PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular September 13, 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, Tami Gauthier, Paul Daman, Jan Mitchell, Sara Allen, and Marlow Thompson. Absent was Ryan Ortivez.

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

Consent Agenda

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

Communications

No communications were received.

Recognition of Guests

Tucker Sanchez reported from Lakeside ASB which is now known as Choose Love, with its goal to spread love and positivity, and make school a fun and safe environment for everyone. They have school goals, community, and nation/worldwide goals.

- Homecoming week is September 27 through October 1. They have scheduled dress up days, class competitions, classes design posters for the football field, and want to show more school pride and class appreciation. They have included a tailgate for the community on October 1 prior to the homecoming game.
- They are partnering with Marimn and will include suicide prevention activities to raise awareness.
- Discussion was held on a bonfire and possibly a powderpuff football.
- As a part of the worldwide goals, they are starting pen pals with a small group of students and then will expand to anyone who wants to try it.
- Last week they gave orange crush sodas to every staff member in the school for "crushing" the first week of school.

Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Mitchell provided information to the Board of Trustees on the status of COVID-19 within the district. Whereas the school started smoother than last year, he found things are a little crazier. By and large

things have gone well. We had two students on the first day who weren't in school due to being positive, with three close contacts. Two others were close contacts with a grandmother but that was the extent of COVID as of this point. Things creating the most unrest at this time is the President who mentioned mandatory vaccinations. Part of our question to legal counsel is how it impacts our district. Idaho Department of Education has sent information that the Presidential mandate which refers to OSHA doesn't apply to public schools in Idaho because Idaho doesn't have an approved OSHA plan. (100 or more employees).

- There is some language which applies to federal employees, but we don't know if that includes employees who are paid with federal funds. We need legal guidance on that section of the mandate.
- Public perception is that the mandates will keep expanding. There are debates over constitutionality and some belief that some of the executive orders will stand while others won't.
- Ida Gustin stated we keep saying we aren't out of the woods, but North Idaho is a big story in national news tonight as the focus of rising cases of COVID. It seems like our district doesn't want to be safe. She has had a lot of parents call and comments to say they wish we would have started with masks and with our faculty being masked. She was pretty upset about the email that went out last week, it seemed to her one of the comments was the tribal kids brought it to the school and we are a tight knit community. She doesn't think we want to say or appear that we are pushing the border or be at the masked level again. She thinks we will be again because the variant is here. The hospital is so full people can't get the treatment they need. She thinks we need not to say we aren't out of the woods but how soon we are going to get there.
- Mr. Mitchell responded these are all fair criticisms. His comments weren't about masks but about the need to enforce them. He should have given more back story – he has a general sense that if this district says we are going to require vaccinations, we wouldn't be staffed enough to keep the doors open. That's what he meant by out of the woods. As for masks, he won't be surprised if we get there by the end of the week and won't be surprised if it comes and goes throughout the year. He would like to talk with JR and find out where he went wrong in his email.
- One of the areas where we will see constant struggles is in food service. Currently districts are not able to submit requests for food products and get any order fully filled. Substitutions are made and we do with them what we can. The menus will change. This summer they decided to try to improve on the menu which includes more baking and less prepared foods. We've also received notice that we can now longer get Styrofoam trays. We are now employing a couple of high school students to assist with dishwashing and providing some learning experiences for students at the same time. Our food service director applies for waivers for each item substituted. An example of shortages is that one district didn't even have milk available to them at the end of the school year.
- Mr. Mitchell provided a detailed report on student mobility (Exhibit "B"). There are a lot of students new to the community, and a good number transferred to tribal school, who may have transferred for the mask policy. Currently, we are two students less than last year. We picked up two French speaking students and two Russian speaking students, so we will be providing ELL services to these students.
- Mr. Mitchell addressed the board relative to an emergency levy which is available to districts who grow in average daily attendance from one year to another. Two years ago, the district certified an emergency levy. Last year we looked at a similar situation, but the district elected not to certify the

emergency levy. All indications are that we could certify an emergency levy but even if our attendance is up slightly, he would be hard pressed to make a recommendation to tax people additionally because the enrollment is basically similar. His recommendation is that he provide accurate numbers to the board, but he doesn't recommend imposing a levy but requested thoughts from the board. Paul Daman believes that if we can get by without raising taxes, we should do so. If we need it for basic education that is a different story. It is likely that Mr. Mitchell will recommend a supplemental levy in the spring so he would prefer not to certify the emergency levy this year.

