PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular August 9, 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 Ryan Ortivez, Tami Gauthier, Paul Daman, Jan Mitchell, Sara Allen, and Marlow Thompson. Absent was Ida Gustin.

Also present was Superintendent Russ Mitchell, Karyn Stockdale, Marcia Hoffman, Jennifer Hall, Dani Boyd, Stacey Sonder, Diana Wick, Jerel Hight, Michelle Grossglauser, Jennifer Gates, and Khrist Rojas.

Consent Agenda

Sara Allen moved to approve the Consent Agenda (Exhibit "A") as presented. Tami Gauthier seconded. All members voted yes.

Communications

Mr. Mitchell reported he received a phone call from Tammy Preston and Robert Powell from Jerome, Idaho, who offered to donate a collection (500-600) of Native American books and pictures. The district accepted and the items were delivered last week.

Recognition of Guests

No guests were recognized.

Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Mitchell provided information to the Board of Trustees on the status of COVID-19. Marimn is committed to support the district as they did last year. Many districts are struggling with how to start the school year. The CDC seems to be undecided and changes recommendations frequently. As things heat up with the Delta variant we see a lot of data about positive results, and a lack of data on death rates, although it is much more contagious. Mr. Mitchell continues to ask questions of other districts and at this point only Boise is requiring masks. All others are recommending masks but leaving them optional, with parents making the ultimate decision. Other states are taking varying positions. We've heard varying positions on requirements for our ESSER funds but haven't gotten a solid answer at this time.
    - Unless the board objects, Mr. Mitchell recommends the district start the school year in Level Green, with masks being optional, or recommended.
    - Many districts are debating the responsibility of contact tracing and determination of close contacts. Quarantining is really a health-related issue, and the district shouldn't be making the decision to determine who is subject to quarantine. Mr. Mitchell recommended that positive cases be quarantined but the requirements of the quarantine would be determined by Marimn

or other medical professionals. The district would need to notify families of a positive case within the classroom.

Ryan Ortivez asked if we have had a recommendation from Marimn as to what stage the district open. Mr. Mitchell's recommendation is the district base their staging on attendance and cases within the school. Marimn must look at their entire area. He will most definitely have a conversation with Marimn but would like a clear understanding from the board prior to doing so. Paul Daman believes we have all done exactly what we have been asked to do but doesn't see the data to prove the result. He believes we should do what we believe is best, based upon our own situation and circumstances. We should make it clear that students who aren't feeling well or have the sniffles should stay home but we should base our staging on keeping students in school. He supports starting in green and seeing how it goes. Mr. Mitchell stated the district didn't have substantial gains academically last year. We did a great job addressing many challenges, including remote learning by many students, but students didn't see the growth they can make due to COVID restrictions. Mr. Mitchell stated we also need to allow the teachers some flexibility to maintain social distancing, wear masks, or take precautions as they see necessary. Paul Daman stated we don't want any teacher to be afraid to come to work and agrees we need to be sensitive to other's decisions, including the decision to get, or not, vaccinated. Tami Gauthier stated she is good with starting in green. Mr. Mitchell will be meeting with Council Fires tomorrow and is reaching out to Chief Allan to let them all know how we are proceeding. He believes we need to continue to help in making information available to staff and community. We need to be very careful with students in an attempt not to indoctrinate them one way or another.

There will be implications for us financially this year. He sat in a legislative session last week on the topic of school funding. The past year, they funded districts on Enrollment which was a benefit to our district. The superintendents pressed the state board on the issue of funding on enrollment and the board made it clear districts will be funded on average daily attendance. This creates incredible financial issues for us, particularly under COVID.

Contact tracing responsibilities will be left to medical professionals and the board is comfortable with that. Masks are optional but highly recommended.

- The ESSER funds will be about $2.1 million. No less than $420,000 must be spent on learning loss. $1.68 million will be available for qualified expenses such as COVID supplies and facility improvements such as HVAC.

Last meeting, we had a discussion on required documents that had to be submitted to the state. We still have one more document which is the Use of Funds for Learning Loss. This must be submitted by October and staff input is important on this topic. Many districts plan to utilize extended school year or extended school day. Both plans are difficult for many of our students due to the many activities and opportunities offered for them within our community. The administration has had some discussion of hiring an additional teacher at each level to provide tutoring throughout the school day. A plan will be presented at the September board meeting. This summer we are providing "Jumpstart" the week of

August 23 for targeted students. At the elementary level, teachers identified the students who would most benefit from an earlier start to the school year. Transportation will be discussed with the core team tomorrow morning. Mr. Hall reported the 8th and 9th grade attended summer school. There are 56 juniors and seniors, with 24 of them in need of additional support, and 15 of whom need more than three classes. It will be by invitation and provides an opportunity for these students to retrieve some of their credits.

- The other part of ESSER funds in our district is facilities. We have a group who will be helping us with the RFP. Two engineers were touring the district today. The process continues to move forward.
- We petitioned the state to use ESSER funds to lift the elementary HVAC units off the ground. That request was approved, and this has been addressed already with the units currently recharging.
- Secondary accreditation will take place this year.
- New developments in athletics include players being compensated for their image. The disruptions have just begun, including realignments in college athletic conferences. It is starting to bleed down to high school, with some believing kids should be paid for their image, get royalties, etc. Another issue is an athlete who is being put on a pedestal for quitting while we are trying to teach resilience in our students.
- Last month we discussed insurance values of the buildings, based upon information provided by Dr. Bauscher. After a conversation with our insurance agent and a discussion of the replacement cost of buildings, how the policy pays, the administration will continue looking at the values to determine if insurance coverage is adequate.

Board Business

- **ISBA Convention** – Clerk Karyn Stockdale requested board members let her know if they are available to attend the ISBA Convention in Boise November 17-19, 2021. Ryan Ortivez, Tami Gauthier, and Sara Allen will let check their availability.
- **Legislative Priorities/ISBA Resolutions** – Clerk Karyn Stockdale provided a proposed resolution (Exhibit "B") regarding the Career Ladder and out of state teachers and recommended the board act as a Co-Sponsor with Kimberly and Filer. Sara Allen moved to approve as recommended. Ryan Ortivez seconded. All members voted yes.
- **Policy Review** - the board held a first reading on Policies 1300, 1310, 1313, and 1315 (Exhibit "C").
- **Handbooks** – the administration reviewed staff and student handbooks. Tami Gauthier moved to approve the staff and student handbooks with the changes pending (Exhibits "D", "E", and "F"). Jan Mitchell seconded. All members voted yes.
- **Alternative Authorizations** - The board was advised of one staff member working under an Alternative Authorization this year. Jan Mitchell moved to declare an area of need in Special Education 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. Sara Allen seconded. All members voted yes.
- **Call for Trustee Elections** – Tami Gauthier moved to call for Trustee Elections for Zones 1, 3, and 7. Sara Allen seconded. All members voted yes.
- Discussion was held on **negotiations**. A date will be determined for a meeting.
- **Surplus Property -** The board reviewed a list of surplus equipment (Exhibit "J"). Jan Mitchell moved to declare the property has an estimated value of less than five hundred dollars ($500) and instruct the administration to dispose of said property in the most cost-effective and expedient manner by an

employee of the district empowered for that purpose by the board. Tami Gauthier seconded. All members voted yes.

Items for Future Agendas

Negotiations	Pathways	Athletic Code
COVID Update	Facilities Planning/RFQ	Coaches Handbooks
Policy Review	ASB Report	Enrollment/Emergency Levy
Learning Loss Plan		

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk

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