

TWIN FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. 411

201 MAIN AVENUE WEST

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

83301

(208) 733-6900

September 23, 2020

5:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order - The Board of Trustees of School District No. 411, Twin Falls County, State of Idaho, met in its regular monthly meeting at Canyon Ridge High School auditorium located at 300 North College Road, Twin Falls, Idaho, at the hour of 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. The following trustees were present: Chairman, Bryan Matsuoka (via Zoom); Trustees Heidi Casdorff, Jonathan Lord, and Jayson Lloyd. There were also present Superintendent, Brady Dickinson; Board Clerk, Michelle Lucas; Associate Superintendent, Bill Brulotte; as well as district directors, employees, patrons, and news media. Vice Chairman, Paul McClintock was unable to attend.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Board of Trustees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Procedural Matters Action Items:
 1. Approval of Agenda (Additions and Deletions) – Chairman Matsuoka asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There was none. Trustee Lloyd moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lord. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Unscheduled Delegations (Audience to Address the Board)
Community member and grandparent, Clifford Hawley shared his concerns and frustrations with the irregularities with COVID-19 policies when excluding students from school and the effect it is having on students. He feels quarantining students is a knee jerk reaction and policies are different from school to school. He asked that administrators look at procedures for consistency for both staff and students. The Board thanked Mr. Hawley for his time and said his comments would be taken into consideration.
- V. Consent Calendar – Trustee Lord moved to approve the consent calendar items A-E which included: new certified contract for Wai Avril; certified release of contract for Kathy Hensley as language arts teacher; new classified employees: Jared Lemon, and McKenna Ficklin; in-district transfers for Heather Smurthwaite and Riley Cooper; classified resignations from Melody Irish, Mandy Humphries, Melody Cameron, Chad Stewart, Christine Schmidt, Rhonda Slagel, Pamela Christiansen, Jennifer Christensen, and Brad Mills; and extra-curricular employees: Matthew McFarlin and Keelie Votroubek. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lloyd Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Supplemental Levy Discussion
 1. Superintendent Dickinson shared information discussed at the first Budget Advisory Committee meeting held this morning. The 2019 two year supplemental levy is up for

renewal March 2021. The current 2 year supplemental levy is for \$5 million each year, for two years, for a total of \$10 million. He also shared what these levy funds can be used for; shared current budget numbers; shared the 1% holdback of \$450,000; the 5% state reduction numbers; the CARES Act amount of approximately \$1.4 million plus \$3 million in fall 2020; 2020-2021 reserve of approximately \$3 million; and bond refinance figures. The options for the supplemental levy are: 1. Don't seek renewal and reduce Twin Falls School District budget by \$5 million per year; 2. Seek to reduce the supplemental levy amount and reduce Twin Falls School District budget accordingly; 3. Seek to renew the supplemental levy at the current amount (\$5 million) and lower bond collection by \$1 million thus reducing property taxes by another \$1 million; or 4. Seek to raise the amount of the levy and reduce collections for bond repayment to offset taxes (amount could range from \$5 million to \$6 million and would not raise taxes). Money could be used to bring back eliminated positions or offset other cuts. The Budget Advisory Committee is looking at options 3 and 4; they will meet again and come up with a recommendation to bring to the Board at a later board meeting. Superintendent Dickinson stood for questions.

VII. Monday's during Yellow Level Schedule Discussion

Superintendent Dickinson updated the Board on the results of a survey sent out last week to staff and parents to garner votes for their preference for a Monday schedule. The challenge currently with Monday's schedule: secondary teachers are being asked to keep online classes up to date as well as their face to face classroom. Due to the number of students out of school on any given day, and the fact the yellow schedule has all students in class, teachers are struggling to provide consistent, high quality instruction in both face to face and distance formats. The goal is for students to easily transition between face to face and digital. At the elementary level, teachers are not required to deliver their class between both digital and face to face; however, absenteeism requires teachers to pull together more work to be completed at home. The survey results showed that 70% of secondary staff would like Monday's to be a full online day, and 51% of parents would like the same. For elementary, 38% staff would like a ½ day, 33% continue current schedule, and 29% online day. Parent results show that 47% want to keep the current schedule, 30% online day, and 22% want a half day. After some discussion, Superintendent Dickinson recommended to move secondary to a full online class on Mondays and elementary to stay with the current schedule starting October 5th and to revisit at the last board meeting in October. It was decided to postpone the action for this agenda item until after the instructional reports and the close contact definition discussion.

