

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS
AND TAKING ACTION TO SELECT A TRUSTEE FOR THE ZONE #3 SEAT**

**POCATELLO/CHUBBUCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board Room at the Education Service Center
Monday, August 17, 2015
4:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS/SUPERINTENDENT PRESENT:

Janie Gebhardt, Chair
Jackie Cranor, Vice Chair
Paul Vitale, Clerk

Dave Mattson, Assistant Treasurer
Douglas Howell, Interim Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jacob Gertsch, Trustee Candidate
Rena Johnson, Board Secretary

Welcome, Call to Order and Statement of Purpose

Chair Gebhardt welcomed everyone and called the Special Meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. She said the purpose of the meeting was to conduct Candidate Interviews and select a Trustee for the Zone #3 Seat. She said the Board would alternate asking the interview questions.

Conduct Candidate Interviews for the Trustee Seat in Zone #3

Mr. Mattson asked Mr. Gertsch why he was interested in serving on the Board of Trustees and if he was aware the appointment was for four years. Mr. Gertsch said he was aware the appointment was for four years. He said he was interested in serving on the Board because he was a product of the District and believed in education. He said he attended Ellis Elementary, Alameda Middle School and graduated from Highland High School. He said Superintendent Howell was one of his middle school teachers. He said he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from Idaho State University even though he could have gone to any University. He said he had children coming into the District and he had a lot at stake relative to the success of the District. He said it was important to him to serve his community, and if he could help by being on the Board, then that was what he wanted to do. Ms. Gebhardt asked him what experiences had helped prepare him for the position. Mr. Gertsch said a School Board acted together, and not as individuals. He said his experience in the workforce taught him to work as a team player. He said it was okay to have your own opinion, but you had to know how to support a team decision. He said he believed in the collaborative process and moving forward as a united team. Ms. Cranor asked what he considered to be the strengths of the District, and what the future challenges were. Mr. Gertsch said he believed the greatest strength of the District was its staff. He said the teachers and administrators were the heart of the District. He said growing up in the School District he learned that there was always a teacher or administrator willing to go out of their way to help students and build relationships. He said there were several teachers in the District that had been great mentors to him. He said he hadn't thought a lot about the future challenges of the District, but imagined that enrollment could become a challenge, whether it was declining enrollment or overcrowding. He said there were not as many young people in his neighborhood as there were when he was growing up in the same area. He said another challenge was making sure that every student's needs were met and that every student was being challenged. He said every student had their own path and individual needs and the District had to make sure each student received the help they needed. Mr. Vitale asked what skills he would bring to the Board to contribute to its ability to address the many challenges in difficult economic times. Mr. Gertsch said he was in the process of building a startup company in Pocatello and the skills it had given him would be an asset to the Board. He said when he was young his parents worked multiple jobs and were not very involved in his education unless there was a problem. He said he was able to transcend that upbringing to become goal orientated and develop his leadership skills. He said his work also taught him to build relationships which was important in every aspect of the District. He said he built his business one conversation at a time and a District was built in the same way. Mr. Mattson said Board Members contributed many hours of service each month to meet the demands of Board work and asked if he was flexible during the day and evening according to the needs of the District. Mr. Gertsch said he was available to meet the

