



# Mountain View School District #244 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2016  
Grangeville High School Library, Grangeville, 5:30 P.M.

## Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Lot Smith called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. Other board members in attendance were Mike Dominguez, Rebecca Warden, and Casey Smith. Sally Nolan was absent.

Chairman Lot Smith explained that this is the monthly business meeting of the Board which is conducted in public; any public input will be considered at the time the item is addressed on the Agenda.

## Additions, Deletions, and/or Corrections to Agenda

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

- **February 22, 2016 Regular Meeting**

Chairman Smith asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mike Dominguez, seconded by Rebecca Warden and passed unanimously.

### Public Input Session (1)

*Audience may address the board (members of the audience are requested to sign in and indicate their topic)*

There were approximately 60 staff members/patrons in attendance at this time and no input was received at this time.

## Information Agenda

### 1) Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Stokes reported on the following:

- He and Principal Miskin recruited at a job fair last week; math positions are hard to fill.
- He will address items that were published in the local newspapers last week, including:
  - **“Why this levy was necessary” and “the \$5 million that the board is sitting on.”** The amount in the Forest Reserve Fund at this time is \$4 million. If the supplemental levy did not pass the district could survive for a little while but this is analogous to operating a car without any spare tire; it would be irresponsible to attempt to operate the district on a paycheck to paycheck basis. The levy is on the ballot in March in order for the district to get an idea of how to budget for the upcoming year. If the voters did not support the levy many program cuts would have to be made; these would gradually be introduced; the Forest Reserve Fund would eventually be depleted and the maintenance projects for which it is intended would not be addressed.
  - **“We don't want the voters to get used to a smaller levy.”** It would be irresponsible to reduce the levy and tell voters that we don't need the \$2.6 million to run this district; this is analogous to stealing from Peter to pay Paul and will deplete the Forest Fund Reserve. If he did make this statement, he will own it.
  - **“The board no longer holds informational meetings with the community informing us why a levy is necessary.”** Last year there was zero attendance at Grangeville and 1 person at CV who showed up for these informational meetings.
  - **Accountability:** Anyone with any concerns or questions should please contact the district and we will review line by line; our audits are very clean.

- **Mandatory posting of all district employee wages and benefit packages on the school website.**” We will show you the district website where contracts, budget, and all expenditures are posted and explain what is required by law. Our compensation package for staff must remain competitive with other school districts.

The Forest Reserve Fund is intended to be used for capital projects. Some of the projects completed recently include: New lights in gym through a grant, hot water heaters replaced at substantial power savings, security cameras and door locks, restroom remodeling at all schools is in progress, new bleachers, carpet, painting, lunch tables, roof at CVE, repair roof at GHS, playground sealant, fences, bus security, auto scrubbers for custodial, new lockers, intercom bell system at CVE, freezer replacement, tennis court resurfacing. Projects to be addressed include: replace heating systems at CVE, GHS and CVHS; replace cement at CVE once the drainage is completed, grind concrete floors to help with maintenance, bus shop heating, automatic sprinklers to rework, gym sound systems, and several roofs are nearing the end of their useful life.

Chairman Lot Smith stated the board is using your money as wisely as we can. If we didn't need \$2.6 we wouldn't ask for it. Our country is in turmoil, education is not the place to cut. This meeting is to get the facts out there. You are always welcome at the district office if you have questions.

Business Manager Becky Hogg demonstrated the district's compliance with website postings required by Idaho Code 33-357 for all expenditures, contracts, annual budget and current master labor agreements. She also provided a review of the monthly Treasurer's Report for the Eight Months Ended February 29, 2016 and explained that the reporting of cash and investment balances as of a snapshot date in time must be analyzed alongside the broader view of the annual budget and projected Federal Forest Reserve fund balances given that federal forest funding from timber harvest provides only about \$45,000 to the district while the Secure Rural Schools act has expired. She noted that the board has used \$1.1 to \$1.4 million annually from Forest Reserve Funds to reduce the levy amount; this means that the district's \$11.5 million budget is financed 12% by Federal Forest Funds and 23% by the supplemental levy. As such, it would be challenging to list the individual program items that the levy supports. Her presentation concluded with a demonstration of how rapidly the Forest Fund Reserve balance would be depleted if the levy had not passed; the withdrawal budgeted for M&O operations for the year would jump from \$1.1 million to \$3.7 million.

