

**LEARN            BUILD            LEAD**  
Fremont Joint School District No. 215  
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2021  
North Fremont High School  
Meeting Time 5:00 P.M.

Attending:        Jon Bailey-Board Chair  
                      Tia Cherry-Vice Chair  
                      Bonnie Moon-Trustee  
                      Julianne Hill-Trustee  
                      JayLee Packer-Trustee  
                      Byron Stutzman-Superintendent  
                      Hali Mackert-Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman Jon Bailey offered a prayer.

Chairman Jon Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve the board agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bonnie Moon. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Tia Cherry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patron Input: Ericka Robertson-Maintenance and care of the baseball and softball fields to be able to utilize the fields earlier in the future. They would like to come up with a solution to work together. They have called other schools and they have all used tractors and snow blowers on their fields. Showed a PowerPoint of pictures where they have snow blown sections of the field.

Learn Build Lead: Trustee JayLee Packer-I had the opportunity to go to the Leadership Team meeting this last week, and it was very informative, I thought it was great. One of the things that Byron had given me was a book on High Reliability Schools. Safe, supportive, and collaborative school and I wonder, collaborative to me means the patrons know what's going on, the parents and the teachers all collaborate. I don't know that we're meeting that now, so I just hope that we're doing the goals and meeting the goals and not just checking the boxes. I was glad to see that on your Superintendent report that we'll get updated on that. If we just have an update where all the schools are. I know the Leadership Team meets and does that, but I just want to make sure we're doing the steps and not just going through them.

Superintendent Stutzman said that's one of the things we talked about to our Leadership Team. I told them at the June board meeting, we will have every individual school present to the board. If you remember I put down the good, the bad and the ugly. I want the board to know exactly where we are and what we are doing.

Trustee JayLee Packer said I don't know if the students or parents know that's what we are working towards. Especially the safe school and then when we get into curriculum and stuff like that.

Action Item-Consent Agenda:

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Bonnie Moon wanted to thank the people resigning and retiring that have been here for quite a few years and from the board's perspective, I just wanted to say thank you.

Action Items:

New Policy 4605 Student Teachers:

Superintendent Stutzman said board Policy 4605 is about Student Teachers. ISBA has received multiple requests for a policy on student teachers. This new policy outlines the steps for acceptance and coordinating student teacher placements. We don't have a board policy for this, so I recommend approving the first reading of Policy 4605.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 4605 Student Teachers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Policy and Procedure Amendments:

Board Policy 2385 English Learners Program is about direct writing.

Board Policy 3060 Education of Homeless Children, this is a required change and amends a definition related to which pupils are covered by this policy. It also revises a requirement for transportation services to ensure qualifying students' full participation in the district's programs. I recommend adopting the changes from ISBA.

Board Policy 3085 Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation, this adds reference to the appropriate procedure, which was missing in the original version. I recommend adopting the changes from ISBA.

Board Policy 4120 Uniform Grievance Procedure, this updates to align with Title IX regulations. I recommend adopting the changes from ISBA.

Board Policy 5400C COVID Personal Use of Leave During Health Emergency because the Families First Coronavirus Response Act expired at the end of 2020, ISBA has removed that section. We are no longer required to offer it. I recommend adopting the changes from ISBA.

Board Policy 7218 Federal Grant Financial Management System, this update reflects recent changes which increased the micro-purchasing amount from \$25,000 to \$30,000. I recommend adopting the changes from ISBA.

Board Procedure 7450P Timely Obligation of Funds, this update reflects recent changes to Federal Awards that now requires a "close-out" section in which you have a 120-day period to submit all reports required by the terms and conditions of the federal award. I recommend adopting the changes from ISBA.

Board Policy 7455 Federal Debarment and Suspension, this update reflects recent changes in Federal Awards requirements, which increased micro-purchasing amount from \$25,000 to \$30,000. I recommend adopting the changes per ISBA.

Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion to approve ISBA Policies 2385 English Learners Program, Policy 3060 Education of Homeless Children, Policy 3085 Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation, Policy 4120 Uniform Grievance Procedure, Policy 5400C Personal Use of Leave During Health Emergency, Policy 7218 Federal Grant Financial Management System, Procedure 7450P1 Timely Obligation of Funds, Policy 7455 Federal Debarment and Suspension. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All "ayes", motion carried.

Board Protocol on Facility Repair Expenditures:

When I first came here, there were a number of things that were already in process, that were repairs to different buildings. They were more than the \$15,000 spending authority that you have for me, but that is on capital expenditures. You approve the budget on student occupied and non-student occupied building and grounds. Just to make sure I'm doing things correctly; I want to know from the board how you want to proceed. Do you want to make the decision on what we repair, or do you want me to make that decision in line with the building administration and maintenance folks? Either way, it doesn't matter. It takes a little bit longer if I come to you with all the approvals, but it's one of those things I need a dollar amount that we go by and we can go from there.

Trustee Julianne Hill said right now the policy reads anything greater than \$15,000 needs board approval for capital expenditures. Would it be a bad idea for major repairs to make us aware of that, I think it would be a good idea. We need to as a board, if it needs repaired right now, we will need to give him our time to work it out.

Superintendent Stutzman said even with the \$15,000 limit the policy says if it is an emergency, I can go ahead and purchase, with letting you guys know and you approve it after the fact. We do spend a lot on repairs, but by law we do have to spend roughly \$750,000 on student occupied per year. It's based on square footage and if we don't spend it, it carries over until the next year and continues to carry over every year until you meet that expenditure.

Chairman Jon Bailey said we have a procurement policy which follows the state statute, but if we want to approve repair expenditures, do we need to figure out what that limit is going to be for you, so you're looking from us for guidance in how to proceed? We know that you have to spend so much, per the law.

Trustee Tia Cherry said I see two sides, it's good that we're aware where our money's going, but I'm also like if you have it on every agenda, they are going to see we are spending money, because the community doesn't understand the \$750,000. But I like it, because it's good to have a watchful eye, then we know where the money is being spent.

There was discussion on checking with other districts repair spending authorities. There was discussion on the student, and non-student occupied funds, and Superintendent Stutzman said he shared a google doc with buildings needs and wants from the building administrators.

Chairman Jon Bailey said he likes the transparency portion but needing approval for me I would like to increase closer to \$25,000 or \$30,000, so that you are free and you're not waiting for us. I want to know what's going on, but do I need to approve something when you're getting multiple bids. The checks and balances can be there, but it's also in the budget as well. Anything over \$15,000 you're telling us about it, and anything over \$25,000 you bring for approval.

Trustee Julianne Hill said she doesn't understand why we have to set a limit, why can't we go as we have gone. We get that weekly bullet point. As a board member we read it, there may be a concern or not a concern I'm just wondering why we have to actually set a limit.

Trustee Bonnie Moon felt that we need to have a dollar limit, to be transparent if patrons ask.

Superintendent Stutzman recommended to table this to put together a board policy or find a board policy.

Trustee Bonnie Moon moved to table this until next month until Byron has a chance to look for Board Policy. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All "ayes", motion carried.

Construction Manager General Contractor RFQ:

Superintendent Stutzman said I'm not sure we're ready to make that step yet. I think we need to make sure we're ready to roll with whatever we decide to do, however, I'm not sure that a Construction Manager General Contractor would not help us with that decision making process in what we truly need, and I don't know what they would charge us.

Trustee Julianne Hill said I felt we were putting the cart before the horse with this. I think we are taking facilities discussion from RBDC, but we don't even know where we are headed yet. We need input from patrons, from staff and students, everybody's input before we go that direction. We haven't even decided what our options are and what we're looking for in facilities or improvements. We need to make the decision first, even if it's narrowing it down to two to three choices or whatever. My recommendation is going to be, that we table this.

