

**RITZVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #160-67 and LIND SCHOOL DISTRICT #158
JOINT BOARD MEETING
January 23, 2025**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Ritzville School District #160-67 and Lind School District #158 was held in the Lind-Ritzville Middle School Cafeteria on January 23, 2025. The following members were in attendance:

Lind School Board Members:	Adam Labes	Kevin Starring
	Jim Weidemann	Breanne Williamson

Ritzville School Board Members:	Erin Repp	Tia Kubik
	Scott Carruth	Reid Phillips

Lind Chair Labes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lind Chair Labes called the Lind School Board meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Director Schmunk was excused.

Lind Director Starring moved to approve the December 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Weideman seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Starring moved to approve the agenda. Lind Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Weideman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$71,858.17, Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$41,347.25, Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$222.32, Payroll for January 31, 2025 - \$364,205.99, Accept Recommendation for HS Softball Coach - Gordon Towne. Lind Director Starring seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Chair Repp called the Ritzville School Board meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

Ritzville Director Phillips moved to approve the December 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Carruth seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the agenda. Ritzville Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$155,489.26, Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$41,347.25, Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$16,546.07, Payroll for January 31, 2025 - \$444,955.10, Accept Recommendation for HS Softball Coach - Gordon Towne. Ritzville Director

Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Joint Items

Legislative Update

Superintendent Vanderholm updated the boards on Legislative news, sharing that he testified remotely to the Senate Ways and Means Committee requesting funding for the childcare facility. He shared that he and Business manager, Kris Robbins traveled to Olympia and met with Senators and Representatives in Olympia about childcare center project funding. He spoke about the many bills about education and shared that he gave written testimony in support of funding vans and suburbans for student transportation. Mr. Vanderholm said he will be going back to Olympia February 2-4 to advocate for additional educational funding.

Reports to the Board

Students & School Programs

Student Representative Report

Lind-Ritzville High School Student Representative, Cicely Herrera and Addy Colbert, shared an update on events happening at LRHS, including Martin Luther King, Jr activities, FCCLA Regional results and upcoming athletic events. They recognized LRHS teacher, Thomas Pulliam, for getting the needed certifications to be able to teach calculus as a College in the Classroom option. They reported that there are four seniors earning college credits by taking this class at LRHS.

Principals' Report

Lind Elementary Principal Sarah Dinkins gave an update on the new reading and writing curriculum (CKLA) and gave a brief explanation of the student writing examples that were passed around to the board.

Building principals presented board members with gifts to show appreciation to the members for their time and service to the board.

Principal reports from RGS Principal Tanner LaTour, LES Principal Sarah Dinkins, LRMS Principal Don Walker and LRHS Principal Kevin Terris were distributed to the Board of Directors in the board packets this month.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vanderholm shared some grant news, the district received a trades exposure grant in partnership with Wagstaff Industries in Spokane. The 3 week summer program would expose students to different manufacturing jobs and students would work with one of our teachers, that had been trained, to work on a hand-on project. The \$50,000 grant covers travel, training and any other student/staff expenses. Other topics Mr. Vanderholm shared information about included a recent Cooperative Site Team meeting and Coffee with the Superintendent.

Superintendent Vanderholm reported on the additional research he did, as requested by the board, on the proposed 4-day school week. After speaking with nine districts that currently have

a 4-day school week and were similar in size to LRCS, Mr. Vanderholm shared his findings, including more effective professional training and development, attracting and retaining employees and the increased student academic enrichment and intervention opportunities. Advantages at the elementary level included more in-depth learning opportunities, additional time for core subjects, more time for art and music and multiple opportunities for intervention. He noted that current employees pay would remain the same. He reported that after running the numbers, there would be no additional costs for food service, even if meals were provided to take home on Thursday. Fuel and sub costs for Friday's would potentially save money for the districts. Mr. Vanderholm said it would be hard to anticipate childcare, but a locally licensed childcare provider reached out and would be able to provide childcare if the district could provide space for it. He explained that with the 154 day calendar, if a holiday landed on a Monday there would be school on that Friday. There would also be an additional 10 hours of instructional time in the school year, not including intervention time. Mr. Vanderholm reported on the survey, noting of the 325 people who responded 71% were in favor of the proposed 4-day week. He shared in talking with other districts along with the research he has done, he has not come up with any concerns, that haven't been addressed, of why not to move forward with the 4-day school week. Mr. Vanderholm stated if moving to a shorter week is a way to address student and staff fatigue, which is directly related to attendance and discipline rates which, in turn, impact learning then it is a win-win. Superintendent Vanderholm recommended that the school boards approve the proposed 4-day school week.

Public Comment

After Lind Chair Labes read the rules and regulations for public comment, Laurinda Ritz (provided a letter read by Shannon Court), Annie Trunkle-Smart, Kayla Walker, Nick Weishaar, Christina Heater, Andy Williams, Angelina Vallone, Yasenía Benal, Yesenia Herrera (provided a written statement read by Kris Robbins) and Debbie Chapman all spoke to the boards in favor of the proposed 4-day school week, Marsha Smith and Travis DeVore also spoke to the boards but were opposed to the proposed 4-day school week.

Policy Review & Emerging Issues

Lind Director Weidemann moved to table Resolution 24-25-02 Requesting a Waiver for the Implementation of a Four-Day School Week for two months. Lind Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with two ayes and two nay. The motion failed.

Lind Director Weidemann moved to approve Resolution 24-25-02 Requesting a Waiver for the Implementation of a Four-Day School Week. Lind Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with three ayes and one nay. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved to approve Resolution 2024-25-02 Requesting a Waiver for the Implementation of a Four-Day School Week. Ritzville Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with two ayes and two nays. The motion failed. No further discussion was had.

Lind Director Williamson moved to approve the ordering of Micro Bird 28 Passenger Propane Mini Bus Approximately \$217,328.46. Lind Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the ordering Micro Bird 28 Passenger Propane Mini Bus Approximately \$217,328.46. Ritzville Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Weidemann moved to approve the ordering of Blue Bird 48 Passenger Propane Bus Approximately \$183,198.11. Lind Director Willimason seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the ordering of Micro Bird 48 Passenger Propane Mini Bus Approximately \$183,198.11. Ritzville Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Financial Reports - Business Manager Kris Robbins updated the board on finances. She shared that both districts are staying on budget even with some repairs to facilities that are not associated with Capital projects. Cash flow documents are in the financial file for the board to review.

Other Reports - There was nothing to report.

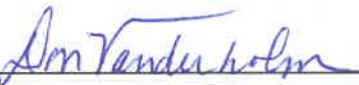
Board Member Reports - There was nothing to report.

A ten minute recess was taken. At 8:10 PM, an Executive Session (per - RCW 42.30.110) was called, for approximately 35 minutes with no action to follow.

The Lind and Ritzville School Board meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

 2/24/2025
Chairman/Date

 2-24-25
Chairman/Date


Secretary to the Board