

**Basin School District 72
(208) 392-4183**

**Regular School Board Meeting
HS Media Room, [Zoom](#), or HS Cafeteria if capacity is reached.
Passcode: m5WdiA
January 16, 2024
5:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** - At 5:03pm Chair Brandee Kline called the meeting to order. Superintendent Brian Hunicke and Clerk Recorder ReBekha Lulu were present.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. ***Swear in new board members (Bryson Nalder, Patrick Minto, and Michelle Diehl)** - Clerk Recorder ReBekha Lulu swore in the new board members.
4. **Establish Quorum** - Chair Brandee Kline, Trustee Tristin Chesire, Trustee Bryson Nalder, Trustee Michelle Diehl, and Trustee Patrick Minto were present.
5. ***Consent Agenda** - Trustee Minto remarked that the agenda item for the levy did not link to the levy and asked that it be available to view at that time. Chair Kline clarified that it was within the Superintendent Update and Superintendent Hunicke said he can link it to the official document as well. Agenda approved with addition of linked levy document.
6. ***Approve [December minutes](#)** - Stand approved as presented.
7. **Brief explanation of board guidelines** - Chair Kline clarified that the new board members would sign the code of ethics at the end of the meeting. She remarked that any decisions made have to be action items on the agenda and must be made during open meetings, not during executive sessions. She further remarked that as chairman she works hard to give all voices on the board an opportunity to be shared. She reminded the board that any questions or comments about the school should go to admin first and not directly to school staff and to make sure that board members do not compromise themselves in the case of a hearing. If community members approach board members about issues at the school, they should go to an administrator first in case there is a hearing later on.
8. **Public comments.** Written comments only. Please send written or email comments to PO box 227, Idaho City, ID 83631 or email bkline@basinschools.net. This process will help inform the board in a more efficient manner. Chair Kline received a few emails and they were all public comments from other zones as well as zone one and they were all in support of the levy. Chair Kline thanked all parents and constituents for taking the time to let them know their thoughts and concerns and stated that she received emails in support of the levy.
9. **Staff and Student Representative(s) Information** - Carter Elliott presented on behalf of the Associated Student Body (ASB) and shared about their role and goals. Nicole Risley, Special Education teacher for early childhood PK-2, introduced herself to the school board members and shared about the logistics of her job and her work establishing a Special Olympics team for Idaho City. Trustees Diehl and Minto asked follow-up questions. Multiple staff members from across the district introduced themselves and shared their roles and connection to the school. Chair Kline thanked everyone for being here, especially for new board members. Trustee Diehl asked if public comment emails could be shared. She also remarked that she received two in favor of the levy. Chair Kline remarked that she could forward public comments on if there was an interest.
10. **[Financial Reports](#)** -Financial Officer Kendra Lanham was present virtually. She explained that the report shows what was budgeted for revenue and what was actually collected year to date. Some funds may not be received until after things are paid for and are reimbursed or may not receive them until the end of the year, depending on when the state makes that disbursement. She clarified the system of expenditures, bus appreciation, and Penrod Craig Scholarship. Trustee

Minto said he would try to get the other new board members to come and get a presentation in more detail from Mrs. Lanham. He then asked about the Technology Fund, what it funds, what it is spent this year, and when she expects to spend the balance. She clarified that it's state funded, that the year to date is right on track with about \$47,000 spent and that she projects that to be at zero by the end of the fiscal year. Trustee Minto asked if 245 covers tech refresh for chromebooks or other items covered on the levy and she said no unless they budget that way and that a lot of it is spent on salaries and benefits, software to manage student information systems, accounting systems, and those types of expenditures. Trustee Minto said they would discuss it in more detail when board members meet with her. Trustee Diehl asked if she would continue to update the accounts payable for 2024, and she responded that it is done in two different places: the district website and the [Idaho Transparency Website](#). It will be uploaded only to the state website once it's fully up and running, but for now, it is posted in both locations.

Chair Kline clarified that if three board members are present at a meeting then it has to be scheduled, posted, and shared to the community to abide by open meeting laws.

11. Supervisors' Reports

- a. **Maintenance** - Maintenance Supervisor Bob Kassebaum was present and introduced himself and shared about his long history with the maintenance department here. He shared that there's been a lot of problems at the school but that there has been progress with solutions. He shared that there was a freeze up at 1 am and he took care of it today and that it was an area that had a similar once below and he was able to dodge the bullet of any broken pipes. He shared that the backhoe was down but he got it up and running again. Trustee Minto asked about the dry sprinkler system and Mr. Kassebaum went into detail about the status of repairs, quotes, and the inaccessibility of the system. Trustee Minto asked Chairman Kline if the district has a plan for what the economic lifespan is for the structure. Supervisor Kassebaum shared that the lifespan is 15 years and offered to email the new fire sprinkler omissions information. Trustee Minto clarified that his question is whether there's a plan to replace the structure to help determine whether it makes sense to continue to do repairs. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that the plan was the original levy to replace it in two years. Plan B is to hope that nothing happens in the immediate future and he reported that the Governor is working to pass a Facilities Bill to address the statewide issue of school disrepair and the inability to pay for repairs. Sometime this Spring, there should be further information available. Trustee Minto remarked that this information would not be available in time to consider the budget for the FY 24-25 year and Superintendent Hunicke clarified that it would then have to be covered by a levy or bond. Discussion of the economic feasibility of replacing vs repairing the system continued. Supervisor Kassebaum shared about additional expensive repairs that are needed. Chair Kline shared that in 2008 the funding system changed and the school board no longer has the level of control they used to have. The state claimed they were going to fund schools at 100% but then went back and capped it. She stated that now schools are at the mercy of bonds, levies, and the state for funding.
- b. **Transportation** - Transportation Supervisor Russ Taylor was present and introduced himself and shared the difficulty of finding someone to replace him, or for any positions. Trustee Nalder asked if he oversees all transportation including athletics and Mr. Taylor clarified that the school doesn't get reimbursed for athletics so they contract through Evergreen. He shared about the bus status and that the bus appreciation schedule is back on track. Trustee Minto asked how long the Transportation Supervisor position had been posted and if they had any applicants. Mr. Taylor and Superintendent Hunicke shared that the position has been advertised since November 1st and that there has been some interest. Mr. Taylor shared that it's exceptionally difficult here due to road conditions and the wide age span of bus riders. Trustee Nalder noted that one of the greatest challenges is keeping qualified bus drivers. Trustee Chesire asked how much of the last few years

