PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular September 14, 2020, meeting of the Plummer-Worley Joint School District No. 44 Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairman Paul Daman at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Ryan Ortivez, Tami Gauthier, Ida Gustin, Paul Daman, Jan Mitchell, Marlow Thompson and Sara Allen.

Also present was Superintendent Russ Mitchell, Karyn Stockdale, Marcia Hoffman, Tim Florin, Jennifer Hall, Dani Boyd, Stacey Sonder, Jennifer Gates, and Bob Curley.

Amend Agenda

Marlow Thompson moved to amend the agenda to allow the superintendent to report on an incident which occurred after the football game at Clark Fork on Friday night, and further to report on pending litigation in executive session, due to issues which have arisen which are emergent and impossible to know of at the time the agenda was prepared. Sara Allen seconded. All members voted yes.

Consent Agenda

Jan Mitchell moved to approve the Consent Agenda (Exhibit "A") as presented tonight. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.

Communications

No communications were received.

Recognition of Guests

No guests were present to be recognized.

Superintendent's Report (Exhibit "B")

Superintendent Mitchell provided information to the Board of Trustees about an **incident which occurred after the football game at Clark Fork Friday night**. Shortly after leaving Clark Fork, riders of the Lakeside High School bus were startled by a loud noise and the crashing of two windows in the bus as they travelled down the road. An unknown projectile had passed through a driver side window and continued through a passenger side window, barely missing one of the athletes. No athletes were injured except one student who sustained a minor injury from glass shards.

Varying accounts were given by the athletes as to what had actually transpired. Speculation grew with regard to the event and the motivation of the parties willing to take such action. Authorities were called and the investigation began immediately involving four different law enforcement agencies, including the FBI.

Evidence was gathered and the facts were assembled. Both the Plummer-Worley School District (PWSD) and Lake Pend Oreille School Districts (LPOD) worked closely with law enforcement, including, but not limited to: Providing video taken from inside the bus. Investigators were also able to gather additional video evidence near the site of the incident from the exterior of the bus.

The video evidence made available by the PWSD, which came from inside the bus, made it easily discernable that the projectile was of considerable size. The object came through one window, glanced off an equipment bag that was resting on the seat, and broke through the glass on the opposite side of the bus. The size of the object could be likened to a large rock or potato. It has not been made known to the Plummer-Worley School District what the object was or the composition of the large mass.

Authorities reached out to the district this morning and let them know of the video evidence that had been gathered near the place of the incident. They also communicated that there were already a short list of suspects. The investigation is continuing, and the districts are in constant communication.

Within the last hour, the district received an official Press Release from the Bonner County Sheriff's Department. Based on video evidence from the interior of the bus and more compelling video at the scene outside of the bus, suspects were identified and questioned. Four juveniles have confessed to having participated in the incident. One of the individuals confessed to the actual act. All four juveniles are being charged by the Bonner County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Mitchell stated law enforcement was very attentive to the situation and acted very quickly. People from the Clark Fork community provided information and video to the police to aid the investigation. During the investigation, Mr. Mitchell kept in close contact with the other school district, law enforcement, and Chairman Allan. Because the perpetrators are juveniles, their names will not be released to the public and Mr. Mitchell has not been advised of their names.

Administration has been in contact with Clark Fork about where we go from here. Some persons from Clark Fork are concerned about their safety if they come to Lakeside in the future. It will take some work to resolve the issues going forward.

Discussion was held. Ryan Ortivez asked about concerns of backlash from the information put out with the press release. Mr. Mitchell was told earlier at the very least the perpetrators would be charged with aggravated assault. Ida Gustin suggested the presidents of the student bodies discuss how to move forward and give them ownership in resolving the issues. Tami Gauthier appreciates how much information was put out to the community and believes people appreciate getting the information. Ida Gustin commented on the years and years and years of the memories of racism, the kids remember those incidents and it sticks with them. Mr. Mitchell commented that with everything going on in the world with COVID and the riots, adding this event creates a great deal of fear.

Mr. Mitchell advised he will work with Clark Fork, and if the students attend school there, he will find out the consequences if possible and report back. He will investigate the ability to blur out the faces of our students on the video so that people can see the rock that was thrown through the bus. Jennifer Hall commented there were

a lot of things learned, for instance, bus windows are constructed to break easily. This is so that passengers can escape in the event of an accident. Mr. Curley advised the front and back windows are made with safety glass and are difficult to break. The side windows are made much differently and designed to break easily.