Chairman Lot Smith emphasized that it is the Board's responsibility to maintain an operating reserve and contingency fund. Independent audit recommendations are for at least 60 days of operation. All maintenance items, including parking lot repair, have been prioritized. We are doing the best we can with what we have.

Board member Casey Smith stated he opposed hiring another tech person now instead of in August which led him to oppose the levy as the district should be making cuts where it can. Discussion ensued regarding his assertions that the current staff contracts and expenditures were not on the district's website since he could not find them.

## 2) Administrators' Reports

Reports of current events and programs in the schools were provided by:

Principal Miskin: CVHS music concert and play very well done, 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr ending, parent teacher conferences happening, spring activities have begun with 60% of CVHS students

participating, job fair applicants have responded and interviews are underway for math, English and art positions, ISAT testing begins after spring break, CVHS has a great staff.

Director Weddle: State testing begins after spring break and extends through May 20<sup>th</sup>. Grades 3-8 and 10 will take English and Math tests. High school students in grades 10-12 will take end of course assessments in Biology or Chemistry, Grades 5 and 7 will take the ISAT science test, grades K-3 will take the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) test; some special education students participate in the Idaho Alternative Assessment.

Principal Anderson: Dr Seuss week for GEMS primary grades, Love and Logic program began with parenting classes, Eureka Math training underway, GEMS band winter concert, students participating in solo and ensemble music competition, reptile man at GEMS, many staff members trained in Right Response, track has begun, Idaho Youth Theatre Shakespeare performance, Character Counts assembly, grade 2/3 music concert coming up.

Principal Hill: Many activities at CVE, teachers attended Eureka Math training; grades 4/5 students traveled to WSU financed by donations, PTSA fundraiser art/movie night, reptile man at CVE, staff trained in Right Response, Idaho Youth Theatre Shakespeare Festival, students and staff looking forward to spring break followed by state testing.

Director Johnson: Library and instructional staff inspiring students with "Books we Love", library book fair fundraisers are underway to help supplement the district budget for libraries; district leadership team focusing on goals and awaiting changes coming from the state department of education.

Principal Higgins: GHS valedictorian and salutatorian will be introduced at the April board meeting, FCS position opened and interviews are underway, senior projects completed now and will be performing volunteer work in the communities, spring sports have begun, will adjust schedules so classes, team needs, and transportation needs don't interfere with each other, we need more bus drivers, fund raising is underway.

*The Board went to New Business (4) – Discussion of Gun Policy*

**New Business Consent Agenda (to be approved in one motion)**

- 1) **Treasurer's Report/Accounts Payable**
- 2) **In Lieu of Transportation/Room & Boarding - None**
- 3) **Open Enrollment Applications - None**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Rebecca Warden with a second by Mike Dominguez. The motion passed.

**Old Business**

- 1) **Reduction In Force For Certified Staff, Policy #420 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Superintendent Stokes reported there have been no changes from the prior reading. A motion to accept the policy as presented was made by Mike Dominguez with a second by Rebecca Warden. The motion passed with no opposition expressed.

**New Business**

- 1) **Reimbursement of Additional Credits – Supt. Stokes**

Superintendent Stokes presented a request from a teacher for additional credit reimbursement beyond the 18 credits allowed in 5 years. A motion to deny the request

was made by Rebecca Warden with a second by Lot Smith. Rebecca Warden and Lot Smith voted aye. Mike Dominguez voted no. Casey Smith abstained with no reason given; the motion passed.

**2) Considering Bus Bids – Craig Johnson**

Mr. Johnson explained that two of the three bidders did not meet the district's specifications; he then answered questions from the board. A motion to accept the bid which met the required specifications submitted by Harlow's Bus Sales and to include a 10% retainage of the contract amount pending satisfactory completion of the contract was made by Mike Dominguez and seconded by Rebecca Warden. The motion passed with no opposition expressed.

**3) Considering Ending Teacher Contract at Teachers Request – Supt. Stokes**

Superintendent Stokes explained that the details would need to be expressed while in Executive Session. The board will return to this item for any action to be taken following the Executive Session.