has the school been down a route due to lack of bus drivers. Mr. Taylor shared that part of last year and part of this year the Centerville Route has not had a driver. He clarified that the route requires a special bus driver and that the state pays per student per mile. Trustee Minto asked what budget area the mileage reimbursement funding comes from and Superintendent Hunicke shared that it's out of Transportation. Mr. Taylor shared about the reimbursement process and timeline. Clarifying discussion about the reimbursement amounts, timeline, and process followed. He shared that the state reimbursement process is so encumbrance it's difficult to navigate and that attending conferences he was able to learn the process and get the maximum reimbursement possible.

Superintendent Hunicke shared that attendance for the Centerville students has decreased without the bus route. Mr. Taylor shared that the process to get certified has become much more complex, time consuming, and expensive. He remarked that if they had funded the van on the previous levy, it would have been easier to address this issue.

- c. **Food service** - Nutrition Services Supervisor Holly Lundquist was present virtually. She introduced herself, her history in Idaho City, and her experience over the past two years with the district. Chair Kline shared with the board that Holly has been fundraising to help with lunch accounts and has raised a great amount of money in a short time. Trustee Nalder remarked that through COVID lunches were covered, and that just last year it went back to full pay. Supervisor Lundquist remarked that fundraising helps take the burden off families who cannot pay for meals and that she will feed students regardless of their account balance. Trustee Minto asked about the total fundraising amount during the course of the fiscal year. She clarified that the previous director didn't fundraise but would occasionally receive donations from families or community members. She reported that the fundraising account is close to \$18,000, and that she's fundraised since June of 2023. Trustee Minto asked if Title 33 mandates the school to serve breakfast. They were not able to answer. Trustee Minto asked of the donation account, how much is grant money that she applied for rather than donation amounts. \$2000 was funded via a grant but everything else was provided via local families and businesses. Trustee Minto asked if she ever received money from Cisco or Shamrock and she said no and she believes it's because they provide food to every school in the state of Idaho. She clarified that Shamrock has donated milk for the cookies and milk fundraiser.
- d. **Community Wellness** - Community Wellness Director Dawn Gillis was present. She introduced herself as a Basin employee for 3 years and shared information about community schools and that the goal is to eliminate barriers so that students are able to come to school and learn, increase attendance, and improve academic success. Trustee Minto asked if there's any expectation that any organization other than Table Rock provide services as they previously had. Director Gillis shared that she is always reaching out to providers and that it takes time to build trust, and so she hopes to find a larger provider that can afford to come up on a more consistent basis. She is also working to bring up a dental provider once a month.

Trustee Minto asked what percentage of the expenditure of the Community Schools program comes from grants as opposed to levy or state funds and Mrs. Gillis shared that as far as she knows the only expenditure from the budget is her part-time school salary and that everything else is provided through donations into the Community Schools Funds. Trustee Minto asked what specific guidance exists in Title 33 for a community schools effort. Clarifying questions were asked. Principal Jamie Pilkerton clarified that Title 33 and other titles do not mandate community schools but that there are other mandates for family engagement and involvement which the Community Schools model facilitates. She shared examples of annual parent meetings, parent surveys, pulling the data, and finding out what parents need in order to educate their child and partner with the schools and stated that community schools are one way that schools

are able to meet the requirements that are in place. She clarified the budget for community schools and she shared that all of the stats in the report are donations and grants written through various organizations. Further discussion followed. Trustee Minto asked if there was a cost benefit analysis available that shows the fiscal benefit of the community schools position. Principal Pilkerton shared that something like that could be put together and that it varies from year to year depending on the number of benefits and the programming needs and availability. Superintendent Hunicke shared more information about the funding struggles of the district including the complexity of grants and that each grant can have impact on various areas but that each grant has specific requirements and must be reported in specific ways. He also clarified that there are trends in the funding that make it easier to get funding for specific areas, such as STEM. Counselor Lynsey Bell clarified further that the report meets so many state requirements or highly suggested requirements. She said that education today is different than it was. The community schools team has done educational research, medical research and brain science research that shows that students don't learn as well if their basic needs aren't met. She shared that their job is to educate kids so one of the many approaches remove barriers and so the school works to do just that by making sure students are being fed and meet their basic needs so they can get to their highest levels of learning. She stated that by meeting basic needs, research shows that students are able to learn and it's a benefit that can't be quantified. Principal Pilkerton shared that community schools are an umbrella that includes multiple programs.

