PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular April 13, 2020 meeting of the Plummer-Worley Joint School District No. 44 Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairman Paul Daman at 6:02 p.m. Board members present by Zoom were Tami Gauthier, Ida Gustin, Jan Mitchell, Paul Daman, Sara Allen, and Marlow Thompson. Absent was Ryan Ortivez.

Also present was Superintendent Judi Sharrett, Karyn Stockdale, Marcia Hoffman, Jennifer Hall, Bob Curley, Stacey Sonder, Russ Mitchell, Tim Florin, Caralyn Olson, and Jennifer Gates.

Emergency Resolution 20-01

The board was provided with Resolution No. 20-01 (Exhibit "A") which was prepared by legal counsel to accommodate the current situation with COVID and allow the board to meet through electronic platform and remain compliant with the open meeting laws. The agenda and a copy of the resolution were posted on the district website and on Facebook. Paul Daman asked board members if anyone has any questions. Discussion was held. Sara Allen moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.

Consent Agenda

Tami Gauthier moved to approve the Consent Agenda (Exhibit "B") as presented. Ida Gustin seconded. Paul Daman commented he says Mrs. Hall is still planning to do something for graduation and advised the board is behind her in that regard. He also commented on the elementary packets and the personalization for each student. All members voted yes.

Communications

No communications were received.

Recognition of Guests

The Chairman recognized guests, with no response.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Sharrett provided the Superintendent's Report (Exhibit "C").

- Mrs. Sharrett provided an update on the COVID Emergency Response Plan and a report on the first week of remote learning in the district. Since the soft closure, the State Board of Education has ordered the soft closure through the end of the 2019-20 school year. Local control is retained if minimum reinstatement criteria is maintained. Tami Gauthier doesn't believe we should be in a big hurry to close. Paul Daman believes if we can get the kids back to school it would be a good thing. The district will not take action at this time to close school. Ida Gustin agrees if we get an option to reopen, then we should do so.

- Last week's food delivery on the 6th was 133 meals. On the 7th, 138 – on the 8th 203, the 9th 184, the 10th 209.
- The elementary school has delivered approximately 95 percent of the packets to students. Only 8 have not been picked up at this time.
- At the Jr./Sr. High School, the teachers are doing an amazing job utilizing One Note for planning. 137 laptops delivered last week. We have only one student with no internet at this point.
- In special education, all parents have been contacted. IEPs are being revised and notices sent. ZOOM is being used for IEP meetings when necessary.

- Congress is expected to give more flexibility to federal funding which will be important for our district. State actions also are helping districts
  - With federal programs, Mrs. Sharrett and Mrs. Hoffman attended a conference with SDE today to get information on stimulus funding through the CARES Act. SDE is putting in a grant application by April 26 that allocates $47.8 million to Idaho which should go mostly to Title schools. We should get about an estimated $234,000. With these funds, everything must be paid for by September 2021. This will help defray some of the anticipated costs and the 5 percent holdback for next year. This money will be highly flexible and can be used for coronavirus preparedness, low income needs, resources for principals, technology, sanitation, etc. It can also be used for mental health support, after school programming, and other uses. We will probably need to submit some sort of application but this is really good news for our district. Marcia Hoffman added we will have to keep track of it in the line items and will have to keep a detailed record of how it is being spent. Carry over restrictions have been waived.
  - Michelle Renfrew has filed a COVID waiver for the food service program. There is a lot of work involved in this. URM decided not to deliver to schools anymore and we were switched to another vendor and lost our bid prices. Food prices are three times as much as the bid prices. We will be spending a lot more on food this year. There are weekly food service webinars and there is a lot of work going into this program at this time.
  - There are numerous waivers on uses for federal funds.
  - Assessment and accountability – we don't have a waiver on the IRI yet. It requires action by the governor. The ISAT has been waived. As for the required college entrance exam, the College Board is working to provide options and looking at options for administration of the SAT.
  - Technology services – SDE is providing numbers for parents to get free broadband from providers. We will need to look into it more. We got a query from Idaho Business Education Association wondering about students without internet connectivity. They want to help out but we need to look into more closely.
  - We have been looking into the ability to expand hot spots for Wi-Fi.
- State Board of Education is meeting weekly
  - April 6 - extended soft closure through the end of this school year.
  - State Board is asking the governor to use his executive powers to waive the IRI, instructional hours, and the civics exam. However, the state board was able to waive the requirement for 60 hours per semester credit.

- Transportation costs – there are no easy answers because funding next year is based upon the mileage from this year which will be much decreased from previous or future years.

