PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular December 11, 2023, 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 Michelle Grossglauser, Tami Gauthier, Ida Gustin, Paul Daman, Chris Smith, Jan Mitchell, and Marlow Thompson.

Also present were Russ Mitchell, Karyn Stockdale, Sara Allen, Dani Boyd, Jennifer Hall, Gabrielle Hensyel, Rebekah Hendricks, Tami Dohrman, Norma Campbell, Khrist Rojas, Jennifer MacMillan, Amanda Cosby-Van Heel, Matthew Van Heel, Dean Van Heel, Walela Kennar, Jasmine Ball, Leila Daniels, Talina Church, Hannah Williams, Samantha Gandy, and Char Blakley.

Consent Agenda

Tami Gauthier moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Exhibit "A"). Chris Smith seconded. Paul Daman asked if we are still looking for basketball coaches. Mrs. Hall advised we are still looking for the girls' coach. They have interviewed for the boys' assistant coach. Mrs. Hall advised they are continuing to look at participation numbers. All members voted yes.

Communications

Char Blakley addressed the board and invited them all to attend gingerbread making tomorrow at 1:30 in the elementary cafeteria.

Recognition of Guests

Rebekah Hendricks introduced music students Talina Church, Leila Daniels, Dean Van Heel, Jasmine Ball, Hannah Williams, and Walela Kennar.

Mrs. Hendricks showed a video of the 5th graders rapping a Christmas song, and the students then performed the *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies* on the bucket drums. The elementary concert on the 19th will be a departure from tradition with some humor and surprises.

Samantha Gandy, 7th Grade Vice President, reported on behalf of **Lakeside Middle School ASB.** Students decorated for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. They've held a raffle, red ribbon week activities, and Halloween dress up week. Family night is December 13. Activities include making bracelets, Christmas cards and dinner. December activities include a movie night, Christmas Spirit Day, as well as a basketball tournament on December 20. Students are planning a Valentine's Day dance. Samantha displayed posters which were made by students.

Sara Allen presented from the **finance** department.

- Work has already begun on the Impact Aid application and sources checks to verify data. The hearing will be held on January 8.
- End of the year reports are piling up with the ESSER report due January 5 for the 2022-23 school year. Numerous documents will need to be uploaded to the secure website, reviewed by the state and federal departments of employment, and then verified with the district.
- The district is getting close to being migrated from Skyward to the new Skyward Qmlative business suite. This seems a lot smoother and will change the way a lot of processes are completed in the district. It will be much more efficient.
- Ida Gustin asked why we don't have JOM funding. Mr. Mitchell advised that in 2019 the district reviewed the grant requirements and income generated and determined it took more time to be compliant than revenue generated. The district has multiple federal funding sources that have numerous requirements including individual parent committees for each source and it is difficult to get enough parents to commit to all these various committees. Funding has decreased in JOM, so it wasn't worth the efforts required. Ms. Gustin asked if the district could put out a statement, so parents understand why the district doesn't apply for these funds.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Mitchell reported to the board as follows (Exhibit "B").

Facilities/Operational Updates

- **HVAC in Secondary**.
  - McKinstry is dialing in the systems. The middle School is experiencing problems with four of the units freezing over. Some have had adjustments to the defrost cycles because of dripping in classrooms. They are installing of some final heat strips in some of the units.
  - Work in the Ag Building will begin over Christmas Break with electrical panels. Mr. Mitchell had a lengthy meeting last Monday regarding this transition.
  - Work will continue in the high school building over summer break with electrical panels.
  - McKinstry has been responsive when problems arise.

- **HVAC at Elementary.**
  - McKinstry is determining equipment availability and ordering equipment, but the last Add Alternate is a variable. Mr. Mitchell will have an extended meeting later this week with their team. The new Project Manager will stick with us even though he doesn't typically work on that side of the business.
  - He has heard from Bonneville Power directly regarding the rebate. The amount will not be determined until the previous project is completed.
  - Mr. Mitchell reviewed the path being followed:
    - The board has approved the Base Scope of $365,074.
    - The district approved and funded Add Alternate 1 in the amount of $69,653**.**
    - Add Alternate 2 is pending and awaiting rebate notification. Mr. Mitchell believes it to be imperative that we move forward. Although the amount on the rebate is unknown, he recommended we use proceeds from the sale of property for short-

term purposes and refund that account when the rebate comes in. The amount is $58,346. Marlow Thompson moved to approve and fund Add Alternate 2 based upon the superintendent's recommendation. Michelle Grossglauser seconded. All members voted yes.

- **Levy Projects**
  - **Middle School Roofing Project –** The district will get estimates after January 1st. This will involve board approval of a bid. Work will be completed over the summer.
  - **Middle School Windows & Doors** – Most of north side was completed over Thanksgiving Break. This includes two doors and eight panels. Over Christmas Break, the remainder of the building is targeted for completion. This will include one door on the north and the south side classrooms, lunchroom window, and weight room windows.
  - **Miscellaneous Projects Ongoing**
    - The Maintenance Shop will have a sink and toilet installed.
    - There was a problem with the plumbing between the high school and the street. The repairs were somewhat extensive at a cost of approximately $4,900.
    - Bus Shop Lifts – Mr. Mitchell advised that Mr. Curley has researched various bus lifts. Rebuilts are being considered. These are part of the new Bus Shop proposal. The expense drops considerably when looking at this option. We are likely to take this direction and costs will be at about 33-45 percent of new depending on the product.