Trustee Minto shared that he has no problem with helping kids but the issue is who should be paying for this. Whether it's a governmental mandate or should it not. The question is whether this institution should cover it he said we could just helicopter them down to BK and put them in dormitories and feed them and shelter them and protect them from all possible harm but that title 33 tells the school what they're supposed to be doing and how far beyond what we are told are we going to spend tax payer money to do. He said it's an efficiency and effectiveness argument but that it's also a concern that community schools will crowd out and take over from other institutions but that he doesn't want to discuss that now. For the moment what he wants to get at is what does the institute provide financially vs what it cost. Counselor Bell shared that teachers noticed a world of difference since starting this program in students ability to focus and learn, and that all community schools team members have gone to multiple trainings. She said that when you look at what impacts quality of academics it's many different factors not just one and that kids having their basic needs met does have a correlation to better academic, better attendance, and better performance. Tristin Taylor also shared that all students can benefit from the services of the community schools. Trustee Minto asked what's the logical limit to that? Lynsey Bell shared about dental sealants, counselors, vaccination clinics, and other services that would otherwise take students out of the learning environment for the day to go down to Boise. With the services being coordinated and provided here students are able to miss only an hour of the day. The grants the school receives also require other services to be provided. Superintendent Hunicke asked "how do you quantify the failure of a kid" Why do we do this? We do it because it's our community. We put a lot into these kids because it is this community. It's an investment into these kids. It's the whole picture, not just this building or all the buildings on this campus. Community schools can look different in two years because it morphs and it adjusts to the needs of the community. How do you quantify the struggles of the community and the time it takes to meet the needs? Counselor Bell shared that students who don't have access to running water can shower here, and that it takes someone's time and energy to coordinate that. Tristin Taylor shared that this community approach has been supported for decades and that teachers have always provided for students, often out

of their own money, and it has grown into what it is now and this community has risen up to meet the needs and that it takes a lot of coordination to make all of it accessible and available to students. Trustee Minto asked if there is no other organization in the community who will step up to do this work and Tristin Taylor clarified that the Community Schools coordinator works with those churches, those organizations, and those private citizens. Counselor Bell shared that all these services that are available are accessible to families because the school is the hub. The school doesn't pay for all those services, those programs, and those providers but that it takes someone, part time, to coordinate all of it. Trustee Minto thanked them for all they do for kids.

Chair Kline clarified that Title 33 is the law not the minimizer. It is not saying "you can only do this" that there are things that can be done beyond the law. She stated that the staff and the board need to consider the safety and well being of our students.

Trustee Chesire asked what is the current reimbursement of attendance per day per child.

Superintendent Hunicke shared that it's \$14,000 but that it varies based on the situation.

Trustee Chesire calculated the daily reimbursement and asked if there's a way to quantify the amount of absences avoided by this program. Trustee Nalder remarked that one of the challenges of living in this community is the need to travel for appointments. Trustee Chesire remarked that it would be helpful to have that laid out and quantified.

Trustee Minto remarked that there are more grant writers than there are other grant writers in the staff beside the coordinator and that if there wasn't a paid coordinator position could that coordination be something that the parent group (PTA) could do. The staff clarified that the PTA is mostly teachers. Trustee Minto asked if there wasn't a paid coordinator position maybe the school counselor could do it. Chair Kline remarked that every staff member is wearing multiple hats and multiple different roles. Mr. Standerwick shared that it's not even a matter of money, it's a matter of time. Every teacher in here is not just teaching a class. They are here for the kids and are doing a hundred different things that aren't always recognized. He said it's almost insulting or shows a lack of what people really understand to ask staff members to do a little more to write grants or coordinate the community schools. He shared that purpose of the school board is to support our staff and our teachers and he doesn't understand Trustee Minto's purpose of being here.

Chair Kline remarked that typically there isn't a lot of people and a lot of input at meetings. She stated that she does want to allow some of this dialogue to continue as it's important that new school board members understand.

Mr. Standerwick asked Trustee Minto if he is here for the students and the school or to save the tax payers money.

Trustee Minto said yes to both. He said when you look at Title 33 school board trustees are not just there to improve education, they are there to make sure Title 33 is followed, they are there to make sure that education is done effectively in accordance with state law. He said after all the tax payers are going to have to vote for the levy. He asked if anyone thinks the May levy is going to have a more sympathetic response. Several audience members said yes. Trustee Minto said he thinks the electorate in May is going to be less sympathetic.

Trustee Chesire made a point that the levy discussion is later on the agenda and should be discussed at that time. The board agreed.

12. Administrators' Report

- a. **Special Education** - Trisha Kelly, MSHS Principal and SpEd Director, was present. She shared that this is her first year and her personal history in the area. She elaborated on the state review in which they look at all the files to review and we did very well. There were three minor things they asked to change on only 1 IEP out of 72 which shows how

diligently the team has been working to keep files up to date, in order, and meeting legal requirements. She also attached a breakout by grade level at the bottom of the report. Trustee Kline asked if she would continue to keep the spreadsheet and ask if she could include a percentage by grade and a total since we run at about 20% and are funded at maybe 5%.

Trustee Minto asked if she had read the state report regarding complaints in Garden Valley. She responded that she did not read that report but is part of a group that is updated on situations in the state. Trustee Kline remarked that it is not typical that such information is made public. Superintendent Hunicke remarked that it was discussed and that policy later in the meeting. Trustee Minto further asked for reassurance that the nightmare in Garden Valley would not take place here. Superintendent Hunicke shared that policy revisions are constantly changing based on lawsuits. There are policies for the district that need to be tweaked based on that situation and action has been taken to protect the district. Trustee Minto asked if Basin has had to do manifestation determinations here and how often and Superintendent Hunicke shared that 3 or 4 times in 5 or 6 years. Principal Kelly shared that it was also rare in her many years of experience. Trustee Minto stated that he would share the report, which is linked in Idaho Ed News, with Principal Kelly for future discussion.