- **Families First Coronavirus Relief Act** – A summary was provided and administration is in the process of understanding it better. The district office is meeting Wednesday to review absences to see how they relate to the FFCRA and make sure we are applying it appropriately.
- **Budget** - Governor Little has implemented a one (1%) percent holdback for state funds and is discussing a five (5%) percent holdback for the 2020-21 school year with details forthcoming. This year we can pay everyone and keep everyone employed. Mrs. Sharrett asked for the board's blessing to send out a letter to staff to that effect. Mrs. Hoffman commented this is because funding is based upon the November upload and salary based apportionment is ok. Mrs. Sharrett didn't want to make this decision too quickly due to not having all of the information. She estimates $140,000 to $145,000 estimated holdback for next year. We should be putting the budget together right now but don't have the information to do so. The five (5%) percent holdback should be defrayed to a great degree by the $234,000 that we should receive from the federal government. We could conceivably be ok but we don't have the details yet.
- We received a joint letter from ISBA and IEA (Exhibit "*") today which provides some flexibility for negotiations. However, the timelines for the budget haven't changed at this point.
- The district was informed last week it did not get approved for the 21st Center Community Learning Center grant (Success Center), however we can reapply next year. Funding for this program was approved through the supplemental levy. We can also use funding from the CARES Act for the after school program. Paul believes if we can fund this we should do so, but we can't get into our general fund too deep. Mrs. Sharrett was really happy to learn about the ability to use CARES funding for after school programming.
- Mrs. Sharrett provided a wrap-up on the legislative session:
    - There was a 2 percent increase in salary allocations for classified and administrative staff; 1.7 percent increase in discretionary funds; funding the first year of the third column of the career ladder; wanting to pass legislation to place CTE instructors coming from industry on the career ladder.
    - 5 year plan for building the third column of the career ladder. This is the veteran teachers. Districts need more guidance on how that rung is put into place.
    - School election legislation was defeated.
    - Another bill defeated was school employees carrying firearms in school.
    - Superintendent evaluations legislation did not pass.
    - A Senate bill is providing a small increase in reimbursement for driver education.
    - Academic content standards – Idaho Core Standards have been maintained for one more year. There is a concurrent resolution to have a committee study the standards this year.
- The playground equipment funded by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's education donation is currently being installed. We expect it could be completed by the end of this year. Stacey Sonder says all the groundwork is done. We just need the playground equipment delivered. Mr. Mitchell advised the mats and materials for the adaptive swing set have arrived. There have been some scheduling challenges but some of it has been shipped and on its way.

Board Business

Approval of Emergency Closure

Jan Mitchell moved to approve emergency closure from March 18 through March 25, 2020, due to the Stay-at-Home order from Governor Little. Sara Allen seconded. All members voted yes.

Policy Review and Adoption

The board reviewed **Policy No. 7236 - Employees Paid with Federal Funds and Unexpected or Extraordinary Closures** which allows the district to keep paying employees with federal funds even though their duties may have changed since March 18. This policy was drafted by ISBA and is highly recommended for districts who receive federal funds.

The temporary **telecommuting policy and procedure** provides expectations and structure for those employees who are working remotely. This is a temporary policy designed to be put in place during COVID. This policy was written through the use of a template from the Murray Group (insurance broker) and was reviewed and revised by legal counsel.

Tami Gauthier moved to declare an emergency exists and to adopt the two policies presented with an immediate effective date and without the required second reading. Ida Gustin seconded. Role call vote: Tami Gauthier voted yes; Ida Gustin voted yes; Jan Mitchell voted yes; Sara Allen voted yes; Marlow Thompson voted yes; and Paul Daman voted yes.

E-Rate Bid

The administration recommended the bid for E-rate services. This requires formal bid approval. Federal bidding requirements were followed, and this is the only bid we received. Sara Allen moved to approve the bid from Ednetics. Jan Mitchell seconded. All members voted yes.

Negotiating Team

Discussion was held on determining the negotiations team. Marlow Thompson and Sara Allen will represent the board, and possibly Paul Daman.

Items for Future Agenda

Humanities Approval	Senior Project Manual Revisions	Budget Discussion/Staffing
2020-21 District Calendar	COVID Operations Update	Negotiations Update

Tami Gauthier stressed the importance of the seniors understanding we will have a graduation ceremony for them. Jennifer Hall talked with them last week when they came in and is working with the students and teachers for ideas to highlight the seniors and provide a graduation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

_____ _____

Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk

DRAFT