PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular April 12, 2021, 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 Ida Gustin, Paul Daman, Sara Allen, and Marlow Thompson. Absent were Ryan Ortivez, Tami Gauthier and Jan Mitchell.

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

Consent Agenda

Marlow Thompson asked about testing at the elementary level and the complaint in the survey about the timing of ISAT tests. He asked if there is any wiggle room in testing dates or if they are absolute. Ms. Boyd informed him some assessments started before spring break and they do their best but there isn't a lot of wiggle room. It can be challenging to get all of the tests completed and meet state requirements. Mrs. Hall commented there is only a six-week window for ISAT testing and it is difficult to get all students tested within that window. Sara Allen moved to approve the Consent Agenda (Exhibit "A") as presented. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.

Communications

The board reviewed information on the ISBA Spring Leadership Institute (Exhibit "B").

Recognition of Guests

The **Lakeside ASB** representative was unable to attend due to a golf obligation.

Mr. Mitchell announced Tracey Way as **Employee of the Trimester**. The district received a record number of nominations, and Mr. Way received numerous nominations.

Superintendent's Report (Exhibit "C")

- Superintendent Mitchell provided information to the Board of Trustees on the **COVID** response in the district. We are still trying to continue a return to normalcy. Class sizes at the secondary are a little larger and students are passing between classes. Challenges remain however.
    - Just today the district was informed there will be no more Styrofoam trays available for food service due to a manufacturing shortage because of COVID. We may need to hire additional staff for dishwashing until the shortage ends.

- The food service co-op is in question as to whether it will continue due to some districts not pulling their weight in providing support for the group. It would be extremely detrimental if the co-op were to dissolve.
- We are still limited in bus drivers and even though we were able to hire one driver, we are still short a regular route driver. The district had to hire Durham to take a recent trip and there is one trip upcoming where no one is available.
- The heat pumps are still a problem.
- Currently vaccinations are being made available for students 16 and older. Mr. Mitchell has been in discussion with Marimn about helping to promote vaccinations for students and asked for guidance from the board in that regard. Paul Daman believes we should make it as available as we can but doesn't want to make anyone feel pressured by friends, staff, or anyone to get the vaccine. It is very controversial and there is a certain amount of privacy involved. Mr. Mitchell said there are pros and cons as to whether it is on or off campus. Ida Gustin commented it is still being offered on different sites. It has been offered in several areas throughout the community. Marimn would need to know how many doses would be needed and is that an area the district should delve into? Discussion was held on parent communication. Ida Gustin suggested just giving information on the satellite sites. Marlow Thompson has concerns about trying to set up a vaccination site in our location and how much space it would take and details to be managed. He thinks it would be a lot easier if it were not on our site and we just advertised the availability as Ida Gustin recommended. He also expressed a concern about the scope of liability if vaccinations are happening on our site.
- Policy work has taken a turn due to COVID and we would like to review a number of those and pay with COVID funds if we contract for help in that regard.
- The **FFCRA** was previously extended through April by the board. Mr. Mitchell is recommending extending it through June 30. He still has concerns about continuing to observe the COVID situation in the district. Since we returned from spring break, we have had three staff members quarantined as well as a number of students quarantined. Mr. Mitchell recommended continuing the FFCRA through the end of the school year. Marlow Thomas moved the district endeavor to continue to administer confirmed COVID-related leave consistent with the emergency paid sick leave provisions of FFCRA through June 30. Sara Allen seconded. Discussion was held. All members voted yes.

- Mr. Mitchell advised the district has been asked by numerous parties about willingness to sell the Worley property. He reviewed the details of the property, the value of the property to the district, etc. His concern about selling the property is relocation of the transportation garage and the amount of money required to replace it. Mr. Mitchell suggested a trade with the Dalco building but that offer was declined by one of the interested parties. No dollar amounts have been discussed. Under today's conditions, the cost of construction would be at a premium and hookup fees are expensive as well. He believes there remains interest in the property, but the district needs to be able to relocate the transportation garage without spending additional money. The district needs to stay whole.

- Mr. Mitchell provided an update on pending legislation at the state level (Exhibit "D"). The legislature is still in session due to a two-week COVID break.
    - The August 27 election date is still in danger of being eliminated.
    - The strong families grant program is essentially a voucher bill and would allow public funding for private education. This is of great concern to Idaho schools. The legislation has been killed several times within this session.
    - Funding for full-day kindergarten is still pending.
    - The guns in schools bill is thought to be isolated and won't pass this year.
    - The K-12 budget still has not been passed. The higher education budget had a lot of heated discussion last week due to social justice activities at Boise State.
    - The advanced professional (career ladder) legislation has created a stipend for those teachers reaching a high level of student achievement. It creates a lot of complex paperwork for the administrators during the evaluation process. A cover sheet (Exhibit "E") has been created because all of the information has to be detailed in reporting to the state department of education. Only one staff member qualified for advanced professional last year (due to COVID and the resulting inability to determine attendance percentages) but he believes a higher number of staff can meet the requirements now that it is more understandable. Mr. Mitchell will review this document with a staff committee.
- Mr. Mitchell updated the board on various funding sources (Exhibit "F"). There are several sources that we would have never imagined. These include:
    - ESSER-1 (Original CARES Act) $234,700 – used to address all things COVID.
    - ESSER 1.2 -Governor's reinstatement fund $119,900
    - ESSER 2.1 (CRRSA Act) funds are estimated at $487,800 and ESSER 2.2 (CRRSA Act) funds are estimated at $457,222.