- b. **Targeted Academic Guidance (TAG)** - TAG Administrator Cindy Horner was present and shared that TAG is an alternative program within our school. It gives students an opportunity to function at a higher level for students who are making up credits or trying to stay ahead. She shared that 14% of the population is taking advantage of the program and that all of the students are extremely successful due to how the program is set up. Trustee Diehl clarified that there are some students catching up, some working ahead, and Cindy clarified that it is also for students to be more successful in a separate social situation. Trustee Minto asked if there is a program that is used and Cindy Horner noted that Acellis is the program. He asked if it was \$5k per student per year and she clarified that it was not. He asked if any other students used that program and she said yes.

- c. **Building Principals**

Elementary - Principal Pilkerton introduced herself and her roles including Title 1 Coordinator and stated that this is her 25th year at Basin. Trustee Minto asked what percentage of her time she spent as Elementary Principal vs Title I coordinator. She said it was a complicated question and gave background information on the program and how the integrated approach of the elementary makes it complicated to pull out the differences between Title 1 and Elementary Administration. She stated that a good portion of her June time is spent on Title 1 and also on professional development plans and reports. She clarified that summer school programs are sometimes funded through Title 1 and there is additional reporting required for that. There are additional requirements such as parent engagement requirements that could take up to half her week at certain times of years. She clarified that her position is funded through a very small portion of those funds.

Trustee Minto asked if she wound the clock back 20 years, how would that proportion of how she spent those hours have changed? She said it would be fairly similar in regards to the Title 1 time since there has been a significant increase in special education needs in the population. Trustee Minto asked if she had spent more time doing that since FY15? She said yes. She gave background information including the steep increase of students on IEPs from 12-14% to 28%. Principal Kelly shared that this is a statewide and even countrywide increase. Trustee Chesire clarified that it was at 19% at the beginning of the year and there has been an almost 10% increase. Trustee Minto asked how many hours

it takes to prepare IEPs and administer them and Principal Pilkerton and Nicole Risley talked about the time commitment it takes. Principal Pilkerton responded that if he wanted to know where her time is going, a lot of her time is going to Title 1 and that it involves a lot of problem solving for each kid that comes into the district. He shared that the reason he asks is that previously there were 2 admin equivalent positions whereas now there are 5. Principal Pilkerton shared that the IEP is a contract between the school district and the family and that there are policies and systems in place that are time and energy consuming to avoid legal trouble. Another area that takes more admin time is the amount of information that they are asked to provide whether that is community requests, state requirements, grant reporting, or other reports. The number of reporting requirements has significantly increased.

Chair Kline clarified that where Trustee Minto said there are 5 admin, those individuals have multiple roles and get paid out of different funds. Principal Pilkerton has also worked to find ways to cover admin duties through grant funding. She also shared that Superintendent Hunicke has taken on the tech role because it's more cost effective to pay him than to bring in an outside company. Superintendent Hunicke also stated that compared to pre-COVID, his communication with the lawyers on legal issues has increased from 1 or 2 times a month to multiple times a week. Principal Pilkerton stated that emails take up a lot of time. She stated that technology provides a platform for parents to communicate more readily. Superintendent Hunicke stated that admin averages about 100 emails per day, at least.

MS/HS - Principal Tricia Kelly was present and stated that she agreed to take on the SpEd Director position without any additional stipend or pay. She shared that her goal is to always ask herself "Is this best for kids?" and she always wants to do what is best for students, community, and staff. There were no questions.

- d. **Idaho Center for Outdoor Education** - Superintendent Hunicke shared that classes are gearing up to get outside and do snow science at the ICOE.
- e. Forest Funds - Superintendent Hunicke said they are still looking at extending Forest Funds another two years.
- f. Strategic Plan - Superintendent Hunicke shared that between the last board meeting until now there's been winter break and snow days so the strategic planning committee needs to pin down a date soon. He will send out information soon about a meeting date. Trustee Minto asked who is currently on the committee. Superintendent Hunicke shared the committee members off the top of his head and said he can share the last committee meeting notes that show who was present at the last meeting. Trustee Minto asked if any members of the board are on the committee and Superintendent Hunicke shared that Ken Gordon was in his previous role on the board. Chair Kline stated that she planned to ask if any board member wanted to be on that committee and that would be up for discussion later.
- g. Levy Discussion- Superintendent Hunicke linked the current notice which has the budget categories.
 - i. **Board** - Chair Kline shared that state law changed so that the levy items have to be designated and that there is full transparency. She further stated that those levy items and expenditures must be tracked and linked.

She also clarified that a lot of what was asked for in the fall levy were things like passenger vans to mitigate the issue of finding drivers for smaller areas and for some sports without the requirement of a CDL driver. Superintendent Hunicke shared that the categories for these levy items were also driven by parents asking for specific needs. He clarified that the increased amount of the previous levy amount was brought up at the board meeting and the board was divided but ultimately decided to run the

levy. The dry sprinkler was another item that ran up the amount. Trustee Chesire agreed with that description and that the lack of a van adds to the issue of lost funding when Centerville students miss school. He stated that fiscally he understands it was a lot on the levy request but he hasn't heard another viable solution. Superintendent Hunicke also heard from the community that they needed to raise the rate for bus drivers from \$15/hour to \$24/hour. Trustee Chesire stated the difficulty of convincing someone to drive a bus for that amount rather than a better paying job in other sectors. He shared that putting the vans on the levy was a solution that was shot down so he is hoping to hear other solutions.

