

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
 SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Chairperson/Vice-chairperson. Chairman Abrego convened the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Chairman Abrego, Vice-Chair Binion, Trustee Donahue, Trustee Monasterio, Trustee Knox

A. 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 or in the community.

1. West Elementary – Kindergarten Teachers – Amanda Modde, Andrea Feenstra, Carrie Darkes – Nikki Cruser. Mrs. Cruser recognized three of her kindergarten teachers, Amanda Modde, Andrea Feenstra, and Carrie Darkes for their selfless dedication, due diligence, and endless patience and support during the start of the Full Day Kindergarten year. She explained that with this being the first year of full day Kindergarten, things were a bit chaotic. She also explained that Amanda and Andrea were the only two original kindergarten teachers and Carrie moved from 1st grade to Kindergarten this school year. Mrs. Cruser went on to explain some of the chaos and stated that West had 115 Kindergarten kids show up, so we had to add two other teachers, purchase additional classroom furniture and classroom supplies. She said that these three teachers made everything so smooth and seamless, they never once complained, and they never once asked Mrs. Cruser to call the superintendent and notify him of how many kids were in the classroom, and they even helped in other areas. Mrs. Cruser concluded that the class sizes went from 29 students in a classroom down to 24. She continued to say that 115 Kindergarten kids is a lot, but the three of them handled everything, and Mrs. Darkes even had a Kindergartener that cried every day, all day, until this past Monday.
2. MHHS – Volunteers – Shannon Reed & Shawna Draper – Mark Cotton. Mr. Cotton, Mrs. Ward, Mr. Gunderson, and Mr. Clark recognized Shannon Reed and Shawna Draper for the generous amount of time spent volunteering for concessions stands, booster Clubs, senior celebration, and many other events and they don't even have kids in school anymore. Mr. Cotton explained the thousands of hours of time they and their families have spent volunteering for all the different events at MHHS. He added that some of the events they have been part of are events such as sports, school clubs, school dances, homecoming, senior celebration, and so many more. Mr. Cotton informed everyone that Shawna is the person who made all the homecoming flags (Class of 2007 painted all the flags) that are displayed along the parade route. Mr. Gunderson thanked the Reed and Draper families for their unsolicited help. Mr. Clark expressed the same sentiment.

The board took a few minutes break to allow people to leave.

- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA OR ADDENDUMS** – 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** – Board of Trustees. Chairman Abrego called for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Monasterio 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 20, 2019, AND THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2019.**
- B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- C. **CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**
- D. **PERSONNEL**

E. TRAVEL REQUESTS

1. Cross Country – MHHS – Wells Invitational – Wells, Nevada, October 18, 2019 – Doug Root
2. AVID – MHHS – College Campuses Visits – U of I & WSU – Moscow, Idaho & Pullman, Washington – October 3-5, 2019 – Mark Cotton

IV. DELEGATION – NONE

Any group wishing to be a delegation must submit a letter to the Superintendent Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board no later than the Tuesday prior to the next regular board meeting; the letter must include the reason for asking to be a delegation.

V. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

Those wishing to speak on any topic of their interest should complete and submit to the chairperson the MHSD Request to Address Board of Trustees Form located at the Board Materials table. The Individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to present their views. The board will not hear complaints against school district employees by name or against students by name in open session. If you have a complaint against personnel or students by name, you need to schedule an appointment with the Superintendent. 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.

VI. REPORTS –

- A. MOUNTAIN HOME AFB UPDATE – MHAFB Liaison.** Mr. Niksich started by thanking Albert Longhurst and Lonnie Smith for their work addressing special education issues at HMS; the base has had fewer complaints this year. He reported that base volunteers have helped at the West Carnival and will be at HMS for the Extreme Challenge. He reminded administrators to give him a least two-weeks to find volunteers.

Mr. Niksich also reminded everyone that the Educator of the First Quarter nominations are due Oct 15, the Second Quarter is due Dec 17, the Third Quarter is due Mar 13, Fourth Quarter is May 12, and the Annual is May 15.

The Board thanked him.

