

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

**Regular School Board Meeting  
HS Media Room, [Zoom](#), or HS Cafeteria if capacity is reached.  
Passcode: 3yZs4Q  
March 12, 2024  
5:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** - At 5:02 pm Chair Kline called the meeting to order. Superintendent Brian Hunicke and Clerk Recorder ReBekha Lulu were present.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Establish Quorum** - Chair Brandee Kline, Trustee Michelle Diehl, Trustee Tristan Chesire, Trustee Bryson Nalder, Trustee Patrick Minto were present.
4. **\*Consent Agenda** - Trustee Chesire and Superintendent Hunicke discussed whether the correct document was linked correctly and it was clarified.
5. **\*Approve [February 20, 2024 Minutes](#)** - No comments or questions. Stand approved as presented.
6. **Public comments.** Written comments only. Please send written or email comments to PO box 227, Idaho City, ID 83631 or email [bkline@basinschools.net](mailto:bkline@basinschools.net). This process will help inform the board in a more efficient manner. None of the trustees received advance comments.
7. **Staff and Student Representative(s) Information** - Counselor Lynsey Bell shared her perspective as someone who's seen many lawsuits, she shared her perspective that protecting the district and following legal advice is of the utmost importance.
8. **[Financial Reports](#)** - Business Manager Kendra Lanham was present virtually. She shared that the reimbursements are right on track this year thanks to the work of Jamie Pilkerton and Dawn Gillis who have streamlined the billing and received reimbursement to help the general fund. Superintendent Hunicke seconded that kudos.
9. **Supervisors' Reports**
  - a. **[Maintenance](#)** - Maintenance Supervisor Bob Kassebaum recapped his maintenance report and shared updates about the air compressor and dry sprinkler system.
  - b. **Transportation** - Transportation Supervisor Russ Taylor was present. He shared about the progress for hiring bus driver and supervisor positions with background checks pending. Trustee Minto clarified that there's currently at least one candidate per opening. Mr. Taylor gave further details about the timeline for learning the routes and training a new driver. Superintendent Hunicke shared about the potential for purchasing a dump truck and plow at auction.
  - c. **[Food service](#)** - Food Service Director Holly Lundquist was not present. Board members and Superintendent Hunicke discussed the report and potential grant opportunities coming up in August.
  - d. **[Community Wellness](#)** - Community Wellness Supervisor Dawn Gillis was not present. Principal Jamie Pilkerton added a new piece of information about ACES and the information and training regarding supporting individuals with higher ACES scores. The team applied for a grant to receive training and \$15,000 to spend on community wellness, family workshops, and activities to address this. Superintendent Hunicke shared that previous nurses are interested in returning to the clinic who had previously had strong rapport with the community.
10. **Administrators' Reports**
  - a. **[Special Education](#)** - Special Education Director Tricia Kelly shared that ten staff members were trained and certified in Mandt which was an initiative encouraged by the

state. She further reported that she and Principal Pilkerton are considering train-the-trainer opportunities so that they can train the staff instead of bringing in outside trainers. Trustee Diehl asked Principal Kelly if she had heard of the “right response” method and discussion of the similarities and the different types of trainings followed. Trustee Minto asked about the SPED Enrollment form and whether referrals were calculating into the total number and Principal Pilkerton stated that they were not. He asked whether that was likely and they said it was very likely. Principal Kelly gave further background information about the referral process and the testing that goes into that process. He asked if that number is typical and Principal Kelly answered in the affirmative.

- b. **Targeted Academic Guidance (TAG)** - Cindy Horner was not present but left information with Principal Kelly. She reported that Acellus students are improving in grades as well as goals and are on target for May 30th or before completion date. She shared a success story from the program as well.
- c. **Building Principals**- Principal Jamie Pilkerton and Principal Tricia Kelly were present and shared about the combined report. They shared that information about next year’s calendar has gone out to families and so far the most popular option is the current model of 5-then-4. The Calendar Committee met and discussed possible solutions to parents and staff concerns such as a 5-day week through the first semester and 4-day week after that winter break. She shared that these calendar options still allow for around 160 days which is still high. Trustee Minto stated that they had heard that a likely request would be 165 days and discussion to meet that scenario followed. Chair Kline has asked if parents are aware of the importance of that consideration. Principal Pilkerton shared that information has gone out but that some still don’t understand the full picture and directed everyone to the calendar document linked in the report. Trustee Chesire remarked that if certain legislation passes, the calendar models will need to be reworked either way.

He also stated that the survey language makes the 4-day model sound like year-round school and that there isn’t enough detail. Principal Pilkerton clarified that she put the description of the calendars into the request but that it may have been clearer at the top

Trustee Minto asked Superintendent Hunicke and Trustee Diehl if they had heard of a scenario that would mandate a 5-day week and they shared that there was so much push back and that it was ultimately left to the Board of Education to determine the specifics. Trustee Minto shared his opinion that a mandated 5-day calendar doesn’t seem likely. Principal Pilkerton shared some possible solutions that could accommodate a minimum number of contact days without going too far into June or August.

Trustee Chesire also shared that a reason the 4-day calendar was strongly considered would be to help mitigate the staffing issue and that there has been some success in recruiting and retention. Superintendent Hunicke also shared that staff are working many of those Fridays but that there’s more flexibility.

Principal Pilkerton stated that she can share the results of the survey digitally with the school board and that a decision would need to be made in April. Trustee Minto asked whether data reviews would take place in April and Principal Pilkerton clarified that it would likely be in time for the May board meeting depending on the scoring timeline. Principal Kelly shared that students aren’t expected to be grade level during interim ISATs but that teachers can drill down into the reports to determine gaps and use the teacher tools to meet student needs. Trustee Minto asked about consulting historical data and Principal Kelly and Superintendent Hunicke described the challenges due to the disruption of COVID and changes that have taken place.

## **11. Old/New Business**

- a. **Idaho Center for Outdoor Education** - Superintendent Hunicke reported that not much has happened but that third grade had their outside learning day at the perfect time for the weather conditions.
- b. **Forest Funds** - No updates
- c. **Strategic Plan**- Superintendent Hunicke shared that he is working to organize the next meeting between spring break and the next board meeting. Trustee Diehl asked about the referrals and Principal Pilkerton clarified that the state requirements are to submit high level discipline referrals including vaping, harassment, and weapons and that this isn't a true picture of what administrators handle on a daily basis. Trustee Diehl clarified that she is wanting to see referrals and consequences such as out of school suspension, and Superintendent Hunicke stated that they would have to dig deeper into Public Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) reports to pull that data.
- d. **Levy committee** - Committee member Melissa Starry thanked the board for re-approving the levy to be on the ballot in May with the minor modification. She shared that they had a successful event on Leap Day to bring members of the business community together to gather questions and feedback. She shared that there were people who did not previously vote for the levy and stated would now be voting for the levy. She reported that business agreed to distribute brochures and hang signs and that an event is planned for April that will be open to community members.
- e. **\* Approve School Closures** - Trustee Chesire made a motion to approve school closures on January 18th due to facility failure, March 4th late start due to snowy road, and March 5th closure due to snowy roads. Trustee Diehl seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
  - i. **January 18, 2024 -facility failure**
  - ii. **March 4, 2024 (2) hour late start -snowy roads**
  - iii. **March 5, 2024 -snowy roads**
- f. **\*1st Reading Policy 513 (STUDENTS - GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION)** - Trustee Diehl and Trustee Minto submitted proposed policy changes. Trustee Diehl reported that the suggestions she made were based on another school's policy and that "student sex" is changed to "biological sex" and shared that she sent a copy of the policy to April Hoy at the ISBA and the lawyer at ISBA for review but hasn't received feedback yet. Trustee Minto shared that he had not seen Michelle's but that they may have copy and pasted from the same document. Trustee Diehl described other differences between her proposed policy and Trustee Minto's.

Trustee Kline stated her concern about changing policy that is currently under litigation due to the advice of legal counsel. Trustee Minto stated that the litigation could go on for years while his primary concern is the wording under confidentiality. Trustee Chesire shared that he supports the direction of the policy and that the board must be very careful in the wording. He shared his research of the issue historically and the conflict of these revised policies in relation to legal rulings that allow for a change of sex on the birth certificate. He stated that this change is state accepted and nationally accepted and the district cannot act in opposition to that. Trustee Minto stated that this could be covered under the changes he proposed. Trustee Chesire proposed changing the phrasing of "biological sex" to "sex stated on the birth certificate."

Trustee Diehl shared briefly about House Bill 538. Trustee Diehl asked if the discussion should be tabled until hearing back from ISBA and legal counsel. Trustee Minto stated that he hasn't done careful enough reading to know if their proposed policies conflict. Further discussion ensued. Trustee Minto shared that his version of the confidentiality paragraph includes the parent but that privacy of the student was maintained.

Chair Kline reiterated that there are some things that can be addressed but that a major overhaul of the policy makes her leery due to the previously stated legal advice.

Trustee Minto asked whether they should run one or both of these through legal counsel and see what their input is. Superintendent Hunicke suggested running Trustee Minto's changes

through April Hoy as well and Trustee Diehl agreed with that course of action. Trustee Minto emphasized the need to address the confidentiality language despite pending litigation. Discussion followed of the court ruling on biological sex in regards to facilities use vs school records. Trustee Diehl directed the conversation to specific points of her proposed policy.

Board members discussed potential changes to the existing policy including removing some sentences and changing phrasing. Chair Kline remarked that she would want legal counsel on the statement “allow students to dress in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity” since it could invite legal action. Counselor Lynsey Bell remarked that some laws dictate what district policy must address and would advise the board to research that before making significant changes to policy. Discussion followed. Further debate about the terminology of staff training ensued.

Chair Kline asked administrators for feedback and they shared their input including the danger of using overly specific language which could result in negative repercussions for teachers. Trustee Minto proposed that the language could include “formal training” to and the language of Trustee Diehl’s proposed statement from “sole” to “principal” responsibility of the parents to account for other situations that may arise. Trustee Diehl expressed her concern about giving any level of instruction to students regarding this issue. Community member Shaunna Roeber expressed concern about the legality of making major changes to the policy on issues that are under litigation. Trustee Minto stated that there are risks of legal action on either side of the proposed changes and agreed that the lawyer should examine it. Further debate ensued. Superintendent Hunicke shared his opinion that the lawyers are going to advise waiting because it’s a hot button issue but they may give some further guidance as well. Melissa Starry suggested sending legal counsel the red line and asking for a risk analysis.

Trustee Minto suggested sending the overhauled policy and asking the lawyer for the risk analysis for that full change rather than just the minor changes discussed at this meeting. Trustee Chesire made a motion to table the first reading of policy 513 pending a risk analysis by legal. Trustee Minto seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

- g. **\*1st Reading [Attendance Policy 522 - Option 3](#)** - Superintendent Hunicke remarked that it may take a board workshop to pull policies together. Trustee Minto asked Counselor Lynsey Bell out of options 1, 2, and 3 which one is the most restrictive of students and what are the risks of adopting the least restrictive of the policies. Counselor Lynsey Bell shared that the administrative team met and looked at four other policies which overlap. She stated that their suggested guidance is to take the attendance policy and focus it specifically on attendance while removing the other pieces. She shared that the next step is to clarify the other policies because they contradict, some of which are more restrictive for students and families and they intend to meet again and make it more flexible. Counselor Lynsey Bell stated that Superintendent Hunicke, Principal Kelly, and herself recommend Option 3 as the updated policy which focuses more clearly on attendance. She stated that the additions are also recommended by the Attendance Committee who has done extensive research on other school policies. Trustee Chesire stated that he doesn’t want to see the other policies left in their current state but wants to see them come before the board for review. Mrs. Bell and Mr. Hunicke stated that they had to be updated.

Chair Kline remarked that bereavement of the immediate family might be more restrictive than necessary for a student since the immediate family of their parents or guardians should also qualify for the excused absence and not count toward 90% attendance. She suggested that the language be changed to “immediate family members of a student or parent/guardian” Principal Pilkerton shared that this policy doesn’t specify the number of days while the staff policy specifies 5 days and wondered if that was necessary. Trustee Chesire also suggested changing “class periods” to “classes” Trustee Minto asked if changing “class periods” to “classes” if the students will game this policy using IDLA courses and Mrs. Bell stated that she didn’t think so since it already states “in person or online.”

Trustee Diehl made a motion to accept the first reading of Option 3 for attendance policy 522. Trustee Chesire seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Chesire made a motion to move into executive session in accordance with 74-206A(1) and (b). Trustee Diehl seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**12. \*Executive Session -To consider labor contract matters authorized under section 74-206A(1) and (b), IdahoCode**

**13. \*Post-Executive Action Items**

- a. **\*Employee leave request** - Trustee Chesire moved to approve the extended leave for the classified employee 4/4- 17, 5/7-9 & 5/15-17 Trustee Minto seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Chairman's Update** - Chair Kline shared about the ISBA training on Friday in which the potential to digitize policy was discussed. This process could take a year and could cost \$7000 in addition to employee costs. Trustee Minto asked if there was flexibility in the budget to find the funding and if it's too late to add this additional cost to the levy. Chair Kline stated that levy changes would have to be addressed in an additional board meeting before the 22nd and additional discussion followed. Chair Kline and Trustee Diehl discussed using budget planning to look for that funding.

**15. Superintendent Update** - Trustee Minto stated that the new levy page is up and Superintendent Hunicke shared that he had started to put things up but hadn't finished. Trustee Minto said he would follow up with edits. Trustee Diehl asked about the strategic meeting and he clarified that he would be sending out notes

**16. Adjournment-** At 8:42 pm Trustee Chesire made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Diehl seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**\* Indicates an action item**

**ATTEST:**

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ReBekha Lulu, Clerk

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Brandee Kline, Chairman