

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

February 22, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

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

Board members in attendance were Chairwoman Bonnie Hepworth, Vice-Chairman Carlos Mercado, Treasurer Cleon Chapman, Trustee Mary Jo Marlow and Trustee Kevin Callahan. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brian Kress, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Wilson, Board Clerk JaNae Smith, Jennifer Hatch, Teresa Rowe, Lynette Carter, Amy Wren, Andrea Wilmot, Kiah Spjute, Steve Hoffman, Elizabeth Hoffman, Joy Mickelsen, Debbie Steele, Adam Smith, and Gelin Smith.

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

Public Forum – No one came forward during the Public Forum.

Board Training by Diana Freeman – Mrs. Hepworth introduced Diana Freeman to present training to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Freeman is a board governance specialist with many years and varied experience in board development. She is employed with Board Docs, also known as Diligent. She currently serves on her local school board.

Ms. Freeman presented Developing Effective Questioning Techniques for Board Members. Governance on a school board is not always what a new board member expected. She presented information and situations for board members to consider. Here are some highlights: Come to your board meeting prepared. Approach topics from a learning standpoint. Decide on timing for questions. Understand you may not get it right. Get comfortable with silence. Keep asking questions. Board members were given an opportunity to ask her questions. Mrs. Hepworth thanked Ms. Freeman for her presentation.

Superintendent Update (Information) – Mr. Kress said the district is almost two-thirds done with the school year. So many amazing things have been happening, not just sports, but other areas too. We have talented students and amazing staff. We keep moving forward and upward. The new elementary school is going vertical and moving forward. Construction is behind due to the cold weather, but there is a plan to speed things up when the warm weather comes. Mrs. Hepworth expressed appreciation to Mrs. Park for the way she is able to highlight the district's events on social media.

January Financial Report (Information) - The January financial report was given by Ms. Teresa Rowe. (See attachment A.)

Report on Day on the Hill (Information) – Mr. Kress said every year the Idaho School Board Association sponsors Day on the Hill in February. Mr. Kress and Mr. Chapman attended. It was a great time to network with state legislators and other educators. He spoke about bills that Amy White presented that could cause issues for schools. Some bills may come with unintended consequences. Board members shared concerns regarding some of the bills that are being presented this legislative session. Mr. Kress said it is a great opportunity for board members to attend Day on the Hill.

Board Committees (Information) – Mr. Kress stated that there is a list of committees in their packets. Currently the following are serving in these committees: Calendar Committee – Mary Jo Marlow, Finance Advisory Committee – Cleon Chapman, Parent Advisory Committee – Kevin Callahan, BPAC Committee – Carlos Mercado, School Wellness Committee – Bonnie Hepworth, Curriculum Review Committee – Currently Inactive, and Negotiations Team – Bonnie Hepworth and Mary Jo Marlow. Mrs. Hepworth stated that if anyone is interested in attending different committees to let her know.

April Board Meeting Location (Information) – Mr. Kress said that the April meeting on the 26th will be held at Fort Hall Elementary School.

Autism Acceptance Day – April 3, 2023 (Information) – Mr. Kress stated that the district wants to show support for the Autism Acceptance Day on April 3rd.

2022-23 Calendar Adjustments (Information) – Mr. Kress said that the schools will be in makeup mode if there are future inclement weather days. Three schools are already in makeup mode, Wapello Elementary School, Blackfoot Heritage Sixth Grade and Blackfoot High School. Wapello has adjusted their lunch hour to make up their missing time. BHS will have finals tomorrow and Friday with a regular school day today to make up their time. Students were supportive of this at BHS. Blackfoot Heritage Sixth Grade will close the gap by having structured recesses.

Update on BPAC Events (Information) – Mr. Kress introduced Kiah Spjute, one of the BPAC directors. Mrs. Spjute said that the BPAC has more of a presence on social media this year. It is a work in progress to accomplish what they want to do. Billboards are being utilized. Sales are increasing. They are trying to bring in a variety of events. 2023-24 season is set up which will align with the school year. There will be a big summer musical in conjunction with the Blackfoot Community Players. They have most of the concert series set up for the 2023-24 school year. They are hoping to launch the series in April. Board members were able to ask Mrs. Spjute questions.