Mr. Curley commented in viewing the videos and discussing it with the driver, he believes the driver needed to keep going for safety. He believes this is partly his fault in training. He could hear some of the students yelling go, go, go. It could have been worse if someone had been targeting the bus with firearms. He talked about law enforcement training and how they tell you not to stop, just keep going until you get to the next town. That is training he will follow up with at the next training session. We will learn from this. Paul Daman said it is hard from his perspective to be too critical in this situation.

Russ Mitchell addressed the board relative to **COVID** and the reopening of our schools. Middle school sports will begin practice on September 22, the district having elected to hold off for a couple of weeks due to COVID. The other schools have already started but have scheduled all the games for the remainder of the season. Food service will take a budgetary hit due to COVID. They can no longer have the "share bin" for food such as apples, milk, or other sealed items that students don't consume. Because of COVID, those items now must be disposed of instead of made available for other students. Based upon the first four days of school, the amount of food waste, it is estimated it will cost an additional $6,000 to $8,000 in expenses over the course of the year. Staff are not allowed to encourage students to finish their meals under the civil rights laws. It will cost an additional $400 just for more gloves. Success Center opening was delayed because of the concern of "cross pollination" due to kids coming from different classrooms. We are still going to try to start the after school program in late October in some manner.

Mr. Mitchell discussed **mask protocol** with the Board. Current CDC protocols state if you are maintaining a six-foot distance, you can remove your mask. He would like to implement our protocol to mirror CDC standards starting on September 21. Currently, our protocols are more restrictive than even the CDC guidelines. In actuality, in a classroom, if we can maintain a six-foot social distancing standard, a mask can be removed or dropped periodically, at least while they are properly distanced. He is asking the board to move to the CDC guidelines and allow it the masks to be removed if proper social distancing can be maintained. Currently we are taking "masks breaks" which cuts into instructional time. He felt at the beginning it was important to set a standard and build habits within the students. He is proposing moving to CDC standards starting next Monday – September 21 – to allow the standard set by CDC. Ryan Ortivez believes it would be good if we can educate the community appropriately. In some classrooms, it isn't possible to maintain the six-foot guideline. It would create some general relief throughout the district. Jan Mitchell moved to amend the mask guidelines as presented to adopt the CDC standard. Ryan Ortivez seconded. Discussion was held. All members voted yes.

Governor Little has recognized school employees as "**essential personnel**". Not unlike medical professionals, in the event someone comes in contact with someone with COVID and remains asymptomatic, they are allowed to return to the workplace sooner than the 14-day quarantine period. A couple of weeks ago when we had a positive test case by a student athlete, all in that program were sent home for 14 days, with Marimn Health

contacting each person every two days. Having two staff members gone for 14 days was taxing on our remaining staff members. In this particular scenario, it would ease the burden on staff greatly, if we could follow the protocols for essential staff. What it would require is the following: we set a standard of five days, take temperatures before work, always wear a face mask, and practice social distancing in the workplace as work duties permit.

There are three don'ts for employees:

- Don't stay at work if you become sick;
- Don't share headsets or objects used near the face; and
- Don't congregate in the breakroom or other crowded places.

Mr. Mitchell has great confidence we can adhere to these requirements.

Guidelines for the employer include:

- Taking temperatures and assessing employees before work. If an employee becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately.
- Test the use of facemasks to be sure they don't interfere with workflow. We would need to make certain they have an adequate face covering and it allows them to do their job.
- Increase air exchange in the building – that is more problematic for us because our systems are not room per room. It also contradicts what we have been told before. PHD tells us to do the best we can.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Mr. Mitchell believes we can meet all the standards and need to look at each situation individually. It doesn't mean that we must do this but gives us the ability to exercise this option if necessary. We consider each situation on an individual basis, and if possible, bring staff back after a five-day quarantine period. This would be a change to our protocol. Paul Daman asked if the board feels parents would be concerned about the five days instead of the fourteen days for a person who never showed symptoms. Ryan Ortivez asked if they would test before they came back to work. Mr. Mitchell said he would not legally be able to compel a test, but we could encourage them to do so. Ryan Ortivez is concerned about parents worrying about the exposure to their children because of those community members who have had exposure. Discussion was held on when we shut down school if we have too many staff who have been exposed. Ida Gustin talked about the screening questions for those who may have been exposed at the Casino. Marimn Health employees test negative and immediately go back to work if they are without symptoms and wearing a mask. What would be the difference? Ryan Ortivez believes it is better to ask the employees to test. Marlow Thompson asked for the superintendent's recommendation. Marlow Thompson moved to amend the protocol (No. 1) where a staff member has come in contact with a positive COVID person, and that after a five day waiting period is asymptomatic, if critical and needed at the workplace, that we employ the CDC guidelines for essential critical workers. Tami Gauthier seconded. Paul Daman stated the employees can be encouraged to test in order to relieve some questions. All members voted yes.

Board Business

- **Policy Review – 5334 (Vacation)** – The board held a second reading on policy 5334 (Vacation) (Exhibit "C"). Jan Mitchell moved to approve the policy as presented. Sara Allen seconded. All members voted yes.
- **Board Strategic Planning** – Discussion was held on the Virtual Impact Aid Conference, the Virtual Region 1 ISBA Meeting, and the Virtual ISBA Conference. Mr. Mitchell and Marcia Hoffman are currently registered for the Impact Aid Conference. More information will be needed concerning the ISBA conference. The district will register for the regional meeting and have the conference room set up accordingly.
- **Emergency Levy** – Mr. Mitchell reviewed the average daily attendance for the first five days of school as compared to last year. Enrollment last year at this time was 350 and as of today, we are at 372. Most districts are seeing a decline in enrollment and it excites Mr. Mitchell to see our enrollment increase. Other districts have inquired about our plan and some are changing to mirror our protocols. While enrollment is increased by 22 students, the average daily attendance was 355 last year and is 358 this year. A daily breakdown is as follows:

Fall 2020	Fall 2019	
353	348.5	2nd Day
352	348.5	3rd Day
345	350	4th Day
351	337	5th Day

The emergency levy is an option provided to schools in the event the attendance increases within the first five days. We can opt to certify a tax to the community based on these numbers. It would gain us $39,540. Last year the board took advantage of the emergency levy to hire more staff to deal with larger numbers in the intermediate grades. In this year's budget, that staff member was accounted for in the budget. We do not need additional funding for that position again, putting us in a better position financially than last year. Additionally, the Governor is reinstating some of the five (5) percent holdback. We are hopeful that will also provide funds to strengthen the district's position. Mr. Mitchell does not recommend the board certify an emergency levy because he believes we currently have what we need. Discussion was held. Marlow Thompson moved to not apply for emergency levy funds. Ryan Ortivez seconded. Marlow Thompson believes this puts us in a much stronger position to say to our patrons when it comes time for our override levy, that we did not take this money to hit them twice in a very short span of time. Marcia Hoffman commented the facility bond (elementary school) has decreased to the lowest amount possible this year. All members voted yes.

Personnel

The board was advised of one staff member working under an Alternative Authorization this year. Sara Allen moved to declare an area of need in Math and find that the candidate possesses distinct content knowledge and skills in the area in which they have been assigned and to approve the alternative authorization as presented. Jan Mitchell seconded. All members voted yes.

Items for Future Agenda

ISBA Conference	Graduation Requirements	Policy Review
NAFIS Conference Report	Regional ISBA Meeting Report	ISBA Resolutions
Audit Report		

Executive Session

Sarah Allen moved to go into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-234(f) to discuss potential litigation. Tami Gauthier seconded. Roll call vote: Ryan Ortivez voted yes; Tami Gauthier voted yes; Ida Gustin voted yes; Paul Daman voted yes; Jan Mitchell voted yes; Sara Allen voted yes; and Marlow Thompson voted yes. (7:57 p.m.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Plummer-Worley Joint School District No. 44 recess from public session pursuant to Section 74-206(f), Idaho Code, for the purpose of discussing potential litigation upon advice of legal counsel that it is appropriate to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following the executive session the Board of Trustees reconvene into public session for the purpose of conducting further business or for the adjournment of the meeting. (8:02 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk

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