Trustee JayLee Packer said I feel if we don't know the direction we're going to go, we're spending money on three different proposals.

Trustee Tia Cherry said I feel like we're going to be wasting taxpayer money. I feel that putting it out there and saying we're going to hire you, but we don't really know what we want, because we don't, we've never really had the conversation.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said I think we have a vision as a district and we need to come together on it. I know we've talked about building, but it's just not about building, it's about staff, who we want here, it's about how does North and South work together. I mean there's so much more here than just a building project. We need to have a vision, because we're going to spend so much on staffing and so much on building. Who really makes a school district, is it a building or staffing or both? When are we going to talk about the committee that we want to put together?

Chairman Jon Bailey said I feel similarly. There are some things that can happen on a parallel path. We can start this project of figuring out what do we want in our RFQ for hiring a construction manager. At the end of the day, we can't really put this out there until we know what the scope is. We say we're going to do a project in one or three locations. We can then leverage a CMGC. Having a CMGC, they will be able to give us actual costs and dollars and that helps us put a valuation on what we need to do. In my opinion, I think it's better to hire someone early. If they bid on this, they're not saying this is my fee when submitting their qualifications, what they're saying is, here my qualifications and we negotiate with them, what their fee is. If they know they are going to get a project with us, typically the upfront cost is usually nominal, it's typically something they do pro-bono, until they know they are going to get the project. I wanted you to see why I was pressing Byron to why we need have this conversation about this idea.

Trustee Tia Cherry said I think we should have a special board work meeting where we can truly cuss and discuss. Because what if I look at this and say, I'm not in favor of any of the three. Together we have to come together as a board and realize our answer isn't the

final answer, but at least we can say here's our vision, and then we bring in a committee. I understand the parallel, but I think we need to have a real conversation before we start going parallel.

There was continued discussion on having a work meeting to discuss facilities with all of the board and building administrators. They felt we could discuss this at the work meeting scheduled May 3, 2021, when Krissy from ISBA will come to do our board training to help move through the continuous improvement plan, since that can be an all-encompassing plan.

Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to table Construction Manger General Contractor RFQ. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All "ayes", motion carried.

Chairman Jon Bailey said he doesn't mind that but would like to see us pick it back up by June and not table this down the road. I really want us to set a deadline, and there's a lot of other things I see connected to this and for the last four years we've had three feasibility studies done.

Trustee Julianne Hill said we need to set some dates with some goals and go with it. We need to have some discussion among ourselves. We need to choose a committee and then have representation from all areas that are involved. That committee can be quite large, and they don't necessarily have to be made the way the committee wants to go. It may need we need to do a survey to everyone just like we did before. We have steps where we can go, and we can get started on those now.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said we need to set some deadlines, so who's going to do that. I think this conversation is totally relevant. Do we do this at our next meeting with ISBA? Jon's right we need to not just keep sitting, we need to decide what we believe in and move forward.

#### Revised COVID Protocol:

Superintendent Stutzman said I was reading through our protocol and realized we're not following it very well. Since you adopted it, I feel it's important that we make some changes. I went through and changed what I thought needed to be changed, mainly the mask mandate for our staff, and changed some things that we're required to do in the yellow and orange. I see we're currently in the minimal risk area by EIPH, I suspect we'll drop into the green. I think we need to make some changes, and one thing that I would also ask in your motion, is that you allow me and the leadership team to continue to make changes on it, and letting you know what those changes are when they happen. I will continue to inform you of any adjustments we make.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said as long as they're least restrictive you can make those changes.

Superintendent Stutzman said EIPH lets me know when a student or staff member gets COVID. The last one was March 15, and I haven't had any students for quite some time. I suspect it will continue to drop. Before March 15, I hadn't had one for about a month.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to accept the revised COVID Protocol and allow Byron and Leadership team to make adjustments as necessary. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

#### Replace Camera System Henry's Fork Elementary:

Superintendent Stutzman said this is a repair to the camera system that we currently have, much like this building, it's getting very long in the tooth. It needs a substantial revamp. It is over \$15,000 limit and that's why I brought it to you for your approval. Camera systems are really great tools for the administrators.

Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion to replace the camera system at Henry's Fork Elementary. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bonnie Moon. All "ayes", motion carried.

#### Installation of Single Membrane Roofing over SFHS Gym:

Superintendent Stutzman said this is a two-part project combined together they are over \$50,000. We are going to do one part this fiscal calendar, which ends June 30, and at the June board meeting I'll ask for approval for the second piece of it go into the next fiscal year. All of the northeast end is covered with a single membrane and the main section of the office and weight room. We started on the south end with one section, but we are developing some leaks in the gymnasium and I think it's important that we get that taken care of.

Trustee Bonnie Moon moved to install the single membrane roofing over SFHS gym. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All "ayes", motion carried.

#### Discussion Items:

#### RBDC Presentation Discussion/Facilities:

Superintendent Stutzman said I've shared with you a google folder with all of the studies, and the final report is in there.

Chairman Jon Bailey said I just got done reviewing and it was fun going back over the past two years and see where we started this. Getting patron input and feedback on what they liked as far as some of our CTE programs. Where's the interest, where's the demand. That study we did, was comparing the previous study to where are the real needs in the community for workers. We overlayed one study over the top of another, and we realized here's the programs we really need to focus on. There were 7 to 9 programs all ranked. Then the third study we did, of those programs what is available for funding, so we don't have to pay for the whole thing. So now this fourth study how does a facility relate and what are the needs as it relates to CTE Having gone through that exercise again, I feel really comfortable knowing that we've done our homework, we've involved the community, we know where their interests are, and we know what we're able to do as far as programs go.

Trustee Julianne Hill said just to acknowledge in the third study; we also looked at the programs that we already have in the schools at both North and South, and taking that with what the community wanted, and where some of the successes were in the programs that are going on. So, that was part of your overlay as well.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said I appreciated the summary because it has been a couple of years. I know the three of you board members who weren't here for the first or second one. I think it's important to answer any of the questions that these board members have. The patrons are going to ask us about this.

Trustee Julianne Hill said I think we can get what the patrons want from when we do the surveys, because certainly the CTE is going to be part of that conversation.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said whoever serves on that committee from this board, needs to really have a clear idea of what happened with those four studies, so they can share it with the committee and have really good information.

Chairman Jon Bailey said can I work with you on that Byron, I've been here and heavily involved with all of them. So, together I can rough it out and word smith it out. From there if we have it ready for our May 3 meeting, that we can share ahead of time, then we can come a little more prepared to that discussion.

Chairman Jon Bailey said he talked to Scott Johnson, Madison County Economic Development, who said they want an entrepreneurial center in the City of Rexburg to help foster business growth. So, he put together a conversation with the development company and a few other players in Rexburg to try to get a conversation going about facilities. Just so happened that CEI was in that conversation and some of the lead people with INL. This concept of CTE came up and INL said we don't see a pathway for getting kids to get educated to where we need them to be, so we're going to have to pull people in from out of state if we don't find people here. If we were to contribute a little bit and everyone contributed a little bit, but maybe we still have our own little programs in our own schools, but then an advanced level we send these kids to a big regional facility where they get credit maybe they graduate high school with an associate degree, and they are in the workforce and they are being paid significantly more than their peer who didn't go through the same hoops. That's a huge advantage to those students who go through that program. So, not that we would need to go through a Madison facility, we could do a lot of that ourselves, but the benefit I looked there's a cost benefit where we don't burden our taxpayers. We'd still have to contribute in some way, but if other people did and we all gave a little bit, the synergy of that concept would be more than the individual part.