Schedule Date and Time of Board Meetings (Action) – Mrs. Hepworth explained that the board discussed the dates and times of the board meetings last month but wanted to ratify the schedule when all board members were present. Mr. Cleon Chapman moved that the regular board meetings for the 2023 calendar year and the annual board meeting in January 2024 be held at the District Office at 6:30 p.m. and the April board meeting be held at Fort Hall Elementary School as presented in written format. Mr. Carlos Mercado seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed. Note: The meeting schedule is posted on the district website and Facebook page.

Emergency Closures (Action) – Mr. Kress discussed the inclement weather that resulted in school closures on January 30th and 31st and February 14th and 15th. He calls the emergency closures as soon as he can, but he prefers the closures to be the morning of the closures. Calling the closures ahead is helpful when it can happen. Mr. Kress has students who email him specific roads to check out. Mr. Carlos Mercado moved that the board of trustees approve the districtwide emergency closures due to inclement weather on January 30th and 31st and February 14th and 15th. Mr. Cleon Chapman seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

Resolution on Education Savings Account (Action) – Mr. Kress said he has gathered information from the Idaho School Board Association. Mrs. Hepworth explained that last March it was known as House Bill 669, and this year it is known as Senate Bill 1038. An Education Savings Account is a voucher which would allow money to be taken away from public schools and used by homeschoolers and students

attending private schools. She respects parents' rights but feels that this bill would be a step backwards for the funding of public education. Private schools are harmful for students in need of greater education. The nearest private school is Grace Lutheran in Pocatello. Mrs. Marlow shared information about a special ed student who was not able to enroll in a private school. Private schools can make their own rules. Private school vouchers do not provide the same accountability to taxpayers as public schools. Idaho is ranked third best for school choice. Board members were encouraged to look into who is funding this house bill. Mrs. Hepworth would like to see the board members contact the state legislators and express their concerns regarding this bill. Private school vouchers undermine the state's commitment to public education. Private school vouchers do not improve academic achievement. Private schools do not provide the same rights as public schools do. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow moved that the board of trustees approve the Education Savings Account resolution as presented in written format. Mr. Kevin Callahan seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

The written resolution that the board approved follows:

IN OPPOSITION TO DIVERTING PUBLIC DOLLARS TO PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS INCLUDING VOUCHERS, THE GRANTING OF TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS, SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, OR AMENDING ARTICLE IX, §5, IDAHO CODE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE BLAINE AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Constitution provides for "the free and thorough public education for children"; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Constitution as amended by the Blaine Amendment ensures the separation of church and state in Idaho by prohibiting the flow of public money to private or religious institutions for education; and

WHEREAS, public school districts and charter schools receiving public funds from the legislature are required to meet state accounting standards, use state-approved curriculum standards, and submit student achievement reports to receive those funds; and

WHEREAS, an additional layer of state oversight would have to be created to account for the use of public money distributed to either individual families or to private or religious institutions; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's students have increasing access to a wide variety of school choice options in the state of Idaho, and parents are free to choose educational services through Idaho's public education system or educational options in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, in other areas of the country that have adopted voucher programs, student achievement has suffered, especially among those children receiving vouchers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blackfoot School District 55 Board of Trustees strongly oppose any effort to divert public dollars to private or parochial schools by such approaches as tax credits for scholarship

donations, savings accounts, or amending the Constitution of the state of Idaho, Article IX, §5, Idaho Code, also known as the Blaine Amendment, to allow public dollars to finance private or parochial education in the K-12 education system of the state of Idaho.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

School choice is an integral part of public education in the state of Idaho. Public school choice includes charter, magnet, at-risk alternative, virtual, and traditional schools where dual language, classical, harbor, international, Montessori, Career Technical, STEM, and STEAM programs, among others. These programs are an integral part of what public education already offers across Idaho, funded by state tax dollars.

Idaho's current (2022) investment in our children's public schools ranks 50th in the country. Reducing the general fund by offering a tax credit for donations to scholarship programs or diverting already scarce resources to provide vouchers to private schools will further erode funding to current public schools all across Idaho. If our state constitution is changed, Idaho's investment in public education will become even smaller as our taxes will be siphoned off to unaccountable private and parochial schools. We oppose amending The Idaho State Constitution, Article IX, §5, Idaho Code, also known as the Blaine Amendment, for the reasons outlined above. Idaho already has substantial choice in its public school system.

