

Mountain Home School District No. 193

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
 FEBRUARY 15, 2022  
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

*Courtesy Livestream Board Meetings: Zoom/Livestreaming/recording board meetings is a courtesy to give the public an alternative means of attending a school board meeting; the board meeting would continue even if there is a failure of technology affecting the zoom meeting (<https://www.mtnhomesd.org/calendar.html>).*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87243485060?pwd=cWEvWDFodHdubVJleDF2RGpPT2tkdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 4348 5060

Passcode: 081974

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87243485060?pwd=cWEvWDFodHdubVJleDF2RGpPT2tkdz09>

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Chairperson/Vice-chairperson.**

*Max Capacity: Once maximum capacity is reached including the Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Clerk, Treasurer, Technology Director, and Building Administrators would require those persons in excess of maximum capacity to sit in the foyer or other overflow rooms.*

Chairman Abrego convened the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Chairman Abrego, Vice-Chair Binion, Trustee Donahue, Trustee Perez, and Trustee Knox were in attendance for the start of the board meeting, thus establishing a two-thirds majority of the board IAW Idaho Code, Section 74-202.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** Chairman Abrego asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. GOOD NEWS –**

*Each month, the School Board encourages students, teachers, administrators, and board members to recognize the notable activities, events, celebrations, student achievements & awards, etc., that have occurred in the school district.*

1. Nikki Cruser – West Elementary – Recognize all West Employees. Mrs. Cruser celebrated her staff at West Elementary. She recognized all their hard work for the last couple of years, especially with regards to COVID and all the changes. She added that no matter what is assigned, they all step up and get everything done; they volunteer when needed and many times without being asked; they cover for each other during absences. Mrs. Cruser continued to recognize her staff and gave an example of how she had a teacher who had an emergency and was absent. She explained that the teacher's team stepped up and took care of the substitute, they took care of her lesson plans, etc. No matter what is thrown their way, West Elementary staff have always step up and don't complain.

The Board presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mrs. Cruser and the staff of West Elementary.

2. Ryan Kuntz – East Elementary – Lisa Russell – Regional & State VFW Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Kuntz informed everyone that Mrs. Stover was the recipient of the VFW Teacher of the Year Award for the state. She was nominated by Ralph Binion for her for teaching leadership, her exemplary community involvement, her community involvement, and support outside of the school district. Mr. Kuntz added that she won the local VFW Teacher of the Year and she also won the VFW State Teacher of the Year. She will now move up to the national level.

Mrs. Stover-Russell received a plaque from the VFW and a Certificate of Recognition from the Board of Trustees.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OR ADDENDUMS (ACTION) –** Chairman/Vice-chairman. Prior to the consent agenda items, Chairman Abrego asked if there was an addendum to the agenda, or if there was anything to add or remove. Chairman Abrego called for a motion to approve or amend the agenda. Trustee Binion moved to approve the agenda as published, with a second from Trustee Donahue. Agenda approved.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (ACTION) –** Board of Trustees. Chairman Abrego called for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Binion asked for clarification on the lunch account refund. Mr. Vick explained that when a student leaves the district and they have money remaining in their lunch account,

they are reimbursed that money; otherwise the money rolls over into the next school year. Trustee Donahue moved to approve the consent agenda, with a second from Trustee Perez. Motion carried.

- A. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2022, AND THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – EXECUTIVE SESSION – STUDENT HEARING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022.**
- B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- C. **CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**
- D. **PERSONNEL**
- E. **POLICY REVISION – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**
  - 1. Field Trip Request Policy
  - 2. Graduation Requirements Policy 3 – Early Graduation

IV. **DELEGATION (NO ACTION/POSSIBLE DIRECTION) – None**

*Patrons/groups wishing to be placed on the board agenda as a delegation to comment or present to the Board must submit in writing a letter to the Superintendent's Office or Superintendent Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board their reason for wanting to be a delegation, or desire to present to the Board no later than the Tuesday prior to the next regular board meeting; There will be no action taken at this time. The Board may decline to hear any matter at its discretion.*