time and demands of the Board responsibility. He said he had a lot on his plate with his new business, but had great support from his family and a flexible schedule. Ms. Gebhardt asked if his spouse was supportive. He said his wife was the one that encouraged him to become involved on the School Board. Ms. Gebhardt asked if he was appointed, would he consider or commit to running for the election. Mr. Gertsch said he would consider it. He said he would like to see how the first four years went, but believed serving on the Board was important and wanted to be a part of it. Ms. Cranor asked what his views on public education were and whether or not he supported public education as a whole. Mr. Gertsch said he was a supporter of public education. He said he always believed things could get better and he would probably do some things different, but he believed the system worked as long as everyone worked together. He said he believed in the public education system as he was a successful product of the District and Idaho State University. He said the District was only as good as the people that served it. Mr. Vitale asked if he had any questions for the Board. Mr. Gertsch asked the Board for a summary of the monthly time commitment. Ms. Cranor said there were four main meetings that occurred monthly. She said the first was Board School Visits the first Tuesday of every month, the second was Board Work Sessions the second Tuesday of the month, the third was the Regular Board Meeting on the third Tuesday of the month and lastly were the Student Discipline Hearings that were held every other Wednesday as needed. Ms. Gebhardt said some of the additional time commitments included the Annual Board Retreat and the meeting with Legislators in November. She said the Idaho School Boards Association meetings included the Fall Regional Meeting in September, the Annual Convention in Coeur D'Alene in November and Day on the Hill in Boise in February. Ms. Cranor said the Board understood that members would not make it to every single meeting which was okay as long as a quorum was present. She said Board Members also served on various District Committees. Ms. Gebhardt said a list of the Committees was included in the Board Meeting packet. Mr. Gertsch asked what advice Board Members would give to a new member joining the Board, what he should look out for and what he should expect. Mr. Vitale said he thought it was a good approach to sit back and settle in to see how things operate. He said he believed Mr. Gertsch had that ability to see how things worked before offering his opinions and expertise. He said the Board was pretty reasonable to get along with and welcomed new-comers. Ms. Cranor said she learned the hard way that it was always better to ask questions ahead of any meeting, rather than putting somebody on the spot in a public meeting. She said it was good protocol to give the presenter a heads up about any questions so they could be prepared to answer the question. Mr. Gertsch asked if he had a question during a meeting if he was allowed to ask questions. Ms. Cranor said yes, Board Members asked a lot of questions, but typically a question could be answered ahead of time, or during a Work Session. Ms. Gebhardt said during the IBSA Training, the presenters talked about "no surprises" and that was what Ms. Cranor was talking about. She said her advice would be to make sure he was prepared for meetings. She said being prepared helped to alleviate some of the questions a Board member may have during a meeting. She said all meetings were televised and having a Board that was prepared to discuss the issues was important. She said sometimes the Board asked questions in order to clarify a topic or a discussion for the public. Mr. Mattson said his advice was to relax; don't be afraid to ask questions; be prepared and have fun. Dr. Howell asked the Board to discuss how it handled inquiries from the public. Ms. Cranor said most of the time she forwarded emails or directed callers to the Superintendent. Ms. Gebhardt said directing an email or phone call directly to the Superintendent was appropriate. She said it gave the Superintendent a heads up and time to research an issue prior to responding. She said Board Members were assigned a District email address in order to avoid personal emails becoming the subject of litigation. Ms. Cranor said she referred a lot of calls to Ms. Gebhardt who was the Board Chair and spokesperson for the Board. Mr. Vitale said it was a good practice to keep the Board unified. Ms. Cranor said a lot of times a comment from a single Board Member could be misconstrued. Ms. Gebhardt said it was also important to be careful about discussing any student or personnel matters, which were confidential. Ms. Allen said there were laws and rules that prevented the Board or District staff from discussing certain issues even though people wanted to know what happened. She said questions related to students or personnel should be directed to the Superintendent who would draft a response for the public. Mr. Gertsch asked whether or not it was appropriate to send emails during a Board Meeting. He said he did not want to lose track of the discussion, or be a distraction, but wondered if responding to a quick email was okay. Ms. Gebhardt said if he received a critical email it could be acceptable every once in a while, but she recommended making a note to follow up after the meeting. She said her last piece of advice would be to get to know the staff members and build relationships.

Take Action to Select a Trustee for the Zone #3 Seat

A motion was made by Ms. Cranor and seconded by Mr. Mattson that the Board of Trustees of the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District No. 25 select Jacob Gertsch as the Trustee for the Zone #3 Seat. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Vitale and seconded by Ms. Cranor to adjourn. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative. The Board adjourned the Special Meeting at 5:06 p.m.

APPROVED ON:

September 15, 2015

BY:

Jenise A. Hebrich
Chair

ATTESTED BY:

Joseph D. Vitale
Clerk

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

[Signature]
Secretary, Board of Trustees