- B. ACHIEVEMENT & CURRICULUM REPORT – Jeff Johnson.** Mr. Johnson presented the Achievement & Curriculum Report presentation.

Mr. Johnson began his presentation with the Federal Programs. He informed everyone that the funds in the different programs may only be used for those specific programs in accordance with regulations and not for other expenses.

Title I – Revenue is based on free and reduced meals population, the cutoff for receiving funds is 35%. We received \$777,697. The schools that are served due to their Free and Reduced numbers are East (61.4%), North (52.5%), West (60,9%), HMS (52.5%), and MHJH (48.2%). SES (27.9%) isn't served because they don't have the free and reduced student population, MHHS (33%) qualifies, but generally secondary students leave campus for lunch and they don't feel the need to fill out the Free & Reduced Meals forms. This is not a Mountain Home issue; this is a Nationwide issue. BMHS (57%) qualifies, but we chose not to include them because those kids are already factored in, which means we would be taking money away from the elementary schools and our goal is to have the interventions in the early grades; we also use those funds for our Title I paras, Title I teachers for intervention classes, and we use the remaining funds to purchase intervention materials such as Read 180, Math 180, etc. Title I money cannot be supplanted into the core instruction.

Title 1-C – Migrant – This program has grown exponentially. We received \$130,896 to service about 135 migrant students and those numbers continue to grow. We used the funds to hire two migrant paras, we purchased Rosetta Stone licenses, we use it for migrant summer school, and we use the remaining funds for other intervention materials. We have students that don't speak any English and we have some students from other countries in which the education system is not as strong as ours. Mr. Johnson informed the board that Mrs. Martinez, Migrant Liaison, has done a great job working with our families to identify students who qualify. In 2015, we had about 27 migrant students and received less than \$30,000, and in four years we have ballooned from 27 migrant students to 135 migrant students.

Title II – Improving Teacher Quality – We received \$148,551. We use this money for the district mentor program; we currently have mentors for 40-staff members. We also use the money to send teachers to conferences to help meet building goals, we have book studies throughout the district, and we can provide additional professional development.

Title III & State EL – We only received \$25,273, Title III funds and \$55,780, EL funds to service over 250 qualifying students and these funds haven't increased since Mr. Johnson became the Director, but the students have doubled. The number of students continues to grow annually, but funds are not increasing, so meeting the needs of these children is becoming quite the challenge. We have an EL teacher, and this barely covers her salary, and we need additional resources for EL, as well as professional development, so this is where we have to tap into the Title II funds. Mr. Johnson was asked to clarify who is identified as migrant and who is EL and his response was that some of the students are both. He was asked to clarify the funding and his response was Title III was federal money and State EL is state money.

Title IV-A – Student Support & Enrichment – Revenue was \$70,644, and to meet the set criteria for this money, 20% goes toward well-rounded education, 20% goes towards safe and healthy students, and no more than 15% goes towards technology. We did use \$50,000 toward installing access control at all the buildings. We also used it to pay part of the new elementary counselor position. Mr. Johnson explained that we use to receive Rural Schools funding to pay for additional Chromebooks and enrichment programs such as Lego Robotics, Art Club, Music Club, etc., but that funding has ceased, so we had to use the Title IV-A funding to continue with some of the enrichment programs.

Homeless-McKinney Vento Program – Mr. Johnson reported that we are required to set aside \$2,500 Title I money for homeless students and we had 22 students qualify as homeless. There are certain criteria to meet to be identified as homeless. Many of our homeless students qualify because they are living with another family due to economic hardship. We can provide homeless students with limited resources such as school supplies, clothing, pay any fees for things like band or art, Free & Reduced meals, etc., but we cannot pay for utilities, rent, or other such items. Mr. Johnson was asked to clarify how the district purchases clothes and supplies for the homeless students; his response was that vouchers were given for St. Vincent de Paul for clothing and gift cards, but now Mr. Johnson will accompany the families and use the district credit card.

