mrs. Hepworth – aye. Mrs. Marlow – aye. Mrs. Harris – aye. Mrs. Driscoll – aye. Mr. Wren – aye. The motion passed.

Executive Session

June 24, 2021
8:21 p.m.

Mr. Kress presented the personnel recommendations.

The board reconvened into open session at 8:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda (Action) – Mrs. Hepworth asked if there were any questions regarding items on the consent agenda. Mr. Kress reminded them that the district is declaring areas of need for an elementary teacher and family and consumer science teacher. Mrs. Harris said the bills were in order. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow moved that the board of trustees approve the personnel recommendations as they appear below in these minutes and payment of May bills. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

<u>New Hires</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Suzan Bagley	Food Service Assistant	FH
Jasmin Chavez	El/Migrant Para (Summer)	Migrant Outreach Center
Janae Evans	1 st Grade Teacher	WAP

Ian Gonzalez	El/Migrant Para (Summer)	Migrant Outreach Center
Terrence Pocatilla	Indian Ed Summer School Para	MVMS

<u>Area of Need</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Emily Abercrombie (renewal)	1 st Grade Teacher	GRO
Keshia Polatis (renewal)	Family and Consumer Sci Teacher	IHS

<u>Summer/After School Hires</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Zachary Campbell	After School Coordinator	BHSG
Keaton Folsom	EL/Migrant Para (Summer)	Migrant Outreach Center
Tracy Folsom	After School Coordinator	STO
Casey Haddon	21 st Century Coordinator	DW
Kara Hone	ESY Special Ed Teacher	DW
Cassandra Rojas	Indian Ed Summer Sch Para	DW
Susan Underwood	After School Coordinator	WAP

<u>In-District Hires</u>	<u>Previous Position</u>	<u>New Position</u>
Sarah Buck	1 st Grade Teacher - WAP	1 st Grade Teacher – STA
Sarah Diaz	Kindergarten Para - STA	Alternate Classroom Para-
MVMS		
Maria Evans	Special Ed Para – BHS	Special Ed Para - STA
McKenzie Hernandez	Lunch Duty Para - STO	EL Para – STO
Wendy Mikesell	Alt Class Para - MVMS	Secretary – MVMS
Lacy Neff	Paraeducator – WAP	Secretary – WAP
Nicole Robinson	Teacher – BHSG	Title 1/RTI/Teacher

<u>Transfers</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Michelle Nugent	Food Service Assistant – MVMS	Food Service Assistant–BHSG
Ronna Park	Personnel Clerk – DW	Communication Specialist–DW

<u>Extracurricular</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ariel Clegg	Assistant Cheer Coach	MVMS

<u>Resignations/Retirements</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Zahra Almahmod	Paraeducator	FH
Kristin Barrus	Teacher	BHSG
Luann Belnap	Paraeducator	FH
Donna Bevan	Color Guard Coach	BHS
Brinna Caudle	Secretary	BHS
Mallory Chavez	Paraeducator	RC
Wendy Crofts	5 th Grade Teacher	GRO
Teresa Gallegos	English Teacher	BHS
Sue Honas	Paraeducator	WAP
Samantha Lima	Art Teacher	BHS
Patricia Neilson	Online Teacher	BOSS
Summer Stone	PE Teacher	BHS
Abbey Thompson	Paraeducator	STA

Future Agenda Items (information) – The following item was presented: Board Policy on Sex Education for the July meeting.

Trustee Retirement (Information) – Mr. Kress said that he would never be able to give enough thanks to Dewane Wren for his service to the Blackfoot School District. Mr. Wren announced his retirement from the school board. He said that originally he only planned on serving 4 years and did another term. He planned to retire after 8 years on the school board. Then the legislators changed the board timeline. Mr. Wren has served in various positions in the district for 40 years. As a board member he has never missed a vote. Mr. Kress and the other board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Wren.

Trustee Vacancy (Action) – Mr. Kress said that due to the retirement of the trustee from Zone 1 that Board Policy requires the district to declare a vacancy and make an appointment. Mr. Dewane Wren moved that the board of trustees declare a trustee vacancy in Zone 1. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow grudgingly seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Adjournment (action) – Mr. Dewane Wren moved that the June meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Bonnie Hepworth, Board Chairperson



JaNae Smith, Clerk

BLACKFOOT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55
FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Month Ending:
May 31, 2021

ZIONS BANK

M & O - CMIA Account \$ 1,440,660.14

Outstanding Checks \$ (277,979.23)

ZIONS BANK M&O TOTAL \$ 1,162,680.91

DL EVANS BANK (School Lunch) \$ 110,101.79

ZIONS BANK

Blackfoot Performing Arts \$ 29,861.11

Outstanding Checks \$ (60.00)

ZIONS BANK - Performing Arts Total \$ 29,801.11

INVESTMENTS - GENERAL OPERATIONS

State Investment Pool \$ 1,580,384.45

Zions Investment Account \$ 287,437.36

D.L. Evans-Bond \$ 885,497.15

PETTY CASH

District Balance 05/31/2021 \$ 3,500.00

TOTAL RECONCILED DISTRICT BANK FUNDS - May 31, 2021 \$ 4,059,402.77

TOTAL RECONCILED DISTRICT BANK FUNDS -May 31, 2020 \$ 3,294,728.76

Attachment A

BLACKFOOT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
ALL DISTRICT FUNDS
For the Month Ending:
May 31, 2021

May 1, 2021 Balance Forward: \$ 4,615,977.66

REVENUE:

State-Base Support	\$	2,390,742.45
Other State Support	\$	271,248.00
Federal-Food Service	\$	156,728.40
Local Property Tax	\$	34,033.58
Medicaid	\$	13,095.89
Federal-Title IV-A 21st Century	\$	9,468.35
Local Food Service	\$	1,158.73
Earnings on Investments	\$	641.14
Local-Blackfoot Performing Arts Center	\$	(307.44)
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$	<u>2,876,809.10</u>

EXPENDITURES:

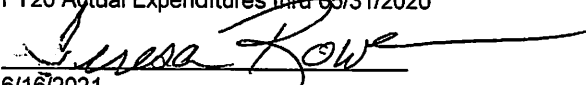
May 2021 Payroll	\$	2,819,644.34
Transportation	\$	186,653.40
Bldg. Repair, Maint., Supplies, Equip.	\$	89,240.28
Custodial Contract	\$	82,632.59
Food Services	\$	73,988.30
Utilities/Telephone	\$	61,798.55
Contract Service/Membership	\$	55,729.83
Textbooks/Computer/Equipment/Technology	\$	54,631.96
Employee/Public Relations, Travel, In-service	\$	8,824.80
Blackfoot-Performing Arts Center	\$	239.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$	<u>3,433,383.99</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH POSITION: \$ (556,574.89)

ENDING BALANCE: \$ 4,059,402.77

General Fund

FY21 Revenue To Date	\$	28,217,036.23	102.7%
FY21 Expenditures To Date	\$	21,875,707.17	78.2%
FY20 Actual Revenue thru 05/31/2020	\$	25,833,856.08	93.7%
FY20 Actual Expenditures thru 05/31/2020	\$	21,884,446.92	91.3%


6/16/2021