

Minutes

Chairperson Dewane Wren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wren welcomed the audience to the special work meeting and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members in attendance were Chairperson Dewane Wren, Vice-Chairperson Bonnie Hepworth, Treasurer Sonya Harris, Trustee Mary Jo Marlow, and Trustee Karen Driscoll. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, Board Clerk JaNae Smith, Joy Mickelsen, Lynette Carter, Doug Bitter, Bobbie Steffensen, Megan Evans, Mary Lynn Evans, Christine Williams, Mary Jensen, Arvid Jensen, Matt Noble, Debbie Peterson, Vicki Chase, Alicia Cody, Misty Speas, DeeLane Worley, Jen Boyce, Brayden Boyce, John Driscoll, Chase James, Joe Abercrombie, Colin Folsom, Sarah Condon, Amy Wren, Brandee Hewatt, Christine Silzly, Mark Kartchner, Wes Jensen, Fred Davis, John Miller, Randy Hickman, David Kerns, Jon Hawkes, Spencer Barzee, Cindy Kofford, Lance Harrison, and Ann Mennear.

Mr. Kress introduced Lance Harrison, Spencer Barzee, Cindy Kofford, Jon Hawkes, David Kerns, Joe Abercrombie, Colin Folsom, Sarah Condon, Amy Wren, Brandee Hewatt, Christine Silzly, Mark Kartchner, and Wes Jensen as members of the panel. Mr. Kress gave a presentation on the Four-Day School Week. He showed them on a map all the districts who have a Four-Day School as well as those who are contemplating a Four-Day School Week. He asked himself what was the most important thing he could do for students. He determined that highly qualified teachers are important to student achievement. He showed them that the number of nontraditional routes to certification has increased over the past few years. He asked them what would the district rather be: 1)The only Five-Day School week in Bingham County or 2)The highest paying Four-Day School week? He has shared the following documents with the public: Four-Day Exploration Statement, Four-Day Frequently Asked Questions, Proposed Four-Day Bell Schedule and Potential Calendar Comparison.

Mr. Wren asked the panel if teachers who are interviewing for jobs ask whether a district has a Four-Day School week. They indicated that teachers look at how many days are in the school week.

Mr. Kress presented a summary of the surveys. Staff, students and parents were all given surveys and are supportive. Parents – 86%, Students – 81% and Staff – 93%. He said that this is not a financial decision to go to a Four-Day School Week. He is not looking at hurting staff. He can hold harmless most areas, except transportation. There was a discussion about using transportation for more activities, especially on Fridays.

Mr. Kress presented pros and cons to the Four-Day School Week. The following were presented as Potential Advantages: improved employee recruitment and retention, improved student and staff morale, improved student enrollment and attendance and staff attendance, reduction in student discipline, additional time for professional development, tutoring and/or enrichment activities, additional academic options for students and families and better quality of life for families. The following potential disadvantages were identified: longer school day, one less day of school meals, increased daycare expenses, loss of contact time with at-risk students, potential increase in juvenile crime, lack of transportation to supplemental activities, potential loss of early evening opportunities, and potential loss of salary to some employees. As Mr. Kress presented these items, board members asked questions. Mr. Kress provided answers as well as members of the panel.

Mrs. Harris asked about district office hours and administrative supervision on Fridays. Mr. Kress said that district office hours would be 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays with students will be supervised. Mrs. Marlow said she had a lot of concerns and has received answers. If approved, she wants to have a plan to evaluate it. Mr. Wren said that one year would not be long enough time to do it. The district needs to try it for about 3 years to get a baseline. Mr. Kress said that he would like to implement it for 3 years and watch the data. He will not hesitate to change things that need to be changed.

Mr. Wren invited the panel members to share closing remarks. Mr. Harrison expressed appreciation for being invited to attend and offered to provide the district with more details if approved. Mrs. Kofford said that she was one who left the Blackfoot School District to go to a district with a Four-Day School Week, because it works better for her family. She feels like it has made her a better teacher. She got rid of the fluff and taught what was most important. Mr. Barzee told how he was the biggest obstacle to the Four-Day School Week. He said that the Cons don't hold up when you look at the Pros. He suggested a Five-Year Plan. Mr. Hawkes said that each district is unique and feels that the Four-Day School Week makes teachers better teachers. Mr. Kerns said that calendaring can be an issue. He hopes that Snake River School District can partner with Blackfoot School District for Friday Professional Development opportunities. Mr. Wren would like Mr. Kress to get with Mr. Harrison and find out what Preston School District would like to have done differently as they implemented the Four-Day School Week.