Trustee Minto proposed that this problem may not be solvable and that consolidating school districts could be a solution. He stated that the community may not approve a levy and that not approving would mean layoffs which would be catastrophic. Trustee Minto stated that they should prioritize the items on the levy and say "I'm going to lose the SRO" (for example) and prioritize them and make the changes to the levy accordingly. Trustee Minto stated that the question is "what are we going to do now." Trustee Diehl asked clarifying questions about the reimbursement of Centerville parents and how that was going. Superintendent Hunicke shared that there are challenges and some people are commuting together. Trustee Minto and Trustee Chesire debated the priority of the vans as a levy item based on a number of factors. Superintendent Hunicke also stated that it's an equity issue and that those students are the ones always impacted simply due to the numbers. Superintendent Hunicke remarked that the school is probably losing close to the amount that the vans would have cost. He stated that if one kid decides they're no longer coming to school, that's a loss of \$14,000. Trustee Diehl asked the price of the van and Superintendent Hunicke stated that they estimated for a new van at \$50,000 but that the difference in cost would be returned to the taxpayers if they purchased one that was less expensive. Trustee Minto asked if the maintenance of the van would be covered under the state depreciation funds and Superintendent Hunicke stated that it would not unless it was a state-approved yellow van. Trustee Nalder asked if they would have hired someone to drive a van and Superintendent Hunicke stated that they would look for an opportunity such as a parent driving to town each day or a staff member who lives in the area.

Superintendent Hunicke shared that the current levy would meet some base needs but that other costs would still need to be covered by grants or other means. He also shared that every year since about 2008 the admin and the board has always run the minimum and that has not allowed the district to gain much traction in the way of preparing for the future or getting ahead. There have been fluctuations for various costs and the increase continues beyond the ability to save for those. If you look just across the border, schools can double their budgets. The state and the governor are recognizing the issues and are trying to pass legislation that is still behind; the article from Propublica shows this clearly. Trustee Minto stated that the school is spending \$14K per student and the state average is \$9K. He said that he looks at rural school districts and sees many of them at \$13K per student and he noted that some of it is unique to Basin School District and said he doesn't see a way we can go back to taxpayers and ask for steep increases. He said the reason he's sitting here is because 72 people from zone 4 said no and he was sent here to make that argument to the board and to balance the mandate of title 33 and what the tax payers are willing to vote for. He said that he is concerned that they will vote no again in May .

Superintendent Hunicke shared that the district pays less per students than other districts in the county. He also stated that when you're looking at what happened this year, because of our ethical constraints here, the district can only provide facts.

There was a ton of misinformation online and he believes that there is a very large percentage that has realized that.

Trustee Minto stated that the costs of repairs could have been spread out over many years. He asked how much life is left in the school and if that cost could be spread out. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that with a bond you can only do facilities while a levy is paying for multiple items: maintenance, technology, curriculum, and many other things. If the school runs a bond and then tries to run a levy and it fails, then the facility may be taken care of but all of the other programs do not get taken care of so the conundrum is do they run a bond and fix the physical problems and then lay off employees, or do you try to run both at the same time? Principal Pilkerton shared about the plant facilities levy that was passed previously and that there was an overlap of one year. The decision was made to put facilities items on the levy rather than try to pass both a bond and a levy at once. Superintendent Hunicke shared that at the last superintendent meeting there were 95 districts having the exact same problem. Trustee Minto remarked that he does understand why the previous board didn't choose to run the bond, but he stated that the issues would have to be addressed somehow and asked if another plant facilities levy would be a solution. Trustee Chesire stated that the previous board discussed it and saw the same issues that Superintendent Hunicke addressed. Trustee Minto asserted that the public will pass it if they are convinced by their school board trustees that it's the right thing and isn't any more money than they have to do in order to fulfill their duty. Trustee Minto stated that he has three new trustees that can do a "full court press" if that's the right thing to do. Further discussion followed. Trustee Minto proposed that the district run one levy in May and a bond in August if those are the right items. Superintendent Hunicke also shared that the district has to submit a budget in June so if there's no levy in May it will tie their hands and Trustee Minto agreed.

Trustee Diehl asked for clarification about the School District Nurse and Community Schools Coordinator and Superintendent Hunicke clarified that if we get a grant for the school nurse, then that money comes off the top of the levy and is never taken from tax payers. Trustee Diehl asked if the nurse position is full-time and Dawn Gillis clarified that she splits her time between the nurse and community schools position. Superintendent Hunicke also clarified that a school nurse in Boise SD could be making \$80,000 per year so this is also trying to compensate her somewhat fairly. Trustee Minto said the school nurse is absolutely necessary but there's a community schools coordinator line item and a preschool line item that is not in the mandate from the state. He asked why they wouldn't get rid of the preschool and get rid of the community schools. Principal Pilkerton clarified that the preschool program is mandated by the state to Title 1. He asked if you could lessen the staff if you scaled it back. She also clarified that there have to be peers that are appropriate models.

Trustee Minto stated that writing grants requires many hours. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that multiple peers write grants on their day off so if you're talking man hours you're looking at \$8/hour. Trustee Minto asked where are those hours going to come from? Principal Kelly clarified that no one is asking for grant funding hours to be paid for, but that they are doing what is best for the kids.

Trustee Minto then referred to the email of comments sent about coaching. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that there were questions put to him whether coaches need to be paid, so he sent out a survey to ask and those were the comments that were sent in. Trustee Minto stated that all people would like to be paid more. Superintendent Hunicke said that while the community supports athletics, the state does not and that causes athletics to be funded with grants or levy funding. Superintendent Hunicke also shared information about the athletics funding. Trustee Chesire asked Coach Smith how

many students would enroll in a different school if there were no athletics here, and he said every one of them. Trustee Chesire did the calculations for just basketball, calculating the amount of money that would be lost just for that sport, and came up to \$210,000.

Chair Kline also stated that students are getting a lot out of those athletics. Trustee Chesire clarified that if it is only a fiscal argument then we have to consider the amount of students the district would lose as we lose those extracurriculars and athletics. Coach Smith also spoke to the issue of getting paid to coach. He shared that he coaches five sports and that the middle school head coach gets paid \$1000 and that the money he gets paid goes straight back into the program because there is no budget. He also pays out of his own pocket and he pays to coach here because he loves and supports the kids and who else is going to do it. Lynsey Bell asked to please not forget that all the research shows that students who participate in extracurriculars do better academically. Chair Kline also posed the question: without these extracurriculars, what would these students do with that time?

Trustee Minto stated for the record that he hears and doesn't have any question on that line item on the levy but states that there's another side to this equation. He stated that a levy is a tax lien on property which is ultimately enforced with a sheriff's sale. Chair Kline clarified, as an employee, that the sheriff and county have never sold a primary residence property due to taxes and that this is a scare tactic. Trustee Minto said try not paying your taxes. He said ultimately a vote for a levy is a vote to use force to take money. He said he's not morally opposed to taking money to support education but said this is an additional tax on top of what the tax payers are already paying to buy services. Discussion and argumentation followed. Trustee Minto stated that the preschool is outside the title 33 mission and that the community schools is outside the title 33 mission. Community members spoke out about that statement. Trustee Minto stated that Jamie's point about the tie in between general education and special education preschool is a very powerful argument for that line item.

Chair Kline stated that this levy has been approved by the previous board and unless this board moves to recall this, it will be on the May ballot. She also added that as school board members and staff members it is our job to give facts. The facts are the line items and what they will be used for. Counselor Bell asked for clarification about whether Trustees can advocate for or against a vote. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that if they are representing the school, they cannot. Chair Kline clarified that certain words such as "need" can cause trouble. Trustee Diehl asked when the levy could be recalled and Chair Kline stated that it is not currently an action item so it would have to be at the next meeting.

Trustee Minto stated that he has questions about the technology line items for chromebooks: he asked if it's a refresh and if they're purchasing new chromebooks. Superintendent Hunicke stated that there are a number of chromebooks that are failing and so the school tries to replace the new ones. Trustee Minto asked how the chromebooks are used. Superintendent Hunicke shared that they're used for everything from robotics, research, typing, assessment, reading programs (Accelerated Reading), assignments, replacing textbooks. Superintendent Hunicke also shared that the state assesses and ranks us on technology use so they are required to keep technology. Trustee Chesire asked if any district has eliminated chromebooks entirely without repercussion and if this need for technology will continue. Superintendent Hunicke shared details about the need for technology. Trustee Nalder shared that it's also good preparation for college. Mr. Standerwick also shared that it's accessible research sources for a community that's cut off in many ways. Trustee Diehl asked if any districts eliminate just elementary chromebook use. Principal Pilkerton clarified that

state testing requires familiarity with technology and that both chromebooks and the computer lab are utilized. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that desktops have been donated and that has helped to minimize cost. Trustee Minto asked if the technology line item is more important than the van to get kids here from Centerville? He stated that maybe the van goes back on and the computers come off or maybe the van just goes back on. The school board members debated the use of inflation as a metric for evaluating the increase in property taxes vs. the cost of operation. Trustee Minto stated that the operating levy should be separate from a facilities levy. Trustee Minto stated that ultimately the board would have to consider whether there's economies of scale in consolidation of districts.

Chair Kline added that her role as chief deputy assessor gives light to another side of the debate including programs for people who can't pay taxes. She clarified that out of her tax bill, about \$100 went to the school. She said that if we're focusing on the school in light of the tax bill, we're focusing on the wrong thing. She said that discussion is looking at this as a huge cost but it's 1/16 of her tax bill.

Trustee Minto asked if she had her tax bill for 2015 and stated that his tax value has doubled, but she stated that she hasn't changed anything on her property while he may have, so it's not comparing apples to apples.

Trustees debated inflation rates and tax increases. Trustee Minto stated that if we go to taxpayers with an amount that is greater than inflation that they would have a good argument to say no. Superintendent Hunicke said you can look at it another way which is an investment in these kids which will be paying people pensions in a few years. Education is not a cut and dry dollar amount. Trustee Minto said you could make that argument for just about any government service. He stated that you can make that argument for law enforcement and stated that if you spent more on law enforcement you could ensure that there are fewer crimes. There are plenty of services that we as a society could choose to provide but due to diminishing returns there's going to be some limit unless as a society we say that we're going to take everything. He said he hears all the arguments from everyone because they love the kids and don't want them hurt. He asks where is the logical limit to what the school is willing to tax people and what they're willing to spend? He said he could make you a bet if we went to \$30K per student we could increase the educational value for students.

Superintendent Hunicke said it's going to be the board's job to educate yourself on what there is here because this is a bare bones budget. He stated that it's hard to hear when as a staff you've scrapped and scavenged to maximize every resource. He shared that for the staff it's frustrating because they're working at maximum and saying that we're using too many resources. Trustee Minto says he absolutely believes that at 14K per student because they are having economies of scale. Superintendent Hunicke compared tax rates here to other places and said in his opinion they're getting a bargain here.

Chair Kline wrapped up the board discussion by saying that the three new board members must grasp the budget as much as possible and if there are things that they believe need changed, then there can be an email sent to add an action item. Trustee Minto asked if there's a possibility to all meet and go over the budget.

- ii. **Levy Committee** - Community members Shaunna Roeber and Melissa Starry shared that they have formed a committee and that they are supporting the levy. Shaunna shared that she feels there was a lack of communication on the previous levy. She shared that Idaho has the number 2 best property tax system in the nation and that there are options for property tax relief. Historically, the larger the base, taxes tend to go down. In addition, the legislature is looking to fund property tax relief. She reads

legislation and unfortunately Idaho does not support education, but this community has supported levies. Shaunna offered to educate anyone interested in property taxes. Melissa Starry shared her background as a student from K-12th grade and her deep connections to the district. She thanked the board members for their willingness to serve. She extended an invitation to anyone willing to help spread the word about the levy and shared that there's a facebook page. She stated that she believes this levy will pass in May.

Shaunna shared that the economic life of the building is 40 to 50 years and that the longer it is pushed out the more serious the situation will become so repairs cannot keep getting delayed.

- h. ***Emergency Closure due to road conditions** -December 19th, January 9th & 10th - Superintendent Hunicke shared that there was an attempt to do a delayed start on December 19th and on January 10th but that the weather continued to grow worse and the forecast was a little off. He also shared for the new school board members that there are a certain number of days that can be missed and that seniors always leave two weeks early and will need to make up time. Trustee Chesire made a motion to approve the weather related closures on December 19th, January 9th, and 10th. Trustee Minto seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- i. ***[Attendance Policy 522 1st Reading](#)** - Trustee Diehl noted that, under a, if an absence is excused it affects their 90% attendance rate. Superintendent Hunicke shared that this number allows for the school to meet with students to assess the situation and provide support. Principal Pilkerton shared that they're allowed to hit 10% of the days before it goes under review for extenuating circumstances. Superintendent Hunicke further stated that this is a way to flag a situation to monitor for extreme situations. Brenna Picotte, High School Administrative Assistant, shared that she took the codes from Boise School District and called to talk to those schools. She implemented the doctors notes so that there's not an additional explanation needed for those times when you do have to visit doctors. Superintendent Hunicke shared that parents could still call to excuse absences, but that if they're in excess they will go under review to consider. Discussion of the number of students who have gone to committee followed with input from Brenna Picotte. Trustee Chesire presented his concerns about the section "Online Release Courses - Eligibility Requirement" and stated that it seemed like a punishment for students who are trying to advance and gave his interpretation of the policy. He stated that the trend to take these classes online will not decrease and that if the school makes those restrictions they will unenroll. Superintendent Hunicke gave further information about the need for the policy, the outliers, and the changes in the school system for tracking IDLA students. Discussion followed. Superintendent Hunicke asked how Trustee Chesire would change this section and Trustee Chesire stated that he would eliminate it. Chair Kline asked if he was familiar with the self-directed learner policy. Counselor Bell stated that the policy aims to start a conversation with the parent and the student to work together and determine whether that student is ready and equipped to succeed. The policy has a way through for students who are ready according to the input of the parent. She stated that other district policies do not allow 10th graders to do this work from home so the school would be violating district policy without this caveat. Superintendent Hunicke also urged the board to consider the scores of the online schools as a representation of how difficult it is for students to be successful on this platform. Further discussion followed. Board members and staff discussed the need for clarity of the process and submitting a recommendation to the parents as the final step. All seemed to agree that under C & D there could be language that states something like the "school educational team will discuss and consult with the parents and students to give a recommendation and come to a decision" and agreed that Superintendent Hunicke and Counselor Bell should rework the language and postpone this first reading until the next meeting.

- j. ***Restraint and Seclusion Policy 547** 2nd reading - Trustee Minto shared that the policy is a simple cut and paste of what the state has submitted and Superintendent Hunicke confirmed that it has already been through lawyers and everything. Trustee Minto asked if we can technically meet the definition of a seclusion area. Trustee Chesire read it aloud and Superintendent Hunicke confirmed that the district does have such a space. Trustee Diehl shared a parent comment that asks for written communication of the incident to the parent as part of the debriefing session. Principal Pilkerton confirmed that it is best practice to follow-up with written communication when possible. Chair Kline remarked that it could be useful to include that this would be reviewed at the annual meeting in January or the June meeting. Trustee Minto remarked that the June meeting could be busy and so maybe the July meeting would be better. Superintendent Hunicke agreed that the June meeting includes the budget. Trustee Chesire made a motion to approve the policy 547 as written with a review each year during the July school board meeting. Trustee Minto seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
 - i. **Legislation Summary**
 - ii. ***Restraint Documentation Form** 2nd reading - Trustee Minto clarified elements of the form and asked if it clarifies where it should be filed. Discussion of keeping all the forms in a separate file followed. The board discussed the form and log being two separate documents for two separate purposes. Trustee Chesire made a motion to approve the Restraint Documentation Form and The Restraint Log as written in support of Policy 547. Trustee Diehl seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
 - k. ***Facilities Use Fees Policy 910 Update** 2nd reading - Trustee Chesire and Superintendent Hunicke clarified that the Policy is a result of a request to use the school facility for caucus and the attorney general submitted an opinion which is not law, and the school board agreed to allow the caucus, and in order to maintain transparency and consistency the Policy needs to be updated. The cost would cover any custodial work or wear. He also shared that there are strict rules from the USDA for the use of the school kitchen. Chair Kline proposed that the rate be \$36 rather than \$36.05 and the change was made. Trustee Chesire made a motion to approve Policy 910 as written. Chair Kline seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
 - l. ***Mileage rate increase for in Lieu payments Policy 710**- 1st reading - Chair Kline shared that typically the district follows the federal mileage rate and shared that previously it was discussed that the wording be changed to “the state recommended rate” rather than listing the exact number so that it doesn’t need to be updated each year. The board discussed changing the language “at the time the mileage was recorded” to “at the time of travel” to make the meaning more clear. Superintendent Hunicke also shared that Idaho Code says you “may” not “shall” reimburse for mileage in the event that travel is unsafe. Chair Kline made a motion to accept this as the first reading with those changes. Trustee Minto seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- 13. Chairman’s Update** - Chair Kline asked if anyone received their ISBA training packets and no one had. Thursday will be the first webinar class and everyone should have received information to create a login and it was easy to go back and view the webinar but that the state doesn’t reimburse that fee if the webinar is viewed later but costs the district instead.
- She shared information about the Board Organization roles. The chair is the main position which runs board meetings. Vice Chair steps in if the Chair is not available. The treasurer position is tied to Idaho Code and is responsible for looking over deposits and the monies within the district. There are laws to ensure that the board is keeping an accurate record of transactions. Another helpful position would be a board member who would review policy and update as necessary. Need to appoint a clerk and determine which board member would like to sit on the Strategic Planning Committee. Trustee Minto volunteered to view the policies that are listed on the website and Superintendent Hunicke shared that new policies have formatting issues when being converted to the web and that posting them online is tedious work. Trustee Nalder asked for clarification about the Strategic Planning Committee and expressed interest in joining.

14. **Superintendent Update** - Superintendent Hunicke quickly discussed the grant reporting section with a total of \$760K applied for this year and \$215K+ awarded and noted that there's a lot of competition on many of the large grants. He highlighted legislative bills to track. He also shared that the representatives are listed at the bottom and that there are opportunities to meet with legislators. Some discussion followed.

15. **Annual Board Organization Items**

- a. ***Elect Chair and Vice Chair** - Trustee Diehl nominated Brandee Kline to be Chair. Trustee Minto Seconded. All voted aye but Chair Kline abstained. All voted aye. Trustee Minto nominated Trustee Diehl to be Vice Chair. Trustee Nalder seconded. All voted aye but Trustee Diehl abstained. All voted aye.
- b. ***Appoint Treasurer and Clerk** - Trustee Minto nominated Trustee Chesire to Treasurer. Trustee Nalder seconded. Some discussion followed. All voted aye but Trustee Chesire abstained. Motion carried. Trustee Diehl nominated ReBekha Lulu to continue as Clerk. Chair Kline seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- c. ***Set Board Meeting Calendar for 2024** - Chair Kline shared that Tuesdays at 5 have historically been convenient for staff and community. Trustee Minto made a motion to maintain the meeting time and place as it has been in previous for the third Tuesday at 5 pm in the Media Room. Trustee Chesire seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- d. ***Establish Agenda and Notice Posting Locations [Policy 262](#)** - Chair Kline shared that Idaho Code mandates posting in two different places so it is posted online and physically at the school. Superintendent Hunicke shared that the location needs to be changed from Library to Media Room. Chair Kline pointed out the words annual meeting should be changed to annual budget meeting under the header "Budget Meeting." Trustee Minto pointed out a typo under "Special Meetings" and it was corrected. Chair Kline made a motion to post the agenda in the display panel outside the high school and on the website. Vice Chair Diehl seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- e. **[Review and Sign Code of Ethics](#)** - Trustee Minto shared concerns about three items - number five that the outcome should be supported by all board members and he wanted to publicly state that if he disagrees with the decision of all board members that while he will actively support the law he will not state that he supports the decision. Chair Kline clarified that it's more about supporting the decision of the board. Trustee Minto clarified that if there are decisions he disagrees with, he will not publicly say he agrees with them.

For point six, he pointed out that the Superintendent's position is defined in Title 33 as the executive agent and administrator on behalf of the board. His question is does that account for whatever hiring decisions the board might make. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that this applies to just policy. Trustee Minto clarified that hiring rests with the board.

For point 16 he stated that he is obviously more concerned with the letter of the law in title 33 and carrying out the education policies and priorities as defined by law in Title 33. He stated that the definition of educational welfare could conceivably extend well beyond the law of Title 33 and doesn't want to sign up for something that has no logical limit and feels that the phrasing of that doesn't have a logical limit. He stated that he understands if that's ISBA's standard phrasing but doesn't want to sign up for something that goes way wide of Title 33 and the defined responsibilities in law of the Trustee's role. Superintendent Hunicke clarified that the intent of that statement is to prevent having a personal agenda and if you're following the state laws, that should encompass educational welfare. Trustee Minto stated that the term "First and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students" is a very wide writ beyond what's written in Title 33. Chair Kline and Trustee Minto read through Title 33.

Counselor Lynsey Bell clarified that laws are usually barebones while ethics are best practice established by professionals and expanding upon the law. Trustee Minto said he

appreciates the clarification but that he personally sticks with the law. He said he would sign the code of ethics but with the public caveat that he disagrees with how 16 is written.

16. Adjournment- At 11:03pm Trustee Chesire made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Nalder seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

*** Indicates an action item**

ATTEST:

ReBekha Lulu, Clerk

Brandee Kline, Chairman