

TWIN FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. 411

201 MAIN AVENUE WEST

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

83301

(208) 733-6900

February 8, 2021

7:00 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 boardroom #301 located at 300 North College Road, Twin Falls, Idaho, at the hour of 7:00 p.m., on Monday, February 8, 2021. The following trustees were present: Chairman Bryan Matsuoka; Vice Chairman Jonathan Lord, Trustees Heidi Casdorph, Paul McClintock and Jayson Lloyd. There were also present Superintendent of Schools, Brady D. Dickinson; Board Clerk, Michelle Lucas; Associate Superintendent, Bill Brulotte; as well as directors, interested patrons, employees, and the news media. Due to State of Idaho social distancing and gathering restrictions, overflow rooms with the meeting projected on screens, were provided each time room capacity (social distancing) was reached. The meeting was also streamed via Zoom.
- 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 were none. Trustee McClintock moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Unscheduled Delegations (Audience to Address the Board) – Chairman Matsuoka asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board. There was one.
Shelby Densley addressed the Board and shared data she garnered from educators that shows how they use the digital Mondays and which schedule the educators she questioned prefer. She also shared that 5-10 hours per week of teacher's personal time have been given back to teachers with having digital Monday's. Chairman Matsuoka thanked Ms. Densley for her information.
- V. Consent Calendar – Trustee McClintock moved to approve the consent calendar which included: minutes from the January 11, and 27, 2021 meetings; building and board financial reports; accounts payable and payroll; private service providers (PSP)/consultants/other contracts: ETC Companies, Imagine Learning, 2080 Media/PlayOn, Holly Porter & Margaret Lucero, and College of Southern Idaho Refugee Program; certified resignation from William Hartley; certified retirement form Benita Remaley; new classified employees: Jacob Hill, Benjamin Flores, Cassandra Hernandez, Brittani Wardle, Andrew Wilcox, and Gina Stonebraker; classified resignations from Heather Holston and Rebecca Zaugg; extra-curricular employees: Jeffrey Bowman and Skylar Call; and early graduation requests from Alexandria Best, Philip Casper, and Abby Burch. Motion was seconded by Trustee Casdorph. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent Dickinson announced the certified employee of the month from Magic Valley High School for the month of February as Patrick Patterson, social studies teacher and from Support Services as Carla Wherry, school social worker.
- B. Superintendent Dickinson announced the classified employee of the month from Magic Valley High School as Michelle Jones, child care supervisor and from Support Services, Donnelly Webb day treatment SOAR program paraeducator. He read a brief resume' and shared that a gift, plaque, and gift certificate to Koto's Brewing Company will be sent to each recipient.

VII. Instruction A. Information Items:

1. Building Reports

- a. Principal of Rock Creek Elementary School, Shari Cowger shared a few challenges and successes for her school. Her building report was included in the board packet. She shared information about their support grant which they are in their 2nd year. They introduced co-teaching in 3rd and 5th grades and plan to expand in the future. One of Rock Creek's most positive feature is its school culture. They are seeing slow and steady growth towards their goals. A challenge this year is having 33 new students in January, which makes their enrollment at 612, ten of those students are from IDLA or homeschooling. Another challenge is hiring para educators. After a few minutes of roundtable discussion with the Board, Mrs. Cowger thanked the board for the opportunity to share information about her school.
- b. Principal of Magic Valley High School, Roger Keller shared a few challenges and highlights for his school. His building report was included in the board packet. Magic Valley High School changed their schedule and now offer three classes per day so now they offer 18 credits per year. Last year they had a positive graduation rate which was up 10%. He shared that when students give feedback after they leave, they comment how they liked Magic Valley High School because they felt that the staff cared about them. One struggle they are having this year is getting students to be students again. They were working more when school was in hybrid schedule and now they have to set that aside to attend school every day again. Most of their students struggle with online learning. Mr. Keller shared another highlight is their work place coordinator, she helps students get work, check on colleges, technical schools, learn employability skills, and prepare for future internships. After a few minutes of roundtable discussion with the Board, Mr. Keller thanked the board for the opportunity to share information about his school and thanked them for their support.
- c. Principal of Pillar Falls Elementary School, Nancy Murphy shared a few challenges and successes for her school. Her building report was included in the board packet. She extended her gratitude for the Board. She shared that students are doing about the same as they were last year academically. Mrs. Murphy shared that her staff is going above and beyond on a daily basis. She noted that Monday is not a lost day of instruction for students at Pillar Falls and teacher collaboration is higher than ever. Teamwork is amazing. Challenges include some teachers not having the confidence in online instruction as much as they could. They have all grown so much. Student attendance during the hybrid schedule was a big problem. She thanked her Vice Principal, LeeAnn Morgan and her Instructional Coach, Michelle Larson for being so helpful through this pandemic. After a few minutes of

roundtable discussion with the Board, Ms. Murphy thanked the board for the opportunity to share information about her school.