VIII. Instructional Update during COVID-19

Director of Elementary Programs Teresa Jones and Director of Secondary Programs L.T. Erickson presented information to the Board regarding online learning in our district. Ms. Jones shared that as of today there are 325 IDLA and 142 Venture Upward online students enrolled for elementary levels. With IDLA, students get ELA and math instruction and social studies and science with a Twin Falls School District online teacher. Venture Upward is a program that the district hired to take on complete online courses for up to 200 students. With this program parents have some flexibility in choosing which programs to use in some areas. Ms. Jones also shared elementary fall IRI test results for in-person students and online learners. The differences were better than she had expected.

Dr. Erickson shared that currently there are 511 secondary level students taking 4 or more courses through IDLA and 52 Venture Upward online students (a homeschool option). Of the 511 IDLA students taking 4 or more courses, some of the students are taking overload courses in the evening and taking a full load of courses during the school day. Several students are

taking 4 IDLA courses and one or two electives at their home school. Parents have reported that they wanted to have minimal exposure to large groups of students at school, but still wanted access to CTE, music, art, and other electives. He projects that we have between 300-340 fully online middle and high school students. Dr. Erickson is working on getting video camera's and tripods for a group of teachers to test pushing out their lessons either live or recorded. The Board asked questions about the different platforms for recorded classes. Dr. Erickson also shared his recommendation for Monday schedules and the need to make the students have the best educational experience as possible whether it's online or in person.

Trustee Lloyd moved to approve that the District Administration team develop a plan for Monday's schedule for the month of October. With no second, Trustee Lloyd withdrew his motion, motion died. It was agreed to wait and hear the close contact discussion before making a decision on the Monday schedule.

IX. ISBA Region IV Update

Chairman Matsuoka gave a summary of the ISBA Region IV meeting held last night online. Topics of discussion were 2021 resolutions, talking points on bylaws, previous meetings, and rate change for ISBA to increase dues because of a flattening of revenue from districts. Chairman Matsuoka opened the floor for any other comments, questions or input about the Region IV meeting. Also shared was the 2021 ISBA resolutions for review before the next board meeting in order for the Board to get a consensus on how to vote at the ISBA convention in November. A consensus is more important this year because we won't be able to communicate through the online convention.

X. 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: 2020-2021 Yearly Action Plan

Director of Public Relations, Eva Craner stood for questions and comments on the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan recommended areas for action/tasks and continuous improvement benchmarks. After a brief discussion, Trustee Lloyd moved to approve the 2020-2021 yearly action plan in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Trustee Casdorff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Close Contact Protocol Discussion

Superintendent Dickinson stated that he knows this is a serious matter, a Middleton teacher has died from COVID-19. He respects that when making these decisions. The District is always thinking of the safety of all students and staff. Associate Superintendent shared that as of yesterday 35 students are out because of close contact at school, since the beginning of school there have been 553 students out of school quarantine. In the past week 12 students has effected 229 students for quarantines. Most of the exposures have been at the secondary levels. Director of Human Resources, Shannon Swafford shared that, as of today, 26 staff members are out this week, 6 for positive results, 7 for close contact, 6 out from exposure outside of the district, and 7 out waiting for results. Superintendent Dickinson shared the committees rationale for the request to change the definition of close contact during the pandemic when determining which students need to be sent home because of exposure to a student that tested positive, presumed positive, or highly exposed to someone with coronavirus. Rationale included survey results that showed, of the excluded students that there's a very low infection rate (1-2 out of 135) of about 1.5% or less. Superintendent Dickinson added that due to the fact that it is so important for students to be in school, and because the risk of catching COVID in the cases described in the sample language below appears to be low, the Board may want to consider changing the definition of close contact. Dr. Dickinson shared sample draft language which is based on the guidance of the American Academy of Pediatrics and World Health Organization. Close contact may be defined as

