

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Pocatello/Chubbuck School District No. 25  
Thursday, March 18, 2010  
Board Room at the Education Service Center  
4:30 p.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS/SUPERINTENDENT PRESENT:**

Marianne Donnelly, Chair	John Sargent, Member (Excused)
Janie Gebhardt, Vice Chair	Jackie Cranor, Member
Frank Rash, Clerk	Mary M. Vagner, Superintendent

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pocatello/Chubbuck School District No. 25 was held on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Education Service Center, 3115 Pole Line Road, Pocatello, Idaho, as provided in Section 33-510, Idaho Code;

**Welcome, Call to Order, and Statement of Purpose:**

Chair Donnelly welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. All Board members were in attendance, except for Mr. Sargent. Ms. Donnelly said the Special Meeting was held for the purpose of: Canvas the March 16, 2010 School Plant Facilities Reserve Fund Levy Election; and Public Hearing regarding All Day, Every Other Day Kindergarten.

**Convene Special Meeting**

Ms. Donnelly convened the Special Meeting at 4:35 p.m.

**Canvas the March 16, 2010 School Plant Facilities Reserve Fund Levy and Take Action on that Canvas**

A motion was made by Ms. Gebhardt and seconded by Ms. Cranor that the polls closed at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, whereupon the Board of Election then opened the boxes to compute the results; the computation of the results showed: 5 illegible votes; 3490 in favor; 1104 against; and 4599 Total votes; and moved that the Canvas Resolution be approved as if read into the minutes. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mr. Smart said the Election was Tuesday, March 16, 2010 and participation had been steady. He said administration was grateful for the voters and the levy passed with a 67% voter passage rate. He said the next school plant facilities levy election would be held in 2020. He said a special meeting was required to be held per Idaho Code to canvas the election and present the ballots. He said administration hired a good staff for the election that were in charge of counting the ballots after the election and workers were finished by 9:00 p.m. He said absentee balloting was cumbersome. He said administration was happy with the results and depended on election workers for a fair count. Mr. Smart said administration recommended the votes be accepted as they stood. Ms. Donnelly said she was inclined to accept the results and thanked everyone for their hard work.

**Adjourn Special Meeting**

A motion was made by Ms. Gebhardt and seconded by Ms. Cranor to adjourn the special meeting. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Ms. Donnelly adjourned the Special Meeting at 4:38 p.m.

**Convene Public Hearing**

Ms. Donnelly convened the Public Hearing at 4:38 p.m.

### **Explanation of Process for Conducting Public Hearing**

Ms. Donnelly explained the process for conducting the public hearing. She said speakers would be asked to complete a form titled, "Request to Appear Before the Board". She said speakers were to be respectful and each speaker would be limited to five (5) minutes. She said if a participant wished to speak more than once, remarks would be limited to two (2) minutes. She said if comments became repetitive, speakers would be limited to two (2) minutes. Ms. Vagner said the District was faced with massive budget reductions that were inclusive of transportation services. She said administration was in the process of developing options to balance the budget for the 2010-11 school year and would be short \$5 million in operations and were planning for another \$2.5 million in reductions in 2010. Ms. Vagner pointed out that as the District proceeded with the reductions they were the result of the work of the legislature. She said administration anticipated that it would present recommendations for balancing the budget at the April 13, 2010 Work Session. She said administration would look at the big picture rather than individual pieces. She said due to Kindergarten registration being set for April 8<sup>th</sup> it was critical for the Board to discuss administrative recommendations regarding all day every other day Kindergarten and to solicit public input on any changes to delivery. She said if a change in delivery was to be made the Board would make a decision on March 30, 2010 to allow parents and staff time to prepare for the change. She said this also would provide time to arrange day care schedules. She said this was a critical decision to bring to the Board and the public. She said Mr. Reed would discuss the financial condition and Dr. Mortensen would talk about delivery changes and the specificity to the unique programs at Greenacres and Tyhee.

### **ALL DAY EVERY OTHER DAY KINDERGARTEN**

#### **Presentation of the Fiscal Impact to Transportation Reduction for 2010-11**

Mr. Reed said he would review information that had been shared for the past couple of months in the District and the state. He said the reductions the District was facing were unprecedented in public school history. He said he had been with the District for 24 years and had never seen anything like it before. He said he would cover some of the challenges the District was facing. He said this year the District was dealing with \$3 million less to operate and would be looking at even more significant reductions for the coming year. He said salary reduction could be between 4% - 6% for employees. He said this meant around \$1.7 million less in salaries and benefits as a District. He said there would be another 14.4% reduction for discretionary funds that paid for utilities and supplies. He said this related to another \$2.1 million loss in discretionary for those types of expenditures. He said in addition to the reduction in discretionary funding there were also major reductions in items like textbooks, technology, classroom supplies and LEP funding which added up to a ½ million overall. He said transportation had taken another 10% reduction across the state. He said all of the cuts amounted to a \$4.5 million reduction for schools and the community on top of the \$3 million in reductions earlier in the year and administration anticipated further reductions in the fall. He said the District was in dire straits with the budget. He said it affected programs and children. He said currently the District had ½ day Kindergarten and to switch to all day every other day Kindergarten would save the District between \$60-65 thousand in transportation costs. He said every dime and nickel would be important in the coming year. He said administration had already looked at every line item and program before considering this as an option to balance the budget.