A voucher, tax-credit, or scholarship program will cause irreparable harm to our existing system of public school districts and charters, especially in rural Idaho, and will likely harm overall student achievement.

ICCU Field House Rental/Board Policy (Action) – Mr. Wilson said that last month in the January board meeting he informed the board that the ICCU Field House was complete and presented the rental amount of \$75 per hour. Mrs. Marlow asked for an explanation why the rental amount was higher than other rentals in the policy. Mr. Wilson explained that Pocatello charges \$80 per hour and Blackfoot wanted to have a comparable rental price. The upkeep of the Field House costs more than the other facilities. A discussion was held. Board members do not want to exclude community teams. The community will still have access to the outside fields. The board agreed that the rental amount could be re-evaluated if the board sees a need to do so. Mr. Carlos Mercado moved that the board of trustees approve the ICCU Field House Rental of \$75 per hour and update Board Policy 910P1 to reflect that change and re-evaluate it in 6 months. Mr. Cleon Chapman seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

E-Rate Bid Contracts (Action) – Mr. Wilson said that the district obtained E-Rate bids. He explained the results for the Category One, Category Two, and Districtwide E-Rate Contracts. He recommended Sparklight for the Category One E-Rate Services. The net cost for the district is zero. E-Rate pays 80% and the state reimburses 20%. He recommended ENA Managed Internet for Category Two E-Rate Services which would cost the district \$311,568 over the course of the five year contracts. Mr. Wilson explained that getting all the free and reduced lunch forms returned saved the district over \$400,000. Mr. Callahan said that patrons need to understand these forms affect a lot of different areas.

Mr. Cleon Chapman moved that the board of trustees approve the E-Rate Bid Contracts as presented by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Carlos Mercado seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

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

Executive Session

February 22, 2023
9:10 p.m.

Mr. Kress presented the personnel recommendations. He explained the results of a due process hearing. He shared complaints against Employee 2023A, Employee 2023B and Student 2023A.

The board reconvened into open session at 9:47 p.m.

Consent Agenda (Action) – Mrs. Hepworth asked if there were any questions regarding items on the consent agenda. There were no questions. The bills were in order. The following student trips were presented for approval: BHS Softball Tournament in St. George; Donald D. Stalker Elementary 4th Grade Trip to Grand Teton National Park; BHS Orchestra to All Northwest in Bellevue, WA; BHS FFA Trip to Tremonton, UT; and Fort Hall Elementary 5th Grade Trip to Nampa. Mr. Adam Smith presented information regarding a 5th grade graduation trip to Nampa in May. Mrs. Mary Jo Marlow moved that the board of trustees approve the prior board meeting minutes, personnel recommendation as they appear below in these minutes, payment of December bill and student trips as presented. Mr. Carlos Mercado seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed.

<u>New Hires</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ethan Clegg	After School Educational Assistant	FH/RC
Adele Stacey	Classroom Paraprofessional	FH

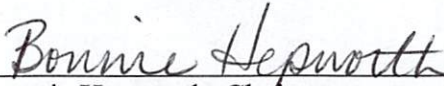
<u>Transfers</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Kami Amrein	FHE – Intervention Teacher	RC – Teacher
Sarah Jolyne Diaz	MVMS School within a School Para	DO – Accts Payable Clerk
Ethan Moss	MVMS ISS Paraprofessional	MVMS School within a school para
Mia Toussaint	GRO/STA EL/Indian Ed Para	STA – Special Ed Paraprofessional

<u>Extracurricular</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Debra Armstrong	Track Girls Head Coach	BHS
Tayson Neff	Track Assistant Coach	BHS
Kelsey Reay	Soccer Girls Head Coach	BHS
Ty Wright	Track Assistant Coach	BHS