- By October 1, the district must report how it intends to use ESSER funds. Mr. Mitchell provided the plan prepared to submit to SDE. This has been an ongoing discussion with numerous parties since spring, 2020 and they are aware of the recommendation as to how to utilize the funds. The district works with other community partners that makes good use of the summer months with our students, examples being Rockin the Rez, Summer Youth Internships, and other opportunities for our students. We don't want to disturb those positive activities. After school, most students are also engaged in positive activities. Some suggested Saturday school but that is deemed punitive for students.
    - Funds not designated as learning loss will be utilized on heating and recirculation of quality air in our student occupied areas. To do so, the district will replace multiple HVAC units which are 20+/- years old and install new units in other areas of the district which are currently heated with a boiler system which is 40+/- years old.
    - Mr. Mitchell provided research data on 250+ influences on student achievement (Exhibit "C"). It has been determined the biggest influences for our students will be small group learning, self-efficacy, peer tutoring, feedback, deliberate practice, and teacher estimates of achievement. The administration recommended utilizing learning loss funds to pay staff to work together to monitor students continually and prevent them from falling behind and needing credit retrieval, with an aim to catch those who are struggling and assist them. Additionally, we would hire a tutor at both the elementary and secondary to provide assistance during the day and after school. They would start later in the morning and be available longer after school to provide one-on-one or small group instruction. A learning lab will be established, and transportation will be provided after school. In summary, ESSER funds will be used as follows:
        - Sanitation supplies
        - Improving indoor air quality
        - Addressing learning loss

    This plan must be submitted to SDE prior to October 1, and he will take comments or suggestions from the board for the next week with the intention of submitting to SDE after that time. Mr. Mitchell requested approval from the board as to the principle. Discussion was held. He expects the state will require follow-up paperwork. JR asked if the plan has been submitted to all these partners. He said not in its entirety but parts of it. He has discussed much of it with Dr. Meyer and how we can partner with DOE. Sara Allen moved to approve the plan as to intent and content with minor corrections as necessary. A copy will be sent to board members prior to Paul signing. Marlow Thompson seconded. All members voted yes.

Paul Daman commented that COVID is very fluid, and Mr. Mitchell takes his direction from the board. He believes the board needs to give Mr. Mitchell the latitude to make the decision to move from green to yellow. Mr. Mitchell stated he would like latitude to do that. Going from yellow to red, he believes requires some sort of caucus at the very least. He doesn't want that authority or to go in reverse i.e., red to yellow, or yellow to green. Paul Daman suggested giving the superintendent the latitude to go from green to yellow and then he can report to the board after making the decision. Discussion was held. Mr. Mitchell said part of him wrestles with the idea of what if something happens to him through COVID, can he hand this decision off to someone else? That structure needs to be in place and not just assume they have that authority. We need to be guarded. To go in reverse will require a meeting of the board. JR Gustin thinks it should be a written plan indicating the chain of command. Tami Gauthier stated some things can't be delegated – in that case we would need to come back before the board with all the information available to us at that time. Marlow Thompson asked about the extent of our plan/staging. Extensive discussion was held. Mr. Mitchell clarified this plan only encompasses the school and the circumstances within the school. If the community has an outbreak but it isn't within the school, the staging likely won't change. We are primarily concerned with the situation with students on campus and on buses as covered within the Reopening Plan. JR Gustin moved to direct that within the confines of the plan, the superintendent can move the district from green to yellow, but he cannot move in other areas, and he cannot delegate the authority. Tami Gauthier seconded. All members voted yes.

Board Business

- **ISBA Regional meeting** – Clerk Karyn Stockdale requested board members let her know if they can attend the regional ISBA meeting virtually.
- **NAFIS Conference** – The NAFIS Conference will again be held virtually. Discussion was held on attending the sessions, some of which being at 4:30 a.m.
- **Policy Review** - the board held a final reading on Policies 1300, 1310, 1313, and 1315 (Exhibit "D"). Marlow Thompson moved to approve the policies as recommended. Jan Mitchell seconded. All members voted yes.
- **Alternative Authorizations** - The board was advised of four staff members working under an Alternative Authorization this year. Tami Gauthier moved to declare an area of need in Art, Biology, Math, and English and find that the candidates possess distinct content knowledge and skills in the area in which they have been assigned and to approve the alternative authorizations. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.
- **Trustee Elections** – Petitions to run for School Board were due on September 3, with the Write-In deadline on September 10, 2021. The following persons filed to run:

  Zone 1 - Michelle Grossglauser
  Zone 3 – Ida (JR) Gustin
  Zone 7 – Paul Daman

  Sara Allen moved to cancel the Trustee Elections for Zones 1, 3, and 7 because there is only one candidate per zone and to declare the candidates elected. Jan Mitchell seconded. All members voted yes.
- Discussion was held on available dates for **negotiations**.

Items for Future Agendas

Negotiations	Pathways	Athletic Code
COVID Update	Facilities Planning/RFQ	Coaches Handbooks
Policy Review	ASB Report	Audit Report

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk

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