#### **Presentation of All Day, Every Other Day Kindergarten Program Model and Alternative Program Options of Greenacres and Tyhee**

Dr. Mortensen said this was a discussion administrators had had several times asking what it would mean to students and what it would look like. She said 5 years ago administration had asked schools if there was any interest in piloting and all day every other day model and Indian Hill and Wilcox decided to participate and had been using the model ever since. She said after the first year of implementation administration had done an extensive program evaluation to determine effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses to be addressed. She said the findings of the evaluation were included in the packet and had been reviewed previously. She said administration learned it was a viable sound alternative to the traditional model. She said there were challenges to be addressed and most had to do with restructuring the calendar for required hours of instruction

and gaps of attendance between holidays. She said parent and teacher satisfaction had been high, especially at Indian Hills. She said she knew the transportation savings were significant and implementing a new program would require planning and commitment on the part of the staff and the administration to ensure it worked for the children and families. She said the administration recommended the District calendar be developed with fewer interruptions to support the model. She said the issue of equity had been addressed and instructional time reflected equity over the years in the number of hours. She said student achievement would be monitored closely in comparison to other schools. She reviewed what the day would look like in an all day every other day kindergarten model. She said there would be a morning meeting, then 15 minutes of math or language arts, free choice time for teachers to work one on one with students, 90 minutes of language arts instruction, 15 minutes of recess that would require more supervision, 45 minutes of math instruction, lunch, afternoon meeting, 30 minutes of language arts, 1 hour of focused time on teacher identified needs, then clean up and packing at the end of the day. She said administration was working on a new calendar. She said they would use the adopted calendar to create an alternative Kindergarten calendar that would be consistent across the District. She said the Board had been given a synopsis of the schools and different kindergarten schedules and two were different which were Greenacres and Tyhee. She said at Greenacres Kindergarten and first grade were combined. She said Kindergarten stayed until noon and 1<sup>st</sup> grade stayed the full day. She said Tyhee had an extended day program where students stayed until noon and were transported home to serve the needs of Tyhee's population and provide time to strengthen academic areas. She said both were different from the traditional ½ day programs. She said administration would recommend that Greenacres maintain its multi-age program that was very successful and highly requested by parents. She said Tyhee developed a schedule that while in the classroom teachers would teach kindergarten and provide 1<sup>st</sup> grade interventions. She said the staffing was different at Tyhee and could accommodate those needs. She said Tyhee's calendar used the current number of instructional minutes and spread them out over a full day. She said another issue that needed to be addressed was the extended reading program schedule that would need to be addressed if moving to a full day schedule. She said 40 hours of interventions were required by the state for those who scored a 1. She said it would have to be fit into a regular school day. She said there needed to be flexibility to look at staffing needs and time allowances for a workable solution. She said administration needed planning time to work on what the curriculum would look like if the Board approved any changes. Ms. Cranor asked what it would cost the District to give additional planning time. Dr. Mortensen said the District would try to work that into the contract and could possibly use Title 1 money. She said there were seminars for core curriculum for math and reading to show what it would look with a full day program. She said administration discussed that teachers needed flexibility with their planning time. She said administration did not have a cost estimate for any possible teachers to be brought in the summer to prepare. She said administration would have to look at all no cost options. Ms. Donnelly thanked her for her report.

### **Open Public Hearing for Testimony**

Ms. Donnelly called the following patrons to speak to the Board:

#### **Britton Blauer – 1599 Onyx Drive, 83202 & Shelby Randklev – 1625 Ruby Street, 83201:**

- Support and love the success of program
- Required to move to proposed schedule would destroy multi-age classrooms
- Research shows students benefit for having teacher for more than 1 year
- Had several students over the years
- Academic and social benefit
- Kindergarten gets to be leaders
- Know the system
- Taught multi and regular, seen great strides with repeated students
- Several staff and parents in attendance to support program

#### **Kris Olsen – 3420 Somerset Drive, 83201:**

- Parent of kids that have been through multi-age programs

- Appreciate benefit and school district
- Appreciated board allowing the possibility
- Across the board concern for other schools is the most beneficial things will get lost in the shuffle
- Recognizes tough times
- Recognize K-3 are significant to set the tone and foundation for their experiences
- Critical years
- Going from superior to just okay
- Consider the most valuable thing; our kids education and not lose development to budget
- Put education on top of priority list