Safe & Drug Free Grant – 2017-18 school year, we received \$49,684, and at that time we used the funds for the Access Controls at the schools. The 2018-19 school year gave us slightly less money, \$49,027, and we used that for the Intercom Systems in the schools. We only received \$48,303, for the 2019-20 school year, which was even less than the previous year, to help pay the other half for the new elementary counselor.

DoDEA Math Grant – We were awarded the \$1,500,000, DoDEA Math Grant to be used over the next 5-years; this grant ends May 31, 2020, and we may not apply for the same grant again; this is a non-continuous grant. The DoDEA money was used to provide 33-staff members with a Mathematics Consulting Teacher Endorsement (MCTE), purchased the K-7 curriculum through DMTI, paid for 45-days of in-class support from DMTI experts each year, paid for 5-part time in-district Math Coaches, paid for Math Tutors at each school, and provided over \$360,000 towards Chromebooks, which got our district started on being a 1:1 Chromebooks district. Mr. Johnson reported that we are seeing steady gains on ISAT scores in classrooms where teachers have embraced the Math Module. Mr. Johnson was asked if we could put in for other grants and the reply was yes, but we need to discuss what our goals and desires would be. He also informed everyone that due to our success, Dr. Brendefur will be presenting on our grant at the National Math Conference this year.

Early Literacy Funds – We received \$395,000; in previous years we had been receiving around \$170,000. These funds provided the After-School Reading Programs at each building. We also used this money to hire seven additional Kindergarten teachers, which allowed us to provide All Day Kindergarten for all students. Mr. Johnson stated that we are still required to provide 30-60 hours of intervention time for students who score a 2 or 3 on the fall IRI; intervention will now take place during the school day instead of the after-school programs.

Lee Pesky Early Literacy Grant – This is a three-year grant that focuses on Kindergarten Year-1, 1st grade Year-2, and 2nd grade Year-3. It also provides resources, professional development, and in class supports.

Mr. Johnson reminded everyone that the goal is to get our Kindergarten kids to grade level thus reducing the amount of intervention needed at the upper grade levels.

A reason for Celebration – Growth on IRI by Kindergarten – Mr. Johnson wanted to celebrate our Kindergarten teachers for the growth in IRI. He reported that the state average growth on Kindergarten IRI was 18%, and our Kindergarten kids' average growth was 44%, the second highest in the state and we only had half-day Kindergarten versus the other school's All-Day Kindergarten. Imagine what we can do with All-Day Kindergarten. We also had the highest Pre-Kindergarten gains in the Mountain Home area. Mr. Johnson stated that this is all good, we are heading in the right direction.

National Math & Science Initiative – We received a two-year grant in May 2019, a very last-minute grant, so there was very little time to smoothly orchestrate our Math & Science Initiative, but our MHHS staff took the initiative and made it work. This grant allowed us to send 33-teachers to Dallas to attend training in which those teachers stated that it was the best training that they ever attended. The money provided funding to help pay for classroom supplies, students will have three study sessions with National AP experts to help prepare them for the AP Exams, a very rigorous exam, and students who get a qualifying score on the AP Exam will get \$100, and there are incentives for those teachers, as well. The NMSI kicks off on October 24, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., at MHHS.

Mr. Johnson informed everyone that in addition to Federal Programs and Curriculum, he is also the AVID District Director. He stated that Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is about providing teachers with best practice strategies to engage students in more rigorous work. The goal is to identify students with potential who are traditionally underserved. He continued to state that we currently have AVID at HMS, MHJH, and MHHS, we would like to have it in all the buildings, but there are too many new things going on right now, so we are holding off for now. Discussion regarding AVID and the opportunities it gives our students, especially for students to attend college who would otherwise not attend. Trustee Monasterio stated that he was proud that our district was doing this, especially the aspect of student becoming first time college students.

Mr. Johnson reported that prior to the recession, the districts were given Textbook Adoption funds on an annual basis. We haven't received those funds in over 10-years, so like most districts, we fell behind in adoptions. We were able to adopt a new K-6 ELA program called Journeys, a great program and we've seen positive results. Mr. Johnson continued to report that the math grant allowed us to replace K-7 Saxon Math with the Math Modules, adopt new 5-12 Science books to meet the Next Generation Science Standards, and we adopted 7-12 Math Program that better aligns with the Math Modules. Mr. Johnson added that there are many online resources with these programs, and he thanked the board for purchasing these programs. Chairman Abrego asked if the funds would ever come back and Superintendent Gilbert responded that he didn't think the funding would return. Discussion continued regarding electives, resources, social studies curriculum, textbooks, exuberant costs of textbooks, digital textbooks, Chromebooks, curriculum, etc.

Mr. Johnson then shared the DMTI Primary Math Assessment for grades K-2. This is an indicator of future success; 5,000 students in this state that participated. He then reviewed each of the domains that they tested the students, which are early predictors of future math. Mr. Johnson reviewed the scores that reflected MHSD scoring much higher than the other school districts. He reported the significant increases that our Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade students made as compared the state. Mr. Johnson informed everyone that Dr. Brendefur planned to present this data at their next DMT Institute convention.

Mr. Johnson also reviewed the ISAT data. He explained that the first time students take the ISAT test is in 3rd grade. He then presented the ISAT data and said that we needed to celebrate because the 3rd grade scores started at 30% proficiency in Math and progressed the next four to 47%, which is unheard of. Mr. Johnson continued to show how we improve every year; if we can increase the 3rd grade proficiency scores up every year, it should become easier.

Chairman Abrego asked Mr. Johnson about grant writing and if there were a lot of grants that we could apply. Discussion continued regarding grants, writing grants, the exuberant amount of time it takes to write grants, etc. Mr. Johnson added that our district doesn't have a grant writer, so Dr. Turner, from BSU, said that she would help us write a DoDEA grant, which is extremely time consuming. Chairman Abrego clarified that our district does not have a grant writer. Mr. Johnson explained that grants aren't just about receiving money because many grants come with complicated and restrictive use of the money that doesn't benefit us or students.

- C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert reported that we have offered the Technology Director position to Matt Adams. He added that the interview committee felt very comfortable with their decision. He also added that the MHSD wishes Will Goodman well on his new endeavors.

Superintendent Gilbert notified the board that the SES Reroof & HVAC project walk-through was scheduled for the following day, and that the reroof at MHJH was almost finished.

Superintendent Gilbert reported that the district's enrollment was steady and that we are only 15 students up from last year for a total of 3,942 students, so it was a good decision to remain conservative with hiring.

Superintendent Gilbert shared with everyone that he received a text from high ranking administrator at St. Luke's in Boise, "My wife is a 6th grade teacher in Boise. You and Mountain Home [school district] have Boise School District in a panic because primary Grade Reading scores in Mountain Home are better than Boise's. Nice Job." He added that he wanted to say that MHSD has unfairly had a reputation of not being an academic powerhouse and that was so far from the truth. We have every bit as good of staff as any district in this state and probably better. I would challenge anyone from any school district in Idaho to find a better group of teachers than we have in Mountain Home. He thanked the principals and the teachers.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS –

- A. IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION REQUEST** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert presented a transportation reimbursement request for approval. He explained that the family is reimbursed from their home to the nearest bus stop. A motion by Trustee Monasterio to approve the In Lieu of Transportation request as presented by Superintendent Gilbert, with a second by Trustee Binion. Motion approved.

1. Heather Whitted for her 11th grader, BMHS, and her 10th grader, MHHS

- B. POLICY REVISION** – 1st Reading – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revisions of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Board Meeting Policy – Regular, Special, & Executive Meetings of the Board, Informal Review Policy – Certificated Employee, Grievance Policy – Classified Employees, Student Handbook Policy, Immunization Requirements Policy, and Graduation Requirement Policy – Early Graduation Requirements for approval. He stated that these policies were revised using the suggested language of MSBT, state code, and district operating procedures.