- **2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**
  - **Safety Projects** – $60,000 was approved by the grant. The district has started ordering some of the components for completion and will be pursuing the second round of funding which is a competitive grant. The Safety Committee has met and provided recommendations for the board to pursue a grant. The committee determined a high priority for exterior doors to be replaced, and elementary windows to be replaced because they literally fall out randomly. Mark Feddersen, representative of the Idaho State Board visited today for a state safety inspection. Mr. Mitchell pointed out the windows, doors, fencing needs, camera needs, etc. Mr. Fedderson was impressed with the EOP. Mr. Mitchell explained he is currently updating it with the core team and will include easier to understand language. It will need Board approval to pursue further.
  - **Attendance**. Updated monthly statistics were unavailable at meeting time. These will be mailed out to the baord.
    - Chronic Absenteeism. As per Idaho Ed News, last year the district's chronic absenteeism was at 51%. Two years ago, it was 56%. Currently it is at 52%.
  - **Regional Schools.**
    - Post Falls is currently in the first year of the four-day school week. Another district is looking at this option for next year.
    - Taxation Authorities – As a reminder, Kootenai County Treasurer stopped forwarding penalties and late fees to the taxing districts and instead retained the monies. It is a substantial amount of money to larger districts, although lesser to our district. It is currently

in litigation. A regional meeting is being held in Post Falls this week to draft legislation to address the issue.

- **Leave for Year-Round Employees** – Mr. Mitchell plans to review the vacation policy. Considerations include the cost to the district and what he perceives is unfair treatment to staff. Currently an employee must work a full year prior to taking any vacation. It is credited to them after they have completed a full year. He would like to see the vacation use allowed sooner within their first year of employment. Discussion was held. This policy will be presented to the board in the future for revision.
- **Employee of the Trimester**: Mr. Mitchell advised that the Employee of the Trimester for the first term is Heather Stockton and read the nomination form to the board.

Michelle Grossglauser asked for an update on the new school bus. Mr. Mitchell advised it was delivered the week of Thanksgiving. He commented on new features on school buses.

Board Business
Student Data:
The principals presented data from their buildings (Exhibit "C"):

- Dani Boyd provided data from the 3rd grade. This was the fall benchmark, and she is looking forward to the interim results because she believes they are making good progress. These students have a lot of energy, personality, and a lot of fun. They do struggle academically, and they are working closely with an interventionist through "ELA switch". Mrs. Campbell is working with Success Center after school, and she is also working with a number of these students after school as well. These students started their school career with COVID and it has impacted them. Masks had an impact on emergent reading skills. Attendance is great for these students.
- Gabrielle Hensyel provided data from the 6th grade. Mrs. Campbell is working every day with these students on comprehension and targets the tier two and three students. Mrs. Hensyel is excited to see the January results. These students have a lot of energy. iReady data will be shown on the next report. 6th grade shows the best attendance in the building. Their attendance dipped in November due to illness. Behavior referrals are minimal for the most part with these students.
- Jennifer Hall provided data from the 10th grade. Attendance is pretty good for this group of students. Behavior referrals are minimal for most of these students. Mrs. Hall explained the rating scale for the IXL test. While most of the students are on track for graduation, they struggle with ELA skills. The high school has now started reading in each class at least ten minutes per period. The IXL is a new assessment adopted by the State of Idaho that goes through 12th grade and aligns with the ISAT. Mrs. Hall believes that social media such as Tik Tok and Snapchat cause a limit to vocabulary. Tami Gauthier asked if we are able to compare current assessments to prior scores for the students. Discussion was held on ELA development, vocabulary development, etc. Many teachers are setting goals with individual students for improvement. Discussion was held on contextual issues, and this is a new test for our students.
- Most of the board members have conducted their building tours. Mrs. Stockdale provided a schedule of upcoming activities the board may wish to attend.
- **ISBA Convention Report**: Chris Smith reported on the ISBA Convention. She attended sessions on community engagement. The first session was on student success, branding, and community engagement. She thought they were pretty informative but not necessarily geared toward districts such as ours. One suggestion was a forum and how to collect the data from those forums.

- **Parent Survey Results**: Mr. Mitchell reviewed the results of the parent survey (Exhibit "D") given during parent/teacher conferences. We had 77 responses, which is the highest in most recent history. Discussion was held on some of the results.

Policy Review:

- The board held a final reading on revisions to policies 1100, 1315, and 1405 (Exhibit "E"). Tami Gauthier moved to approve the policies as revised. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.
- The board reviewed the Native American Parent Policies and Procedures (Exhibit "F"). The parent committee met on the 6th and reviewed the policy. The only recommended change is the specific school year. Tami Gauthier moved to approve as presented. Chris Smith seconded. All members voted yes.

Items for Future Agendas

HVAC Updates	Student Data – 2nd, 8th, & 9th Grades	ASB Report
Regional Updates	Policy Review	Impact Aid Hearing
Financial Report	Trades & Industry Pathway Report	Bus Bids for New Bus
	Surplus Property	

Executive Session

Ida Gustin moved to go into executive session to discuss actions of personnel and students pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) and (d). Tami Gauthier seconded. Roll call vote: Michelle Grossglauser voted yes; Tami Gauthier voted yes; Ida Gustin voted yes; Jan Mitchell, Paul Daman, Chris Smith, and Marlow Thompson voted yes.

> 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(1)(b) and (d), Idaho Code, for the purpose of discussing the actions of personnel and student upon advice of legal counsel that it is appropriate to do so. (8:25 p.m.)
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> 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. (9:00 p.m.)

The board will hold a special meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of addressing the actions of personnel and students and such other business as necessary.

Personnel

Karyn Stockdale addressed the board regarding the superintendent posting. All members voted yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk