

January 10, 2022 West Ada School Board Meeting

Submitted by: Sue Darden

*** Before meeting ramblings – Arrived at 5:15 to locked doors. Allowed in at 5:21 pm. Two guys come in within 5 minutes. One has a sign directed at Amy Johnson, but I can't read it yet. (When I saw it, it said, "Amy Step Down!") When the two new board members arrived at about 5:35, the second guy came over. Trustee Lori Frasure knew him and introduced him to Trustee Angie Redford as Richard ????. I was eaves-dropping and heard Richard offer to help research board policy for them. He said that he helps out Dave Benetti and he wants them to have the best information out there to make clear decisions. He is very excited about their elections and the positive contributions they can make to the district. Another lady came in and was talking quietly to Lori and Angie and I did overhear Lori said she feels good about the board chair and co-chair so it sounds like there has been some discussion and politicking behind the scenes. I took his picture so he could be identified later.

A guy in a suit is here sitting as a guest of Angie. He is introducing himself as Richard Miller, the Chair of the Ada County Republican Party. (Not the same Richard as above.) He took their picture on the dais and said he was a "proud parent." How long will it be before Idaho allows (requires) party declarations when running for school board?

- I. Call to Order at 6 p.m. by Chairwoman Johnson
 - a. Pledge
 - b. Trustee Ozuna is on the phone
- II. Agenda approval
 - a. Amended agenda to add an executive session
 - b. Approved 3-0
- III. Newly elected Trustees Oath of Office (Idaho Code: 33-501)
 - a. Zone One – Lori Frasure
 - b. Zone Three – Angie Redford
 - c. They signed the code of ethics
- IV. Reorganization of the board (Idaho Code: 33-506)
 - a. Appoint Clerk of the Board
 - b. Nicole Sheppers is nominated
 - c. Tr. R thanked Nickie for her warm supportive assistance as they in-boarded
 - i. Vote 5-0 to approve
 - d. Elect Board Chairperson – Nicole is in charge
 - i. Ch. Johnson nominated Tr. Ozuna – gave a nice speech

1. Tr. Frasure – Tr. O has been very welcoming, but she is not the right choice for chair. The public wants to see change and so she is not the right person at this time.
 2. Tr. Shepard – echoes what Tr. F said. The results of the last election, the citizens want to see a new direction.
 3. Tr. Coffelt – can't disagree with anything Tr. Johnson said, her being on the board is a good thing. Looking at his zone & looking at the consensus from the election, he does not think that she is the right choice at this time. **(Wow, they are using the same phrasing like they rehearsed it!)**
 4. Tr. Johnson – to new board members -when you were elected, about 12,000 voted, but you represent 100,000. 12,000 is only a small percentage. We have two new members, being the chair when you are a new member would be difficult. The gentlemen to my left does not think he will not make it through the year. Civility is what is important at a time like this. This is the first tough vote. Don't just think of the people who elected you, but all the citizens.
 - ii. Vote: 2 in favor, 3 against
 - iii. Nomination: Tr. Frasure nominated Tr. Coffelt. He has experience and represents the people.
 1. Tr. Coffelt – he will need to step down from the board by the end of the summer as he has aging parents to take care of, but he is ready to fulfill the role of chairperson at this time
 2. Tr. Redford – appreciates Tr. Coffelt's transparency about the situation. She loves his energy and willingness to serve.
 3. Tr. Ozuna – he is an incredible addition to the board, but with his upcoming move, it would be a disruption to the board.
 - iv. Vote: 3 in favor, 2 against (Johnson & Ozuna)
- e. Elect Board Vice-Chairperson – Chairman Coffelt
- i. Tr. R nominates Tr. Frasure- results of the elections shows that the people want new representation
 - ii. Tr. O – with Tr. Coffelt resigning later this year, she is concerned about Tr. Frasure's lack of experience
 - iii. Ch C – elections matter, be a representative of those votes. She has a good background of involvement
 - iv. Tr. F- what's important is that we put kids first, and listen to all of our constituents
- f. Vote: 3 in favor, 2 against **(It is going to be an interesting year!)**
- i. Ch C – These dialogues are important. Wants to thank Tr. J & Tr. O who led during a very difficult time. Appreciates their leadership & time. Thank you for your service.

- g. Approve 2022 West Ada Board Appointments
 - i. Approve as recommended (list is on the screen but font is too small to read – same people every year)
 - ii. Approved 5-0
- h. School Board Meeting Resolution
 - i. Establish monthly regular school Board meeting dates, times and locations for 2022
 - ii. Approved 5-0
- i. Designation of Public Places for Posting Notices
 - i. Tr. J – removed some local admin places (city hall) but added in Facebook and district website
 - ii. Approved 5-0
- j. Review and Sign Code of Ethics for School Board Members (West Ada Policy 201.1)
 - i. Board read code of ethics, each taking a line
 - ii. Signed by Tr. J & Ch C
- V. District Spotlight – Dr Bubb
 - a. Law Enforcement Appreciation
 - i. Yesterday was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
 - ii. Wants to acknowledge each agency & each SRO
 - iii. Showed a video from SRO at Victory Middle
 - 1. Opportunity to be a mentor & create relationships
 - 2. Parents need to be aware of dangers of internet
 - b. Ada County Sheriff – Sharon Garza – Lake Hazel Middle SRO
 - 1. Build relationships with students, staff & community
 - a. Law enforcement & mentors
 - b. Best job in the world
 - 2. Tr. J – follow her Facebook post, it's very helpful
 - c. Ch J – his plan was to wait until the end for trustee comments (**oh, he had a plan so he knew what was going to happen – of course he did, look back at the conversation before the meeting started**)
 - d. Meridian Police Dept – John Gonzalez – value our partnership with West Ada
 - e. Tr. Frasure – was a Rocky several years ago when there was an unplanned lockdown, appreciates their professionalism
 - f. Tr. O – thanks them for their support in school and at board meetings
 - g. Tr. R – positive memories of her SRO at Boise High, appreciates their dedication
 - h. Tr. J – was at a football game & SRO's knew kids, appreciates all they do
 - i. Ch C – spent 30 years in fire service & appreciates support of the police
- VI. Superintendent's Update
 - a. Has K-12 teachers meeting monthly for math training
 - b. Stinky Sneaker basketball game between Meridian & Mountain View

- i. Congrats to both teams **Who won?**
 - c. Covid update – keeping track of numbers
 - i. Keep sick kids home **(I had a coughing kid tell me he ate all the cough drops his mom gave him before he had me 3rd period, and he wasn't supposed to go to the nurse!)**
 - ii. Celebrate custodial staff who implement sanitation procedures to keep kids in school
- VII. Open Meeting Laws & Board Protocols – Amy White, just hired as West Ada General Legal Counsel
 - a. Open Meeting Issues – formulation of public policy needs to be in open meetings
 - i. Doing people's business
 - b. 3 fundamental definitions
 - i. Decisions – formulation of public policy except for administrative actions
 - ii. Exchanging information – receipt or exchange should be in public
 - 1. Need to disclose information received from the public before you vote if you use that information **Does that mean Richard's research on policies? Will he be given credit for all his work? What about anything that comes from the Republican Party?**
 - iii. Meeting – convening of a governing body to make a decision
 - 1. Violations- members engaging in discussion or deliberation outside of a posted meeting **(Gee, would that be deciding the board chair BEFORE the meeting?)**
 - 2. Daisy Chain – doing what you should not have been doing together by contacting each other independently but going from one to another **(See comment above. There was obviously a lot of discussion going on.)**
 - 3. No decision made in a secret ballot
 - 4. Can have rules that require masks, limit seating, etc.
 - 5. May hold meeting using telecommunications
 - 6. Exceptions – executive session- need to know basis, confidential issues
 - a. Courts construe them narrowly
 - b. Needs to be in agenda, and in minutes
 - c. Disciplinary matter – student or employee
 - d. Property acquisition
 - e. Hiring some positions
 - f. Labor contract matters – negotiations
 - g. Can vote – suspending teacher or expelling student
 - h. ***** she said more but I was texting. She has her work cut out with the two new trustees – I believe they are in violation already!**

- iv. Public Forum – usually used for boundary changes
 - 1. You do not have a policy about this
 - 2. Need to have a policy for public input
 - 3. Wide-open policy – public can talk about anything they want that is not on the agenda, except personnel matters
 - 4. Narrow focus – take input on agenda items only
 - 5. Forum is tailored to a specific issue
 - v. Practical
 - 1. Don't do any decision outside a meeting should be done inside a meeting
 - 2. Don't hit "Reply All"
 - 3. Disclose to individuals that you will have to disclose what they say **(Both Richards, this means you!)**
 - 4. Read the blue books she passed out
 - vi. Tr. Frasure – likes the wide-open public input
 - 1. Person lists topic that they want to talk about
 - 2. Amy - Critical input – board cannot respond or discuss the subject matter
 - a. Board cannot discuss what is not on the agenda
 - vii. Tr. J – Concerned that we are in non-partisan positions & we are getting approached by public parties **((Like Richard Miller!))**
 - 1. Code of Ethics – do not give your vote over to anybody
 - a. You have to disclose it when it is a patron, a political party, a teacher's union, etc.
 - 2. Any emails, texts cannot be destroyed as they can be related to public requests for information
 - viii. Ch J – executive session – do we have to post who is invited into the session
 - 1. Amy – minutes have to say who, but students & staff can be identified by a letter or number.
- VIII. West Ada School District Board Procedures Handbook
- a. Public Participation at Board Meetings
 - b. Tr. J – prior board had a discussion about policy, but held it for further discussion
 - c. Tr. F – wants open forum because 4 years ago they wanted to bring something before the board & it was very difficult
 - i. **She got involved because of Rocky's grading policy – was that 4 years ago? Or was it something else?**
 - ii. Should have time limits on it
 - d. Tr. F – public wants a listening ear, would be a welcome addition
 - e. Tr. O – important to listen to the public, but it should go through the appropriate channels first

- i. Amy – do you want them to indicate on the sign in sheet that they went through the channels first
 - f. Tr. J – wants to use options appropriately, would like to ask questions
 - i. Would like a time limit, prioritize items on the agenda
 - g. Ch C – fully support public ability to provide input
 - i. Want as many people as possible to speak, but need a reasonable time frame
 - ii. Amy – when board meetings went remote, you took input in writing, do you still want to do that?
 - iii. Tr. J – yes, some people did not feel safe because of lack of masks, or the atmosphere of the meeting
 - 1. Wants email to have name, and what zone they are in, not sure they all came from our district
 - iv. Amy – do you want that area redrafted, this part of the plan was not approved
 - v. Tr. J – written comments are limited in characters, maybe that could be eliminated
 - vi. Tr. R – agree we need names & addresses
 - 1. Like the variety of ways we can do public comment
 - vii. Tr. F – Individuals who come to speak, could agree without repetition
 - 1. Should have names & addresses for written comments
 - h. Ch J – Summarizing – rework the draft to see protocol for both wide-open or just for agenda items
 - i. Read the process at the meeting so folks know the rules of the road as they come up to the podium
 - ii. Ch J – wants public forums for school boundaries or covid protocols
- IX. Revised Policy 502.60- Interviews & Searches – Geoff Stands
- a. Third reading, one change (“there” instead of “their”)
- X. West Ada Policy Review Committee Trustees – Bret Heller
- a. Need 2 board members on the committee
 - b. Would meet at least once a month, but could be more
 - c. Tr. J – history – district policy manual did not have a regular policy review procedure
 - i. No trustees were on the review committee
 - ii. Some policies were seen multiple times
 - iii. Would like to know who would like to be involved
 - 1. Tr. Redford would be interested
 - 2. Tr. O said she would be interested
- XI. Policy Approval
- a. Policy 502.60 approved 5-0
- XII. Policy Review committee trustee

- a. Tr. Redford & Tr. Ozuna nominated
 - b. Approved 5-0
- XIII. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approved 5-0
- XIV. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Tr. J – what is our plan for absences of staff & covid protocols
 - b. Tr. O- some facilities review & how to handle growth
 - i. When do we need to run a bond?
 - c. Future spotlight – MacMillan – community schools & amazing work that they are doing
- XV. Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.