

**RITZVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #160-67 and LIND SCHOOL DISTRICT #158
JOINT BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2024**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Ritzville School District #160-67 and Lind School District #158 was held in the Lind-Ritzville High School Collaboration Room on December 19, 2024. The following members were in attendance:

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

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

Ritzville Chair Repp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ritzville Chair Repp called the Ritzville School Board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved to approve the November 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Kubik 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 with the following change: switching the order of items 9b and 9c. 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 - \$76,536.60, Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$39,634.02, Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$3,072.71, Capital Projects Accounts Payable - \$10,762.20, Payroll for December 31, 2024 - \$438,370.54, Accept Resignation from HS Softball Head Coach - Todd O'Brien, Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2025, Board Designation of Official Media - Adams County Ritzville Journal. Ritzville Director Kubik seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Chair Labes called the Lind School Board meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Lind Director Starring moved to approve the November 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Williamson moved to approve the agenda with the following change: switching the order of items 9b and 9c. Lind Director Schmunk seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Schmunk moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$55,449.07, Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$39,634.02, Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$400.58, Capital Projects Fund Accounts Payable - \$34,063.20, Payroll for December 31, 2024 - \$357,872.40, Accept Resignation from HS Softball Head Coach - Todd O'Brien, Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2025, Board Designation of Official Media - Adams County Ritzville Journal. Lind Director Starring 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 information from the annual meeting with the legislature and ESD Superintendents. This included that Washington state is facing a projected \$14 billion deficit over the next four years and Governor Inslee's 2025-27 operating budget does not include funding for MSOC, special education and transportation. He explained that Governor budget proposals are not binding, and the Legislature will consider it as they develop their own proposals during the 2025 Legislative Session. He shared that with the budget deficit, the legislature may pass funding for non-yellow bus transportation for students such as Suburbans or vans.

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 Winterfest dress-up days and dance, Bikes for Tikes and Nourishing Champions station for student athletes. They thanked all the high school staff for their hard work and their participation during Winterfest.

Principals' Report

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.

LRMS Principal Don Walker gave an update on the proposed four-day school week. Approximately ninety people attended the community forums in-person or by Zoom. After the information was presented, attendees had the opportunity to complete a survey. Of those surveyed, 68.9% were in favor of moving forward with a 4-day school week, 20.3% voted maybe and 10.8% voted no. The survey included two calendar options, 54.1% preferred the 154 school day option and 45.9% preferred the 150 day option. Mr. Walker handed the board two other calendar options, a 154 school day with the school day schedule of 8:15 am - 3:45pm (1081.5 instructional hours) and a 158 school day calendar with the school schedule of 8:15am - 3:45pm (1083.1 Instructional hours). Mr. Walker explained that the district is currently at 1050 instructional hours, moving to a 4-day week would add approximately 30 hours of instructional time. Mr. Walker shared that a survey was emailed to LRCS families and links posted on district social media sites. He reported the survey results, noting that there were 325 responses made up of 51.4% parent/guardians, 19.7% staff, 21.5% students and 7.4% community members. Overall 71.1% were in favor of the district moving to a 4-day week with 28.9% voting no. Within

the group that was in favor of the 4-day school week, 62.5% community members, 89.1% staff, 68.8% parents/family and 70% of students all voted in favor of the 4-day school week. He also shared some of the comments from the surveys.

Superintendent's Report

Cooperative Report

LRCS Transportation Supervisor Lynn Sackmann reported that they recently passed their surprise State Patrol inspection. The newest bus, which will be used primarily for athletics and field trips, went on its first field trip to Coeur D'Alene for the middle school Eagle Watch tour. Mr. Sackmann also spoke about what would change if the district went to a 4-day schedule, noting that it would primarily be a shift in time, it would not change the pick-up times too much the biggest change would be the later drop off times.

Superintendent Vanderholm shared some grant news, that local STCU branch manager, Jacqui Snider chose Lind-Ritzville Schools as the recipient of a \$1000 donation from STCU's employee volunteer recognition program. The high school received a \$25,000 Dual Credit grant that will be used for College in the high school. CTE Perkins Reserve \$5067 awarded to Lind High School and \$4122 to Ritzville High School. The district has been urged to apply for a State Emergency Management grant for the Lind zero-scape project. The state will provide a consultant group to help with the application process, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Vanderholm shared that he was invited to take part in the Strategic Design process that will help determine the future priorities, goals, and direction of NEWESD 101. The ESD is looking for input from school district leaders in our region and are planning to meet on Tuesday, January 7.

Other topics Mr. Vanderholm shared information about included Candy Cane Lane, winter music concerts and the 4-day conference waivers were approved for the 2025-26 school year. He gave an update on the ADA project at Lind Elementary, noting the doors will be worked on over winter break.

Public Comment

After Ritzville Chair Repp read the rules and regulations for public comment, Christina Heater, Lind Education Association President, read a letter from the LEA members that was in support of the 4 day school week proposal. The letter stated, "Our job as educators is to prepare students for the future, not our past. This requires creative approaches and new ideas. We cannot continue to do things the same way and expect different results. We must address student empathy, poor attendance, and increased mental health challenges as well as staff retention and competitive job opportunities."

Colton Hodgson, Ritzville Education Association Vice-President, read a letter from the REA members in support of the proposed 4 day school week. The letter stated. "The Ritzville Education Association (REA) is writing in support of the 4 Day Week. Several REA members have dedicated their time to work on the 4 day week committee and a majority of staff members surveyed are in favor of this new schedule."

Policy Review & Emerging Issues

In adherence to the annual reorganization of the Ritzville School Board of Directors, Director Carruth nominated Director Repp to serve as Board Chairperson for 2025. Director Phillips seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Erin Repp as Chairperson for 2025, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Director Carruth nominated Director Kubik to serve as Vice-Chairperson for 2025. Director Phillips seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Kubik as Vice-Chairperson for 2025, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Director Carruth made a motion for all remaining board positions for the 2025 year to remain the same as they were in 2024. Those being: Director Repp as the WIAA representative, Directors Phillips and Carruth REA Negotiations Committee with Director Kubik being an alternate, Directors Repp and Kubik PSE Negotiations Committee, with Director Carruth being an alternate. Director Phillips seconded the motion with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

In adherence to the annual reorganization of the Lind School Board of Directors, Director Starring made a motion for all board positions for the year 2025 to remain the same as they were in 2024. Those being: Director Labes as Board Chairperson, Director Schmunk as Vice-Chairperson, Director Williamson as WIAA representative, Director Schmunk and Director Labes as LEA Negotiations Committee with Director Starring as an alternate, Director Williamson and Director Weidemann as PSE Negotiations Committee with Director Starring as an alternate. Director Williamson seconded the motion with all present members voting aye. 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, 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 two ayes and three nays, motion failed.

There was a discussion about the proposed 4-day school week. The Board asked Superintendent Vanderholm for additional information on transportation challenges, childcare, budget concerns and meals for students. They would like to revisit the proposed 4-day school week during the January meeting which the boards moved to January 23rd to accommodate needed time to complete the 4-day waiver should the boards approve the proposal at that time.

Financial Reports - No additional information to report, monthly financial reports were provided to the board.

Other Reports - There was nothing to report.

Board Member Reports - There was nothing to report.

A ten minute recess was taken. At 8:33 PM, an Executive Session (per - RCW 42.30.110) was called, for approximately 20 minutes with no action to follow.

The Lind and Ritzville School Board meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.



Chairman/Date

1-23-25



Chairman/Date

1-23-25



Secretary to the Board