**John Keyes – 307 Fairmont Avenue, 83201:**

- Have kindergartner at Greenacres
- Will be in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and he will lose out on additional learning
- Need to figure out budget compared to education
- Could be destructive to education
- Like to see program stay the same so they can learn just as much as his son

**Mary Keating – 3561 Somerset Drive, 83201:**

- Two children at Greenacres
- Unique and creative programs
- Teachers go above and beyond to encourage learning
- Extremely successful
- Had opportunity to pursue public or private education, chose public based on Greenacres
- Mentorship and leadership
- Promotes learning
- Some that are not on target are given two years to catch up

**Jenni Maheras – 2925 Richard Street, 83201:**

- Taught for 13 years
- No title 1, kids come in that are succeeding very high and some need more work
- Indian Hills and Wilcox do get to stay and be serviced because of funds
- Amount of kids that ride the bus we could reduce the routes.

**Jeanne Jones – 4740 Johnny Creek Road, 83204:**

- Teacher
- Standards have increased
- Every school has different demographics
- L&C is high risk school
- Good program – ½ day but needy kids get extended time
- 20 will go to Title 1 in the afternoon
- Challenge data scores they are doing very well regardless of high risk
- Concern is with extended day that need to acquire and retain
- Those that come from long breaks is like starting all over
- Frequent and intense intervention instead of long and less intensive
- Afraid kids will not be able to handle a full day
- All morning kids come in the morning and one mid-day bus.
- Alternative for one way
- Look at other alternatives
- Impact to other programs – speech teacher uses some of those routes
- Impact on lunch time and P.E.
- Challenge them to look at different options maybe buses at the end of the day

- Looks good on paper but will impact other programs and children
- K-3 is critical to foundation and interventions can be lessened

**Vanessa Sutton – 2720 Castle Peak, 83201:**

- Parent of Greenacres
- Had seen success in both her children
- Program built leadership skills
- Questioned busing issue
- Can see the whole neighborhood and sees 6 buses and thought there is wasteful busing and would be willing to transport if necessary
- Thought a full day too long for kindergartners

**Jan McCarthy-Whitehead – 1137 E. Lander, 83201:**

- Realized budget constraints
- Parent and teacher
- Children have benefitted from Greenacres multi-age
- Both kids are shy
- Son has patient teacher and is just barely feeling comfortable if it stays in place he can come back next year and re-establish and not have to start over
- Daughter was the same way but got to come back and did not have to start over
- Please keep in mind as you consider budget

**Clayn Lambert – 304 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 83201:**

- Instructor at ISU
- Appreciated budget constraints
- Background in higher education but understood issues at the primary and secondary levels
- Parent of Greenacres student and one that will join the program
- Looking for direction from Board
- Pedagogical impact for children so young
- Brain can only absorb what the seat can stand
- Children can only absorb information effectively for a short timeframe
- Need time to absorb learning and apply
- Longer period of time does not give time to engage
- Would appreciate research into pedagogical impacts and how to address those impacts
- Did not think children could absorb if they went all day
- First kid in school learning along with them
- Teaching students skills/habits that will make them successful
- How would the new proposal address these skills
- Came up a second time and said he would really appreciate an explanation, study, research or report that discussed the impacts. He said he would like to have some more information on the benefit of the approach. Mr. Rash said we would apprise parents of the answers as soon as possible.

**Wendy Anderson – 936 El Rancho Boulevard, 83201:**

- Kindergarten at Tendoy
- Unique community
- Two at every grade level
- One bus in the a.m. and one that takes them home
- Each school is unique, look at each schools needs
- District has a good transfer policy
- There is opportunity for success in schools through choice
- Beneficial to allow choice

- Extended day carried load and instruction and was successful
- Had received students with large behavior plans and were not showing bad behaviors due to the length of the day
- Look at Greenacres as a choice for parents

**Sara Peterson – 936 E. Sublette Street, 83201:**

- Greenacres parent and a member of the PTA
- Had resources within the PTA that could be shared
- Sometimes only 3-5 kids rode the bus and seemed wasteful
- Encouraged parents to talk and carpool and be involved
- If parents were involved and informed they could discuss options and work together to come up with their own input and solutions

There were no further comments. Mr. Rash said the administration would post the input on the district’s website the week after spring break and would respond to the question on pedagogy. Ms. Donnelly thanked everyone for coming and said the Board of Trustees would meet on March 30, 2010 to make a decision so people will know the schedule in time for Kindergarten registration, April 8, 2010. She thanked those in attendance for their interest and said administration would look more closely at the number of kids riding buses.

**Close Public Hearing**

Ms. Donnelly closed the public hearing at 5:38 p.m.

**Adjourn**

The Board adjourned the Special Meeting at 5:38 p.m.

**APPROVED ON:**

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**BY:**

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**Chair**

**ATTESTED BY:**

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**Clerk**

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

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**Secretary, Board of Trustees**