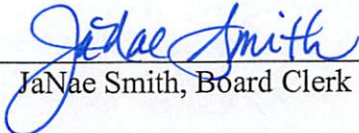
<u>Resignations/Retirements</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Anne Bird	Social Studies Teacher	MVMS
Robert Blevin	Football Varsity Assistant Coach	BHS
Talea Bott	Accounts Payable Clerk	DO
Joane Clovis	Intervention Teacher	STA
Josephine Evans	Paraprofessional	FH
Doris Gilk	2 nd Teacher	STO
Brandon Hill	Welding Teacher	BHS
Samantha Holmquist	Special Ed Teacher	WAP
Melissa Hunt	1 st Grade	STO
Kiarra Johnson	Volleyball Head Varsity Coach	BHS
Tami Jones	2 nd Teacher	RC
Jennifer Martin	6 th Grade Teacher	BHSG
Brenda McCandless	3 rd Teacher	RC
April Minnick	Special Ed Teacher	STO
Kolton Peterson	Maintenance	DW
Chuck Reay	Baseball Assistant Coach	BHS
Malissa Schreiber	Kindergarten Teacher	GRO
Kay Sorensen	6 th Grade Teacher	BHSG
Alan Southern	Science Teacher	MVMS
Scottie Taylor	Math Teacher	IHS
Greg Tubbs	Special Ed Teacher	BHS
Casey Ulrich	Speech Language Pathologist	DW

Future Agenda Items (Information) – Items that the board would like to have in future board meetings are Board Policy 577 Extended Field Trips, legislative updates, and special board meeting dedicated to recognize students and staff.

Adjournment (action) – Mr. Carlos Mercado moved that the February meeting of the board of trustees be adjourned. Mr. Cleon Chapman seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.



 Bonnie Hepworth, Chairwoman



 JaNae Smith, Board Clerk

BLACKFOOT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55
FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Month Ending:
January 31, 2023

ZIONS BANK

M & O - CMIA Account	\$	3,935,599.25
Outstanding Checks	\$	(150,526.83)

ZIONS BANK M&O TOTAL	\$	<u>3,785,072.42</u>
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DL EVANS BANK (School Lunch)	\$	<u>265,647.88</u>
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ZIONS BANK

Blackfoot Performing Arts	\$	23,530.89
Outstanding Checks	\$	(360.00)

ZIONS BANK - Performing Arts Total	\$	<u>23,170.89</u>
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INVESTMENTS - GENERAL OPERATIONS

State Investment Pool	\$	<u>2,902,356.94</u>
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Zions Investment Account	\$	<u>37,613.00</u>
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D.L. Evans-Bond	\$	<u>80,475.18</u>
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PETTY CASH

District Balance 01/31/2023	\$	<u>3,500.00</u>
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TOTAL RECONCILED DISTRICT BANK FUNDS - January 31, 2023	\$	<u><u>7,097,836.31</u></u>
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TOTAL RECONCILED DISTRICT BANK FUNDS - January 31, 2022	\$	<u><u>6,698,839.58</u></u>
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BLACKFOOT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
ALL DISTRICT FUNDS
For the Month Ending:
January 31, 2023

January 1, 2023 Balance Forward:

\$ 8,010,721.30

REVENUE:

Local Property Tax	\$	2,121,530.90
BTECH Revenue Transfer	\$	765,192.13
Federal-Food Service	\$	176,467.17
Local Food Service	\$	25,003.74
Earnings on Investments	\$	15,217.01
Medicaid	\$	7,291.04
Local Revenue (Rent, Donations, Tuition, Etc.)	\$	5,770.00

TOTAL REVENUE:	\$	<u>3,116,471.99</u>
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EXPENDITURES:

January 2023 Payroll	\$	2,405,043.53
BTECH Construction	\$	767,557.13
Transportation	\$	229,397.27
Bldg. Repair, Maint., Supplies, Equip.	\$	164,825.73
Contract Service/Membership	\$	152,560.45
Utilities/Telephone	\$	95,086.38
Custodial Contract	\$	91,970.06
Food Services	\$	79,804.16
Textbooks/Computer/Equipment/Technology	\$	28,661.32
Employee/Public Relations, Travel, In-service	\$	13,328.15
Blackfoot Performing Arts Center	\$	1,122.50

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$	<u>4,029,356.68</u>
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NET DECREASE IN CASH POSITION:

\$ (912,884.69)

ENDING BALANCE:

\$ 7,097,836.61

General Fund

FY23 Revenue To Date 01/31/2023	\$	23,027,562.17	71.4%
FY23 Expenditures To Date 01/31/2023	\$	15,656,452.98	46.1%
FY22 Actual Revenue thru 01/31/2022	\$	20,407,099.15	68.0%
FY22 Actual Expenditures thru 01/31/2022	\$	13,197,434.04	44.4%



 2/11/2023