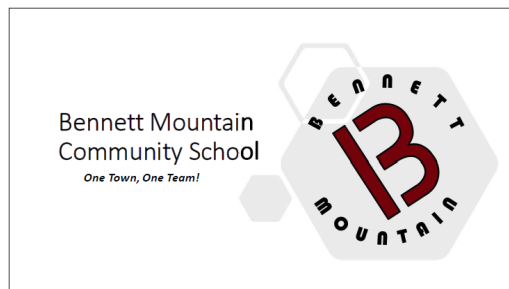
V. **PUBLIC INPUT (COMMENTS – NO ACTION/POSSIBLE DIRECTION) – None**

*Public input may be provided to the Board by attending the board meeting in person, sign up on the Public Input Signup Sheet, and submit to the Board Chair or Board Clerk the [Public Input Form](#) located next to the signup sheet prior to the start of the board meeting. The form is also located on the School District Website ([www.mtnhomesd.org](http://www.mtnhomesd.org)). If called upon by the Board, the individual(s) will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to present his/her views. Please do not include the names of students or staff due to FERPA Laws and privacy protection. There will be no action taken at this time, but action on a problem area could be scheduled for a subsequent meeting of the Board. Safety and healthcare measures such as the wearing of face masks and social distancing will be followed during a CDC or State or School Board recognized pandemic. Those individuals refusing to follow the safety mitigations set in place will immediately be escorted out of the building. There is limited seating in the boardroom so patrons might have to sit in the foyer or the overflow room. If you have a complaint against personnel or students by name, you need to schedule an appointment with the Superintendent.*

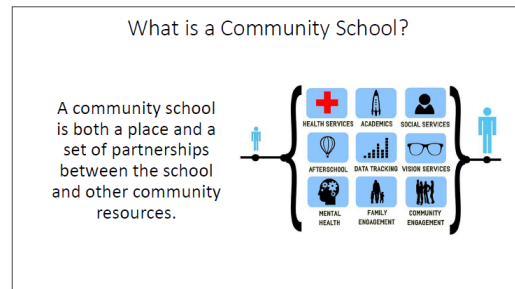
*Those wishing to submit public input but do not plan to attend the board meeting may still provide input to the Board as long as the [Public Input Form](#) has been submitted **by noon the day of the board meeting**. All public input forms received will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees but might not be read aloud. Please do not include the names of students or staff due to FERPA Laws and privacy protection. There will be no action taken at this time. There will be no public input via zoom. If you have a complaint against personnel or students by name, you need to schedule an appointment with the Superintendent.*

VI. **REPORTS (INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION/TABLE) –**

- A. **BMS (BMHS/BMJH) PRESENTATION – Stehvn Tesar & Mary Kaye Johnson.** Mr. Tesar and Mrs. Johnson gave a presentation to showcase BMS and shared all the changes that have happened and the fact that BMS has become the Community School for Mountain Home.







- Changes to BMS is that it has gone from just an alternative school to becoming a community school.



- A community school is about providing not just academics but also providing services to students, their families, and in some cases the community.
- There are many components that are included as listed.
- A community school is partnership between BMS and other community resources.

### How did Bennett Mountain Become a Community School?

- Student Support 
- Childcare Services 
- Mental Health 
- Food Pantry 

### Student Support


- School provided school supplies before schools across the state made that shift.
- Friday Breakfast
- Would find ways to purchase items such as cloths, shoes, glasses, food, etc.
- Bennett started receiving generous monetary donations on an annual basis.

- BMS became a community by its initial start of only 30 students that evolved into 80 students.
- Community generosity and other organizations reaching out to BMS such as those listed.

- Mr. Tesar explained that student support included providing school supplies so that students didn't need to worry about anything except going to school.
- BMS receives generous monetary donations on an annual basis from many supporters of BMS for scholarships, for clothing, shoes, glasses, etc., for food, for the annual Turkey Bowl in which BMS gives out turkeys to the BMS students and some students in the other schools, which now has grown to giving out entire Thanksgiving dinners to families.
- Friday breakfast is provided by the BMS staff to encourage the students to attend school on Fridays, which had previously become a day that student didn't attend school.
- The generosity of people is the reason BMS was able to start these programs and to continue with them.

### Childcare Services

- Opened January 2015
- 2015-2021: Only for teen parent students.
- Fall of 2021: Hybrid learning caused a reactive change opening the daycare to district staff.



- One of the services provided is daycare to our teen parents. This is also now open to school district staff.
- When COVID hit, our teachers didn't have daycare for their children and yet had to teach kids.