      These are the funds Mr. Mitchell previously mentioned which helped us not run a levy this year. ESSER-1 funds must be completely expended before ESSER-II funds can be accessed. While this seems straight forward, the legislature has had some discussions about these funds. Currently, the legislature is trying to split disbursement of the money into two sections. Ybarra requested an attorney general opinion who said the legislature can't do that. The US DOE also said the legislature can't do that and the funds must be passed directly to the districts. This was still in discussion last week with JFAC. Even if they split the disbursements, we would get half now and half available July 1.
    - ESSER 3 - The district estimates it will receive $2.1 million in one-time ESSER-III funds, of which twenty percent must be used to address learning loss. The other 80 percent can be utilized for a number of ways including school facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs; and inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and Door repair and replacement. Any capital expenses exceeding $5,000 must be approved by the State Department of Education. ESSER-III funds must be expended by September 30, 2024.

- ESSER 3 Set-Aside - Amount to be determined and to address learning loss. This will be announced in the next 30 to 45 days and must be expended by the end of 2021.
- Supplemental Levy – because funding sources elsewhere have specific requirements, some needs will not be met and a levy in Spring 2022, will be needed. Amount to be determined.
- Leadership premiums - $46,000 - have again been authorized by the state. These were previously funded by ESSER-I due to the Governor's holdback.
- Success Center – $568,000 - this is funded at the rate of $113,519 per year for five years.
- The discretionary funds were withheld by the state for this year to the sum of $117,558. These are being supplanted by federal dollars and have been restored for next year.
- CSI-Up Year 3 - $370,000 – Reduced for 2020-21 and supplanted by ESSER 2 funds portion.
- CSI-Up Year 4 – Amount to be determined. Because of COVID, an additional year was added to the project. Depends on the SWIP submitted in September, 2021.

- The major areas where he sees us gaining the most ground are:
  - Facilities;
  - Learning loss;
  - Retention of staff. Mr. Mitchell wants to make an investment in our staff – classified and certified. There as been discussion of a potential daycare for staff and all that would be required including licensing etc. He is incredibly proud of every person in this district and their willingness to come back to work when so many people around the nation weren't willing. There have been many challenges for our staff this year. Many districts gave bonuses with COVID money and called them stipends. At some point, we need to let staff know we recognize what they have done, and we can't leave them behind. Mr. Mitchell recommends incentivizing staff to return. He will return to the board with a recommendation after he knows the budget.
  - We have a very short timeline on some of our facility needs with an elongated process for making repairs to our HVAC system. Paul Daman asked if we are behind the 8-ball in getting the work done this summer. Mr. Mitchell said we are, but the funds haven't been released yet. We need to get on top of this but there is a legal process to be followed. He believes we may need to hold some special meetings in order to get the ball moving in a number of areas when the money becomes available. Other projects are ongoing, including repair of the brick work on the middle school building.
  - He made a couple of preemptive moves and is meeting with a person who does facility assessments in Idaho. This person will be able to give good advice on the best way to proceed. He and Stacey are meeting with two facility managers in the area to discuss some feedback on our situation as well.

Board Business

- **Pathways** – Principal Hall updated the board regarding planning for the transition to **Pathways** at the secondary level (Exhibit "G"). Mr. Mitchell suggested a tour at the next board meeting to see the equipment and activities. Mrs. Hall would like a couple of students involved as well.
- The Board reviewed the results of the parent survey (Exhibit "H"). The results represent 229 students, or 60 percent of our student body. Discussion was held. Mr. Mitchell believes we still have work to be done in the area of special education, 504 plans, etc.

- Sara Allen reported on her walk-through of the buildings last month. She liked seeing all the students in school and moving around at the secondary. The fitness area in the old band room is nice as well. She is looking forward to seeing the CTE equipment.
- The board reviewed the proposed **2021-22 District Calendar** (Exhibit "I"). Karyn Stockdale advised the calendar primarily follows the same schedule as the past several years, with a couple of exceptions. In order to provide for two full-day professional development opportunities for staff (October 22 and February 18), there are a couple less early releases. Two of the evening obligations (Open House and Community Night) are district-wide events. The district coordinated with community partners from Tribal School, ECLC, Marimn/Boys & Girls Club, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and PWEA to avoid conflicting activities for families. The proposed calendar meets the state requirements for instructional minutes at each grade level, and instructional hours per credit at the secondary level. Marlow Thompson moved to approve the calendar as presented. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.
- Discussion was held on the board negotiations team. Marlow Thompson and Sara Allen will serve on behalf of the board. Negotiations take place only if the PWEA requests negotiations.

Items for Future Agendas

Budget/Staffing	Pathways/Student Presentation	District Data
COVID Update	CTE Tour	Student Attendance
Title VI Public Hearing		

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

_____ _____

Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk