

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
 SEPTEMBER 14, 2021  
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Meeting ID: 835 5947 7524

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**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 Monasterio, 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 –** None this month

*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 or in the community.*

1. MHHS – Jeff & Jackie Harper – Mark Cotton/Jessie Ward. Mr. Clark, on behalf of MHHS Administration, staff, and students, express their highest level of gratitude to the Flying-H Farm family, specifically Jeff, Jackie, Joe, and John for all their support and generous donations to the boys basketball team for the purchase of uniforms and to the FFA program.

**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 asked that the minutes of the September 7 board meeting be removed and moved to unfinished business to clarify a motion made. Trustee Donahue moved to approve the consent agenda, with a second from Trustee Binion. Motion carried.

**A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2021 AND THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – COVID19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.**

**B. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**C. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**

**D. PERSONNEL**

**IV. DELEGATION (COMMENTS – 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) –**

*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.

1. Matthew Michailoff – student, handed the board a petition with 300 parent, student, family members of students, and police officer’s signatures declaring their opposition to the mandated wearing of face masks. He believes it should be everyone’s choice whether to wear a mask. He proceeded to explain
2. Kristen Riley – against mask mandate and believes it should be the parent/guardian’s decision and not the school district’s. She continued explaining her claims and reasons for not wearing a mask.
3. Matt Buckley – father, he had spoken to Superintendent Gilbert and thanked him for his time and that he was told for his kids to not have to wear a mask, he would need a doctor’s note. He claimed that St. Luke’s directed all their staff not to give exemption letters to parents except for extreme cases or be terminated. He wants the option to opt out of wearing masks.
4. Kelsey Robinson – parent, against mask mandate and claimed her research is proof that masks are not healthy, cause learning difficulties, and cause depression. She added that her child cannot learn without seeing a person’s mouth. She continued explaining her claims and reasons for not wearing a mask.
5. Gina Shockey – parent, against mask mandate and claimed her research is proof that masks are not healthy, inflict terror and anxiety, increase toxins, increase infections, brain damage, difficulties in general, stress, and cause depression. She continued explaining her claims and reasons for not wearing a mask.
6. Dana Hamilton – Matt’s mother, against mask mandate and she referenced a quote from Mr. Fauci. She said that not all of the teachers make their students wear mask and wants masks to be an option.

The Board thanked everyone for their input and no matter what side a person is on regarding this issue it nice to see people voice their opinion.

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

- A. MOUNTAIN HOME AFB UPDATE –** MHAFB Liaison. Mr. Niksich reported that Mountain Home Air Force Base is doing all they can do to mitigate the COVID transmission, but no matter where the bases’ parents and people stand on the issue, they appreciate teachers and staff during these trying times and taking care of the kids in the classrooms.

Mr. Niksich reported on the DOD Program that rates public education on military bases (147 installations) and Mountain Home rated in the mid to lower tier and now MHSD is doing a good job in education because MHSD is now in the green (top third tier).

Mr. Niksich reminded everyone that the Educator of the Quarter is starting again and submit the nominations forms by 15 October.

- B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/COVID19 UPDATE –** James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert reported that the running track (Tiger Field) will be finished tomorrow and ready for use. The concession-stand and bathrooms are still under construction and we are waiting on the city to approve the permits. Once approved construction will continue.

Superintendent Gilbert informed the Board that there are two architect firms that need to be interviewed and as soon as he gets available dates, he’ll notify the Board to schedule a special board meeting to conduct the interviews. He is going to try to see if the firms are available September 28.

**C. 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. Chairman Abrego didn't acknowledge any contact.
2. Trustee Donahue didn't acknowledge any contact other than the public input forms.
3. Trustee Binion informed everyone that in additions to the public input forms, he heard from Sylvia Nixon who is in favor of a mask mandate and wants someone to run against Eric Abrego at the next trustee election, and James Blanton asked how many kids and staff have been hospitalized or died from COVID.
4. Trustee Monasterio said Lynn Crenshaw was in favor of a mask mandate.
5. Trustee Knox didn't acknowledge any contact.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (ACTION) –****A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – COVID19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.**