### School-Based Counseling & Mental Health Services


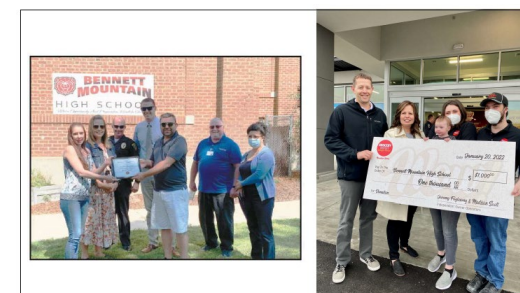
- Beginning of school-based counseling at Bennett
- An increase in numbers of students seen
- Partnership with Desert Sage



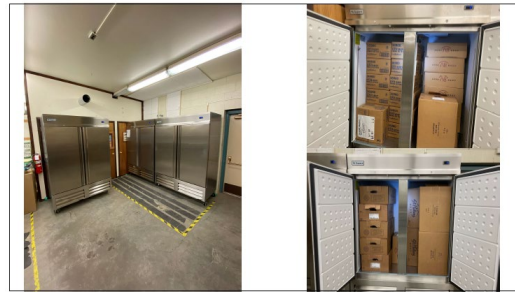
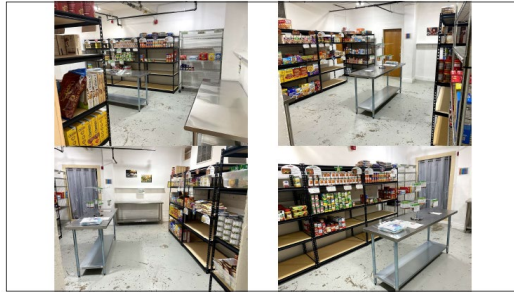
- Mrs. Johnson stated that January 2020 we partnered with Desert Sage Health to start school-based counseling.
- Initially, the one counselor saw students from BMS and HMS.
- Since then, the students that needed counseling services increased so Desert Sage added another counselor and we now see students from BMS, HMS, and now MHJH, & MHHS.

### Food Pantry

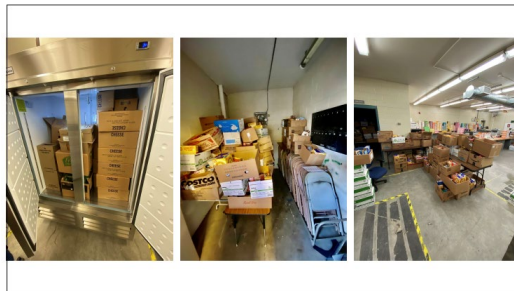
- Partnerships
- Idaho Food Bank
- Food Drives
- Staff and student involvement
- Monthly distribution of boxes

- The district was approached to possibly start a Food Pantry.
- The Idaho Food Bank gives grants to school districts to help provide food for school district families in need.
- The monies donated help provide freezers, refrigerators, and shelves, as well as food.
- We are supported by different partners enabling us to purchase food and such.
- We also have some very generous community partners and businesses that donate.
- Our MHHS & MHJH students also have food drives to help provide food.



- We receive food from Idaho Food Bank, Grocery Outlet, and other organizations and groups.
- We put together food boxes for distribution with help from students.
- The old woodshop room and old boys locker room at HMS is now our pantry storage area with the refrigerators, freezers, shelving, etc.



What's Next?

- Thru trial and error, we thought having a drive-thru pickup area for families to receive their pantry boxes would be the best solution to keep things organized and less chaotic.
- At the last Food Pantry Pick Up, we gave out 127 food pantry boxes, which was an increase from the initial 50 boxes. The church said the most they handed out was 140 boxes.

Chairman Abrego asked if BMS was unique or did like schools happen in other cities. Mr. Tesar responded that we don't have the partnerships that Caldwell and bigger communities have, but yes, BMS is unique. Discussion continued to include that the food pantry boxes are quite heavy because they are truly loaded with food and that our students help put the boxes together and hand out the boxes; discussion about how some schools offer haircuts for students or laundry service.

Superintendent Gilbert mentioned that should the new school bond pass, we have the opportunity to turn the old MHHS into an expanded BMS, which gives BMS more space for services such as the Food Pantry. When people look at the role of schools in their communities, the times have changed from those people who claim that all students need are reading, writing, and arithmetic; those days are over. Schools now take care of students and families.

The Board thanked Mr. Tesar and Mrs. Johnson for their presentation.

**B. MOUNTAIN HOME AFB UPDATE – MHAFB Liaison.** Mr. Niksich informed the Board the Board that Mr. McClean and Mrs. Paige were the Educators of the past quarters and that nominations are due March 15.

Mr. Niksich is getting a lot of phone calls about hosting field trips to the base. He said that currently with the COVID, there won't be any field trips to the base. If something happens to open the base up

more, he let the schools know.

Mr. Niksich reminded the Board that April is designated the Month of the Military Child. He added that the base is going to try to do a food drive in April.

The Board thanked him.

- C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert introduced Pastor Jones. He said that he and Pastor Jones have been in discussion regarding some land off Airbase Road that the church owns and Pastor Jones approached Superintendent Gilbert on a possible site to erect an elementary school. Superintendent Gilbert discussed what could be done and what could not be done as public schools are funded through taxpayers. He added that the discussion would continue, and that he appreciated Pastor Jones approaching him to start this discussion.