*The Board went to New Business (5) New Hires/Resignations*

**4) Discussion of Gun Policy – Mike Dominguez**

Chairman Smith explained that last month board member Dominguez asked a simple question: "Is this the time to open the discussion for a gun policy in the schools?" and subsequent social media posts in the communities may have taken the issue far afield. He explained that any district policy change is subject to at least 3 readings with opportunities for public input and that drafting a policy of this nature would be facilitated through a review committee with plenty of public input.

Board member Dominguez reported he originally presented the question to the board in 2013 but being a different board they did not wish to consider it at that time; he has since met with Garden Valley School District trustees and their attorney about the policy they have implemented; he has met with the district's liability insurance carrier and with a policy in place the district's liability is reduced substantially.

Idaho County Sheriff Doug Giddings, Undersheriff Jim Gorges and Grangeville City Police Chief Morgan Drew were available during the discussion to answer questions from law enforcement's point of view and each spoke to the issue regarding training, etc. Discussion ensued with several audience members providing their input to the board.

A motion to propose a policy draft based upon Garden Valley School District's policy and to appoint and schedule a steering committee meeting at the next board meeting was made by Mike Dominguez and seconded by Rebecca Warden. The motion passed.

*The Board took a break from 7:48 PM and resumed at 7:58 PM. The Board went to New Business (7) – Discussion of Dividing District*

**5) New Hires/Resignations – Supt. Stokes**

A motion to accept was made by Rebecca Warden, seconded by Mike Dominguez and passed unanimously.

**6) Emergency Closure at Elk City**

Superintendent Stokes explained there had been a power outage at Elk City on March 3, 2016 and the school was closed for 3 periods. A motion to declare an Emergency Closure at Elk City School on March 3, 2016 for three hours was made by Rebecca Warden and seconded by Mike Dominguez. The motion passed unanimously.

*The Board went to New Business (9) – Administrator Contracts*

**7) Discussion of Dividing District – Casey Smith**

Superintendent Stokes reported he had discussed the process of dividing a school district with State Department of Education Associate Deputy Superintendent Tim Hill who advised that this is a complicated and lengthy process noting the state of Idaho is not in favor of dividing school districts. He suggested that we contact Mr. Dave Teater, who was contracted by Joint School District #241 in 2006 to prepare the proposal for division with Riggins, for specific details; he also suggested contacting Kamiah Joint School District to determine if they would want to annex the Clearwater Valley area into their district.

District attorney Adam Green explained that Idaho law allows for the procedure which requires the board to submit a proposal to State Board of Education (SBOE) and, if approved, the proposal comes back to voters in the affected districts to vote on the issue. A contractor prepares the proposal for division and leads the board through the process. Mr. Green advised the board that if they were serious about exploring a division they should appoint a committee to begin to develop a realistic proposal and hire a consulting firm to present the proposal to the SBOE.

Board member Casey Smith expressed he wants to divide the district but not necessarily annex to Kamiah.

A motion to table this discussion indefinitely was made by Mike Dominguez and seconded by Rebecca Warden. Discussion ensued. The motion passed. Casey Smith voted no.

**8) Discussion of Information on Website – Casey Smith**

Board member Casey Smith cannot locate the information; he was directed to the location on the website.

*The Board went to New Business Consent Agenda*

**9) Administrator Contracts**

Superintendent Stokes explained that consideration of employee evaluations would need to be expressed in Executive Session. The board will return to this item for any action to be taken following the Executive Session.

**Public Input Session (2)**

***Audience may address the board (members of the audience are requested to sign in and indicate their topic)***

There were approximately 30 staff members/patrons in attendance at this time. Char McKinney addressed the board concerning the credit reimbursement decision. By consensus the board agreed to review and gather more information on the issue.

At 8:34 PM Chairman Lot Smith requested the Minutes reflect that board member Casey Smith had walked out of the meeting a few minutes earlier.

**Executive Session IC 74-206 b,c (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;(c) To acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency**

Section 74-206(1) states that "An executive session shall be authorized by a 2/3 vote of the governing body." Therefore, it takes four members of a five member board to vote yes to go into Executive Session. This requirement could not be met as of 8:36 PM.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

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**School Board Chairman**

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**School Board Clerk**

**Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2016, 5:30 P.M., Mountain View School District Office, Grangeville, ID**