1. Superintendent Dickinson shared the final 2021-2022 school district calendar recommendation from the Calendar Review Committee. The Calendar Review Committee spent a lot of time on the calendar this year. They also sent out a survey to staff, parents, and high school students for input on the start date of either August 16th or August 23rd. High school students were asked because they are effected by the CTE and dual credit classes. They overwhelmingly want semester to end at Christmas break like last year's calendar. Staff and parents were closely split. The Board approves the district calendar with the understanding that changes may arise from the negotiations process.
2. Superintendent Dickinson began the discussion with current Covid-19 cases in the district for students and staff. Cases have been low since returning after Christmas break. He shared that this agenda item is listed as information and action. Information so the Board can have open discussion with each other on the future number of school days of in-person instruction and as action if the Board wants to set a future schedule. The Board discussed their thoughts, concerns and hopes for staff and students. With COVID-19 caseloads being down the amount of homework being sent home is much lower than it was. They acknowledged the requirement of what needs put out online, if returning to in-person Mondays, would need to be dialed back. They also discussed options for Monday schedules such as making it a full day, early release of one hour, or have a partial day which is 2 hours and 15 minutes less than the Tuesday through Friday schedule. After lengthy board discussion, Superintendent Dickinson shared his recommendation that if we go back, we go back for a partial day. He also shared a few different timing options of returning such as after spring break (March 29th), any time after February 15th, start back 4th quarter (March 8th), or not set any timeline and wait for more time to pass. The Board asked for input from the attending director Teresa Jones, Associate Superintendent, Bill Brulotte, and Principals: Roger Keller, Shari Cowger, Nancy Murphy, and Ace Marcellus. Trustees shared what patrons have shared with them regarding wanting students back in school on Mondays and how they also consider the needs of the community and what teachers desire. Trustees also discussed absenteeism, collaboration time, support that some students don't have at home, some older students have gotten jobs during time off, having the fewest transitions as possible, student learning and what will best facilitate student success and student learning.

VI. Instruction B. Action Items:

1. Superintendent Dickinson asked the Board if they had any questions on the 2021-2022 School District Calendar and if they want to approve the calendar this evening or wait until next month. After a brief discussion, Trustee McClintock moved to approve the 2021-2022 School District Calendar with the start date of August 16th as presented. Vice Chairman Lord seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. After much discussion and debate amongst trustees, Trustee McClintock moved to return to school on Mondays with the partial day schedule option (2 hour 15 minutes early release) as outlined and to start March 8th (4th quarter). Trustee Lloyd asked for a friendly amendment to add "changing the expectations of online teaching". Trustee McClintock agreed to the friendly amendment. Trustee Lloyd seconded the motion. After a discussion on changing those expectations of online teaching and what needs to be provided and for whom, it was agreed that Director of Elementary Programs, Teresa Jones and her leadership team will figure out what the expectations are of teachers for kindergartners and Ms. Jones and Director of Secondary Programs, L.T. Erickson will provide an update at the February 24th board meeting on the plan for elementary and secondary teachers.

Motion passed unanimously. Vice Chairman Lord added that the biggest factor for this decision is taking into account the unknown number of students not getting support with schoolwork at home.

VIII. Budget & Finance A. Information Items:

1. Accountant, Rachel Youren shared an overview of what's happening behind the scenes for HR and the Finance department with funding. A major challenge is estimating the salary based apportionment payment from the State. Planning for a major decrease of 14 units due to the decrease in units throughout Idaho. Another aspect is the advancement of the career ladder, this has caused HR to do a lot of work (twice) to make sure teachers have reached their advancement and met their requirements. The District is hoping for an increase with the advancement of the career ladder. Administration is estimating an increase to administrative and classified salaries as well. It was explained that there are only so many units for Idaho, and they split them out to cover districts that have a loss in enrollment. Statewide, to cover the units there was a reduction of 3% overall in units and a stop gap of 3%. This is why we didn't fill all positions, we knew we were going to be down in units. The District qualifies for 7.1 million in SR-2 money. It will take more than 4 million dollars to make us whole, the state is back filing what we are losing. However, all federal monies are one time money, we don't want to extend beyond what we will get year after year.

VIII. Budget & Finance B. Action Items: None

IX. Personnel A. Information Items: None

IX. Personnel B. Action Items: None

X. Board Goals A. Information Items: None

X. Board Goals B. Action Items: None

XI. Future Agenda Items:

1. Superintendent Dickinson reminded the board of the upcoming ISBA Day on the Hill Conference on February 15, 2021 which is being held virtually this year. Trustees Bryan Matsuoka, Heidi Casdorff and Jonathan Lord plan to attend along with Superintendent, Dickinson.
2. The next board meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021 where Mr. Steve Hoy, Principal at Morningside Elementary, Mr. Tyler Matlock, Principal at Oregon Trail Elementary; Ms. Cheri McKenzie, Principal at Lincoln Elementary; and Mrs. Michelle Brewer, Principal of Bickel Elementary will present their board report and participate in discussions with the board.

XII. Executive Session

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, Vice Chairman Lord moved that the Board retire into executive session after a five-minute break as per Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (b), (d), and (j): (b) to consider student discipline; (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code; and (j) to consider labor contract matters authorized under section 74-206 (1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code. Trustee Casdorff seconded the motion. Chairman Matsuoka asked the Board Clerk, Michelle Lucas to poll the

board. Roll call vote is as follows: Chairman Bryan Matsuoka - Yes; Trustee Heidi Casdorph - Yes; Trustee Jayson Lloyd - Yes; Vice Chairman Jonathan Lord - Yes; and Trustee Paul McClintock - Yes. Motion carried. With $\frac{3}{4}$ present, the Board convened into executive session at 9:13 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 9:35 p.m.

Labor contract matters were discussed from 9:20 p.m. to 9:27 p.m. No action was taken.

Student discipline was discussed from 9:27 p.m. to 9:37 p.m. Trustee McClintock moved to uphold the hearing officer's recommendation to expel three (3) students from the Twin Falls School District #411, two (2) for Time-Served and one (1) for an indefinite period and that these students be expelled from school as defined in Idaho Code 33-205 and that these students be placed under the purview of the Juvenile Correction Act, Idaho Code 20-510 and 20-511. Vice Chairman Lord seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Matsuoka adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.


Chairman Bryan Matsuoka

ATTEST:


Clerk, Michelle Lucas

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Chairman Matsuoka adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.


Chairman Bryan Matsuoka

ATTEST:


Clerk, Michelle Lucas