Superintendent Gilbert stated that he and the CM Group and architects had a zoom meeting and they had some questions for the Board regarding some of the renderings and thoughts. He informed the Board to send their thoughts to him. He also informed the Board that the school bond election information should be available in early March. He added that he would like to schedule some open house meetings at MHHS for the community.

- D. BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT** – School Board of Trustees

*All business of the school district, with the exceptions IAW Idaho Code, are considered public record information including all school related communications and engagements with the public and employees. No action or response will be made at this time. (Idaho Code Title 74 – Transparent & Ethical Government, Chapter 1 – Public Records Act, and Chapter 2 – Open Meeting Law).*

1. Trustee Knox reported that Tim Bondy reached out to her regarding the upcoming supplemental levy election. She informed him that the information was on the district website and sent him the link.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (ACTION) –**

- A. APPROVAL OF REVISION OF DISTRICT CALENDARS – MHSD & BMS – 2022-2023 (ACTION)** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert explained that the calendars that were approved in January needed to be revised to correct the amount of contracted teacher days. He added that this might change again after negotiations. A motion by Trustee Knox to approve the revisions to the MHSD & BMS 2022-2023 calendar as presented. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion granted.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION) –**

- A. OUT-OF-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS (ACTION) – 2022-2023** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert requested approval of the open enrollment application for the 2022-2023 school year. The parents will provide transportation to and from school.

1. William Campbell for his 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, SES
2. Ashley Smalls for her 4<sup>th</sup> grader, SES
3. Gisela Martinez for her 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, West

Trustee Binion motioned to approve the Out-of-District Open Enrollment Application as presented by Superintendent Gilbert, with a second from Trustee Binion. Motion passed.

- B. POLICY ADOPTION (ACTION) – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert explained that the policy committee wanted to get rid of the School Safety & Discipline Policy and make each of the incorporated policies separate stand-alone policies. He added that there would be quite a few policies that will go before the Board to be adopted. Chairman Abrego highlighted a typo in the Student Use of Personal Communication Devices Policy. Trustee Donahue motioned to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed adoptions of the Student Use of Personal Communication Devices Policy, of the Prohibition of Weapons Policy, of the Adolescent Relationship Abuse & Sexual Assault Policy, and of the proposed adoption of the Employee Bullying, Intimidation, & Harassment Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion approved.

1. **Student Use of Personal Communication Devices Policy**
2. **Prohibition of Weapons Policy**

3. **Adolescent Relationship Abuse & Sexual Assault Policy**
4. **Employee Bullying, Intimidation, & Harassment Policy**

**C. POLICY REVISION (ACTION) – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – James Gilbert.**

1. **Extracurricular Activities Regarding Concussion Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Extracurricular Activities Regarding Concussion Policy. He said this policy was revised to update the language and meet the IHSAA Policy. Trustee Perez motioned to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed revision of the Extracurricular Activities Regarding Concussion Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**D. IDENTIFY NEEDED AREAS FOR ISBA BOARD TRAINING (ACTION) – Chairman Abrego.** Chairman Abrego asked what training the Board would like to receive from the ISBA. A discussion began and the Board collectively decided that they would like in person training, if possible, on Standard 5 – Community Engagement, on Standard 1 – Effective Governance, and possibly on Standard 3 – Advocacy; school districts may be reimbursed some of the cost by the state. Trustee Perez motioned to approve the identified needed training for the Board to include Standard 5 – Community Engagement, on Standard 1 – Effective Governance, and possibly on Standard 3 – Advocacy. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion granted.

**E. DRIVERS EDUCATION BUDGET (ACTION) – Levi Vick.** Mr. Vick presented the Driver's Education Budget for FY2023 to the Board for approval. He reviewed the revenue and expenditures. He informed the Board that total expenditures is about \$70,388, and total revenue is about \$70,425 leaving revenues over expenditures of \$37 in which the goal is to break even with Drivers Education. He then asked the Board to approve the Drivers Education Budget for FY23. Trustee Donahue motioned for the approval of the Drivers Education Budget for 2022-2023, as presented. Trustee Perez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**F. APPROVAL OF AUDITOR (ACTION) – Levi Vick.** Mr. Vick asked for approval of independent auditing firm of Harris & Company again this year as the auditors for the FY22-23 District audit. He recommended the District use Harris & Company for the audit. Trustee Binion motioned for approval of Harris & Company, as the auditors for the FY22-23 District audit. Trustee Donahue seconded it. Motion approved.