within 3 feet for 15 minutes in the following situations: 1. The infected student/staff member and those in close contact were wearing face coverings covering the mouth and nose at all times, and 2. The infected student/staff member was not having symptoms likely to spread the virus (i.e. coughing, sneezing, etc.), and 3. Contact was in a controlled environment where the infected student/staff was not exerting himself/herself (i.e. sitting/working at their desks). Determination on risk level will be made on a case by case basis. In addition, data will continue to be collected regarding secondary spread in order to ensure information continues to support this change in practice. When administration looks at the cases in schools, what they are finding, the students are not contracting from students they sit next to in class. Dr. Dickinson's theory is that students are contracting the virus before and after school, when kids are not wearing masks and doing things like sharing sodas. The District can only control what goes on during school time, not things when students are outside the schools or during off-campus lunch. St. Luke's and South Central Public Health have been consulted and can support this recommendation. The Board discussed the attendance policy and the parental right to keep students home if they want. The District will continue recommending the 14 day quarantine timeframe when students or staff are showing symptoms with coronavirus symptoms and will continue to notify parents about low, moderate, and high exposures. If passed administration will bring back students that were within the 3-6 feet exposure area. The Board decided to hold a special board meeting Monday, September 28, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. Zoom online platform (This meeting will be posted properly and open to the public on Zoom) for action on this agenda item.

Monday's during Yellow Level Schedule Action

Trustee Lord moved to support secondary schools to have full online courses on Mondays and elementary to remain as it currently is for the month of October, and revisit this at the last board meeting in October. Trustee Casdorff seconded the motion. After more discussion and comments, motion passed unanimously.

XII. Executive Session Action

With no further business at hand, Trustee Lord moved that the Board retire into executive session after a five-minute break pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsections (b), and (d): (b) to consider student discipline; and (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lloyd. Chairman Matsuoka asked the Clerk Michelle Lucas to poll the board. Roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Bryan Matsuoka – Yes

Trustee Heidi Casdorff – Yes

Trustee Jonathan Lord – Yes

Trustee Jayson Lloyd – Yes

Motion carried. With 2/3 vote the Board convened into executive session at 7:17 p.m.

With the door open, Trustee Lloyd moved to return to open session. Trustee Casdorff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The time was 7:25 p.m.

Trustee Lloyd moved to expel one (1) student from school as per administrations and hearing officers' recommendation for an indefinite period of time, and that this student be expelled from school as defined in Idaho Code 33-205 and that this student be placed under the purview of the Juvenile Correction Act, Idaho Code 20-510 and 20-511. Trustee Lord seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Casdorff moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Lloyd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Chairman, Bryan Matsuoka

ATTEST:



Clerk, Michelle Lucas

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September 23, 2020

The Board of Trustees of Twin Falls School District #411 met in executive session on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 7:17 p.m., at Canyon Ridge High School, auditorium located at 300 North College Road, Twin Falls, Twin Falls County, Idaho. Chairman Bryan Matsuoka (via Zoom) conducted the meeting. Trustees Heidi Casdorph, Jonathan Lord, and Jayson Lloyd along with Superintendent, Brady Dickinson; Board Clerk, Michelle Lucas; and Associate Superintendent, Bill Brulotte were in attendance. Vice Chairman Paul McClintock was unable to attend.

With no further business at hand, Trustee Lord moved that the Board retire into executive session after a five-minute break pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsections (b), and (d): (b) to consider student discipline; and (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lloyd. Chairman Matsuoka asked the Clerk Michelle Lucas to poll the board. Roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Bryan Matsuoka – Yes

Trustee Heidi Casdorph – Yes

Trustee Jonathan Lord – Yes

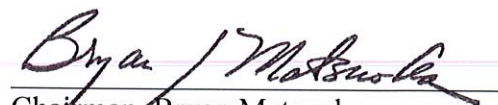
Trustee Jayson Lloyd – Yes

Motion carried. With 2/3 vote the Board convened into executive session at 7:17 p.m.

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Trustee Casdorph moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Lloyd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


Chairman, Bryan Matsuoka

ATTEST:


Clerk, Michelle Lucas