Chairman Abrego asked for the minutes to be removed to clarify a motion. Chairman Abrego said that after the motion from Trustee Binion and seconded by Trustee Monasterio, he asked if the motion was for inside the schools or outside of schools and Trustee Binion had stated inside the schools and that part wasn't included in the minutes. Chairman Abrego said that right now, it seems like it's in all the buildings, and not just inside the schools. He continued to ask if the mandate would include this building [DO Administration], the maintenance building, etc. Trustee Binion replied that he said inside the schools according to the CDC. Chairman Abrego disagreed and said that Trustee Binion said inside the schools in accordance with the CDC. Discussion continued on the exact meaning of the motion. Superintendent Gilbert asked for clarification and consistency about the busses as buses are technically inside environment. Trustee Binion replied that the intent would be all the school buildings, the DO Administration Building, the Maintenance Building, and busses with the exception of PE, Recess, and special education students as long as the mask exemption is in their IEP. Chairman Abrego said he believed the intent was to lower cases [COVID] among students and staff. Discussion continued about the intent of the motion. Trustee Monasterio asked if another motion should be made to clarify the previous motion [September 7, 2021]. Trustee Binion motioned to correct the minutes of the intent behind his original motion to state that that masks must be worn inside any school district facility including the District Administration Office, Maintenance Building, and school busses to and from school and sporting events, and other places that we are indoors, vaccinated or not vaccinated, IAW the CDC guidelines, with the exception of PE class, recess, and special education students who have a mask exemption in their IEP; anywhere indoors. Trustee Knox asked what the purpose was behind the motion because the thought was to reduce the numbers [COVID] in the school buildings, so why are we including the Maintenance Building and the District Office. Trustee Binion replied that according to Chairman Abrego it was to reduce the COVID numbers of students and staff and we have staff in other buildings and facilities and the maintenance staff is still our staff along with the district office building. Trustee Knox said the end all purpose was not to close schools and to keep kids in school. Superintendent added that the closest contact among students is on a school bus. Trustee Donahue asked if there was confusion regarding this matter. Superintendent Gilbert replied not on the school district's side. He added that after the board meeting, everyone followed the Board's motion including the district office. Trustee Binion repeated his motion to correct the minutes of the September 7, special board meeting in order to clarify the intent behind his original motion to state that that masks must be worn inside any school district facility including the District Administration Office, Maintenance Building, inside all facilities, and school busses to and from school and sporting events, and other places that we are indoors, indoor sports, vaccinated or not vaccinated, IAW the CDC guidelines, with the exception of PE class, recess, outdoor sports except those on the bench or sidelines, and special education students who have a mask exemption in their IEP. Trustee Monasterio seconded the motion. Chairman Abrego asked for a vote of all in favor of the motion and Trustees Donahue, Binion, and Monasterio voted aye; Trustees Abrego and Knox voted nay. There being a majority vote in favor of the motion, the motion passed.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION) –**

- A. JUUL LITIGATION – Anderson, Julian, Hull, LLP(ACTION) –** James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert explained that some school districts in Idaho are joining the nationwide lawsuit against JUUL, a vaping company, for knowingly creating flavored oils and devices that are addictive and targeted at school-age children. He continued to explain what all would be involved if MHSD joined in the lawsuit.

The Board discussed the lawsuit, the amount of research and paperwork involved for the district, the expense to the district, etc.

Superintendent Gilbert stated that he appreciated Mr. Niksich's statement about the amount of extra work that has been placed on staff. He then explained that the impact at the start of this school year on our staff has been absolutely brutal. He continued to explain that we have a climate right now that is an attack on teachers and education. Superintendent Gilbert said he was worried about how many of our staff will return next school year. This notion that education is the bad guy and one can see this played out in the media, so we need to do anything we can do to support our staff. People don't realize that without our staff, this district would not exist.

The Board mutually agreed that they did not want to participate in the lawsuit due to the timing, the burden to staff, and the amount of time it would take for the school district to do the required research. No motion needed.

- B. DISCUSSION REGARDING AGENDA POSTINGS (*POSSIBLE ACTION*)** – Chairman Abrego. Chairman Abrego said that this discussion doesn't have anything to do with where we publish the agenda, but that when we do something regarding public input that is our of our normal procedure, we should highlight it somehow. No motion needed.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (*POSSIBLE ACTION*)** – None

**X. ADJOURNMENT (*ACTION*)** – All business of the Board having been completed, Chairman Abrego called for a motion to adjourn. A motion from Trustee Binion to adjourn was seconded by Trustee Knox. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

## ATTACHMENT

### APPOINTMENTS

Brewster, Anita; Cook 1, HMS  
 Dickinson, Elizabeth, Kindergarten Paraeducator, East Elementary  
 Dooley, Jack; Assist. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach, MHJH  
 Edwards, Heather; Cook 2, MHHS  
 Landeros, Raquel; "B" Custodian, MHHS  
 Kanady, Rita; Cook 2, MHJH  
 Modde, Hannah; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade "B" Volleyball Coach, MHJH  
 O'Connor, Squire; Title I Paraeducator, West Elementary  
 Peterson, Kendra; Cook 2, MHHS  
 Razor, Megan; Title I Paraeducator, West Elementary  
 Tetrault, Austin; Assist. Varsity Football Coach, MHHS  
 Thompson, Sophie, Cook 2, East Elementary  
 Woodland, Abigail; Pre-School Paraeducator, West Elementary

### RESIGNATIONS

Brum, JaDene; Library Manager, MHJH; effective: September 10, 2021  
 Heintz, Carol; Cook 2, MHJH; effective: August 16, 2021  
 Logar, Jennifer; Cook 2, HMS & Title I Paraeducator, West Elementary; effective: August 15, 2021  
 Petsche, Kelsy; Cook 2, MHJH; effective: August 25, 2021  
 Strain, Jeffery "Stephen;" Food Service Maintenance and Delivery, MHS; effective: August 23, 2021

### RETIREMENTS

Wright, Joyce; Duplicating Machine Operator/Free & Reduced Meal Coord., MHS; effective: December 1, 2021

### TERMINATIONS

Garcia, Kekoalii; Custodian B, East Elementary/North Elementary Schools; effective: August 27, 2021

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Chairman Abrego

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Clerk Whitman