1. **Board Meeting Policy – Regular, Special, & Executive Meetings of the Board** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Board Meeting Policy – Regular, Special, & Executive Meetings of the Board. He said this policy was revised to add language addressing executive meetings of the board as stated in Idaho Code. Trustee Donahue motioned to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Board Meeting Policy – Regular, Special, & Executive Meetings of the Board, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Informal Review Policy – Certificated Employee** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Informal Review Policy – Certificated Employee. He said this policy was revised to replace the verbiage certified teacher to certificated employee, as not all educational positions are teaching positions; this really pertains to supplemental contracts and not teaching contracts. Trustee Binion motioned to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Informal Review Policy – Certificated Employee, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. **Grievance Policy – Classified Employees** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Grievance Policy – Classified Employees. He said this policy was revised to update the language to keep us compliant with state code and strike redundant language. Trustee Monasterio motioned to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Grievance Policy – Classified Employees, as presented by Superintendent

Gilbert. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion granted.

4. **Student Handbook Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Student Handbook Policy. He said this policy was revised to add language stating that student handbooks are located on each school buildings' webpage. Trustee Binion motioned to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Student Handbook Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Donahue seconded the motion. Motion approved.
 5. **Immunization Requirements Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Immunization Requirements Policy. He said this policy was revised to include new definitions and language regarding immunizations as required by state code and Idaho Health & Welfare; this policy tends to change often. Trustee Donahue motioned to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Immunization Requirements Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 6. **Graduation Requirement Policy – Early Graduation Requirements** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Graduation Requirement Policy – Early Graduation Requirements. He said this policy was revised to update the language as suggested by MSBT and MHSD requirements, update the credit requirement, and strike redundant language. Trustee Donahue motioned to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Graduation Requirement Policy – Early Graduation Requirements, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion past.
- C. POLICY REVIEW** – No Changes – 1st & Only Reading. Superintendent Gilbert informed the Board that the Searches, Seizures, & Interviews Policy was reviewed by the Policy Committee and they determined that no revisions were necessary. Trustee Binion motioned for approval of the review with no changes of the Searches, Seizures, & Interviews Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert, with a second from Trustee Donahue. Motion granted.
1. **Searches, Seizures, & Interviews Policy**
- D. PERSONNEL** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert requested the board declare a hiring emergency in the Special Education Pre-K area. He added that this would allow us to look for suitable candidates for those positions. Trustee Binion motioned to approve the personnel items as presented by Superintendent Gilbert, with a second from Trustee Donahue. Motion approved.
1. **DECLARATION OF HIRING EMERGENCY & ALTERNATE AUTHORIZATION**
 - a. Special Education Pre-K
- E. APPROVAL TO ADD DETERMINATION OF ISBA RESOLUTIONS TO OCTOBER'S AGENDA** – Chairman Abrego. Chairman Abrego requested the board be able to review the ISBA Resolutions before the November ISBA convention and asked to add it as an agenda item for next month's regular board meeting so that the board could review and decide on how to vote. Trustee Monasterio motioned to approve the personnel items as presented by Superintendent Gilbert, with a second from Trustee Binion. Motion passed.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None
- X. ADJOURNMENT** – 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 Donahue. Motion granted. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

ATTACHMENT**DECLARATION OF HIRING EMERGENCY**

Pre-School Teacher, West Elementary School

APPOINTMENTS

Atkinson, Kimberly, 3rd Grade Teacher, West Elementary

Duncan, Charlotte, Food Service Delivery, MHSD

Flores, Deliah, 5th Grade Teacher, HMS

Gallinger, Kourtney, 6th Grade Teacher, HMS

Guillen, Tomas, B Custodian, East/North Elementary

Lawson, Janice, Kindergarten Teacher, East Elementary

Mills, Teslyn, B Custodian, HMS

Neveu, Rebecca, Paraeducator, SES

STUDENT TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS 2019-2020 SY

Hardy, Valere – Grand Canyon University – January 6, 2020 – May 22, 2020 – MHHS

Co-operating Teacher– Brandi Pratt, Biology Teacher

Hernandez, Meghan – Grand Canyon University – January 6, 2020 – May 22, 2020 – West Elementary

Co-operating Teachers – Katherine Hudson, Pre-School Teacher

& Lori Bargman, 1st Grade Teacher

Chairman Abrego

Clerk Whitman