**G. SCHEDULE BUDGET WORKSHOP (ACTION) – Levi Vick.** Mr. Vick requested the budget workshop be held on May 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Donahue motioned to hold the budget workshop on May 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the district office. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**H. SCHEDULE BUDGET HEARING (ACTION) – Levi Vick.** Mr. Vick requested that the District Budget Hearing date be set for June 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., preceding the regular board meeting. Trustee Donahue motioned to hold the budget hearing for June 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the district office. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion granted.

**I. SCHEDULE A SCHOOL MEALS FEE INCREASE HEARING (ACTION) – 2022-2023 School Year** – Levi Vick. Mr. Vick requested that the public hearing be held prior to the regular board meeting on June 21, 2022, at 5:45 p.m. He added that meals have been free for the last couple of years and to date he hasn't heard anything. Trustee Donahue motioned to hold a public hearing on June 21, 2022, at 5:45 p.m., to receive public input, with a second from Trustee Perez. Motion passed.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (POSSIBLE ACTION) – Personnel Matters**

*Executive Session – Title 74, Chapter 2, Section 74-202(3)(4)(c)(6)(a) – Open Meeting (Regular Meeting – Executive Session), Section 74-206(1)(b) – To consider the evaluations of public-school employees, Idaho Code.*

Chairman Abrego called for a motion for the purpose of allowing the board to enter into executive session. Trustee Binion motioned to enter into executive session in accordance with Idaho Code to discuss personnel matters, received a second from Trustee Donahue, the following resolution was presented:

**February 15, 2022**  
**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT SO RESOLVED That the Board of Trustees of School District No. 193 recess from an open

meeting into the following executive session(s) pursuant to Idaho Code, Title 74, Chapter 2, Sections 74-202(4)(c)(6)(a) – Open Meeting (Regular Meeting), 74-204(3) – Open Meeting (Executive Session), 74-206(1)(b) – To consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of a public school employee, Idaho Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That following the executive session, the Board of Trustees will convene into public session for further business or adjournment of the meeting.

Chairman Abrego called upon Clerk Whitman to do a roll call vote. Vote being had on the above and foregoing resolution, and the same having been counted and found to be as follows:

NAME OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Knox .....	Aye
Trustee Perez .....	Aye
Trustee Binion .....	Aye
Trustee Donahue.....	Aye
Chairman Abrego.....	Aye

And no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the membership in favor thereof, the Chairman declared said resolution adopted and the board recessed into executive session at 7:12 p.m.

**ACTION ITEM(S):**

- A. Consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of a public-school employee - Employee A

Others present: The attending board members, Superintendent Gilbert, and Clerk Whitman.

Following a full and complete discussion of a personnel matters, the Board reconvened into open session at 7:44 p.m. A motion by Trustee Binion to place Employee A on probation received a second by Trustee Donahue. Motion granted.

The board reconvened the executive session at 7:45 p.m., to hold discuss another public-school employee matter.

- B. Consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of a public-school employee - Employee B

Others present: The attending board members, Superintendent Gilbert, and Clerk Whitman.

Following a full and complete discussion of the personnel matter, the Board reconvened into open session at 8:15 p.m. No motion needed.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT (ACTION)** – All business of the Board having been completed, Chairman Abrego called for a motion to adjourn. A motion from Trustee Knox to adjourn was seconded by Trustee Perez. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS – 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

Gilbert, James G. –Superintendent, Appointment through June 30, 2025, MHSD  
 Longhurst, Albert J., Director of Educational Services, Appointment through June 30, 2023, MHSD  
 Johnson, Jeff M., Director of Instruction and Federal Programs, Appointment through June 30, 2023, MHSD

**APPOINTMENTS**

Bearden, Julie; TEAM Paraeducator, HMS  
 Dooley, Jack; Assist Varsity Track Coach, MHHS  
 Downs, Taylor; Assist Junior Varsity Softball Coach, MHHS  
 Fredell, Teresa; Head Jr. Varsity/Assist Varsity Softball Coach, MHHS  
 Grohs, Eric; Head Varsity Tennis Coach, MHHS  
 Lassiter, Tabitha; Pre-School Paraeducator, West Elementary  
 Moehn, Michael; Maintenance Technician, MHSD

**RESIGNATIONS**

Barden, Nina; Special Education Paraeducator, MHHS; effective: March 2, 2022

Roope, Natalie; Head Varsity Cheer Coach, MHHS; effective: May 25, 2022

**RETIREMENTS**

Cochran, Daniel; Principal, MHJH; effective: July 1, 2022

Valdez, Marcella; Special Education Paraeducator, MHHS; effective: May 25, 2022

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Chairman Abrego

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Clerk Whitman