The board discussed the need for public input and ways to get it. The regular board meeting is scheduled for the 19th. Mrs. Bonnie Hepworth moved that the board of trustees schedule a public input meeting on March 18th at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Four-Day School Week with the location to be determined. Mrs. Sonya Harris seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

Adjournment (action) – Mr. Wren thanked the panel members. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow moved that the special work meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Dewane Wren, Chairperson



JaNae Smith, Clerk

Minutes

Chairperson Dewane Wren called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Wren welcomed the audience and led them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members in attendance were Chairperson Dewane Wren, Vice-Chairperson Bonnie Hepworth, Treasurer Sonya Harris, Trustee Mary Jo Marlow, and Trustee Karen Driscoll. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, Board Clerk JaNae Smith, Joy Mickelsen, Lynette Carter, Teresa Rowe, Brandee Hewatt, JoAnne Thomas, Amy Wren, Scott Fields, Chase James, Wes Jensen, Kathy Malm, Becky Walker, Angie Ojeda, Doris Gilk, Lesa Huntsman, Jill Bonnel, DeeLane Worley, Talea Bott, Colin Folsom, Dan Neff, Misty Law, Joe Abercrombie, Roger, Thomas, Wilford Woodouff, Matt Noble, Tracy Folsom, Joane Clovis, Dwight Richins, Alicia Cody, Melissa Hunt, Anthony Peterson, Fred Davis, John Miller, Kyle Mangum, Doug Bitter, Lori Cronquist, and Kathy Behrend.

Temporary Suspension of Student Attendance Requirements (action) – Mr. Kress said he has done his best to communicate with the patrons. If anyone feels their student is unsafe attending school, then it would not be detrimental to their attendance record to not come to school. He recommended that the board suspend Board Policy 522.F2: Discipline Handbook which contains the attendance requirements. Mrs. Sonya Harris moved that the board of trustees approve the temporary suspension of student attendance requirements as recommended by Mr. Kress. Mrs. Bonnie Hepworth seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

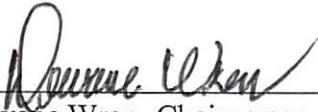
Possible School Closures due to Public Health Situation (action) – Mr. Kress said his role as a superintendent is to educate the board so they can make an informed decision. He has been in contact with government agencies. Each of them has recommended that school systems stay in place so that infrastructures aren't burdened. Board members have received the considerations for school closures from Center for Disease Control. The CDC currently does not support short-term school closures. This situation is unprecedented. He has met with all area superintendents and charter schools officials. Their consensus is to close schools. There are many things that we do not know about the Novel Corona Virus. Mr. Wren asked if Mr. Kress intends to make it a short-term closure or open-ended. Mr. Kress stated that he anticipates an approximate 3 week closure. The district has a planned Spring Break during the time period. Mr. Kress recommends shelter in place in the homes. k-6 Staff are ready to send materials home, but the district can't send them out until we are prepared to meet the needs of special ed students.

Board members shared comments and asked questions. Mr. Kress committed that he will find the means to provide financial support for timecard employees. He told them that the student attendance today was 83.79%. He expressed appreciation for the staff support. They also discussed different timeframes for the closure. He recommended three options: 1)Remain open with soft attendance requirements, 2)Start the closure after school on Wednesday, or 3)Have the closure begin tomorrow. A discussion was held. They will reevaluate the situation before students are allowed to go back to

school. They discussed options for grab and go lunches. Mrs. Sonya Harris moved that the board of trustees approve an emergency closure of all schools and activities beginning now due to our current public health situation through April 6th with the intent to revisit to decide if it's safe to reconvene school. Mrs. Karen Driscoll seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

The board asked Mr. Kress to consider rescheduling the March 19th meeting to a later date.

Adjournment (action) – Mr. Wren thanked everyone for attending the board meeting. Mrs. Bonnie Hepworth moved that the special meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



Dewane Wren, Chairperson



JaNae Smith, Clerk