Trustee Julianne Hill said it's a win win situation in the sense that some of the demands from the INL have prerequisites, which we don't have the staff to yet help out in certain areas. However, we can keep the basic career training, the welding classes, construction management, those kinds of things that you could end up with a degree or a certificate, or an apprenticeship or an internship. Those are things that we could definitely keep local, but if we could also expose our kids to other opportunities that may help fill not only our communities but the state. With that, we know that facilities are a big talk, but we also know that some things have become needs in schools. Some things have turned into no longer wants, but real needs. I think we need to be able to go ahead, and that's what I wanted to talk about. I don't know how much we can do, but I'm going to share with you some of the stuff, because the big questions are always, how much does it cost? Until you get an architect, or someone involved with that, so Jon and Byron and I, and I'm the one who made the appointment with JRW and asked them to come and look at putting an aux gym onto SFHS, and he has that report ready, and he will give that to us, we were hoping maybe we could have a work meeting and he would present that to us. There are things going now, and we need to be able to share this information and get the money and get the figures and talk about the facilities and what the needs are. So that's the discussion we need to start, we need to set goals dates, we need to move forward on what we need.

#### Next Year's NFHS Baseball/Softball Issue:

Trustee Tia Cherry said I think we ought to try snow removal on the fields.

Superintendent Stutzman said he knew Tyler isn't a fan of trying to keep the snow off of there. Number one it takes time and money, but number two, he worries about what it will do to the field. As you're running equipment over the top of it, especially large equipment, there's that chance of rutting it up, which makes it very to play on and difficult to mow during the summer. These are some of the issues we need to look at, and I need to do a little research and talk to other people too, including Tyler to see what it will take.

Trustee JayLee Packer said she doesn't like the kids on the road traveling to practice at other fields. I don't feel that it's safe. I know West Jefferson said they fertilize the fields and melts the snow faster and it also helps the grass.

Hill Goedhart said two years ago they tried ash, but with ash it melts too quick and causes puddling. So, you don't want it to melt too fast, but if you can get it off the field then obviously it's a lot better. We can't project how much snow we're going to get in Ashton, compared to South Fremont, but if we can get it when it's frozen, you can get the equipment on there and get it blown off and have 6 inches instead of 4 feet to worry about.

Superintendent Stutzman said it depends on how much snow falls before the ground freezes. North is a little bit different than South, and if it generally snows a lot, and the ground doesn't freeze very deep. If we try and move the snow, it's going to cost. The question is, will the ground freeze deeper without causing the damage, especially if we would be running heavy equipment on it. I don't know.

Trustee Cherry said we tested on my Grandma's yard and she's crazy about her yard. We took my husband's skid steer that has a track, and we did half of it just to see if it works, and we knew if it failed, we would tell you guys not to do it and if it worked, why not try it. It worked. She had half her yard ready to go and the other still had snow. My thought is, why not try it. If it fails, we learned a lesson.

Ericka Robertson said the money to plow came from our budget from money we raised, so when we got stopped, it wasn't coming from your budget. It came from money the girls raised to put towards the field, and we're willing to do that, if the issue is cost. We have professionals that will do it, and if there's a conflict, I can address that with the city as well. My girls raised over \$12,000 this year, so if that has to go towards snow removal we can. They checked with other schools and, Thunder Ridge uses a normal tractor with a snow blower and haven't had any issues.

Chairman Jon Bailey said I think we could do some, and if you guys did some, and the boys did some. If it's not a heavy burden, we could meet the need. The real issue is Tyler's time.

Trustee Moon said the tractor that we bought, is this able to be used or are you guys bringing someone else in to help?

Superintendent Stutzman said yes, it's a big tractor, as long as the ground is frozen. It would damage the

Trustee Moon said we can do this for north, but what about south? I know they are going to ask us. I had someone ask why the school board said we couldn't move the snow at south, and she said I don't ever remember saying we couldn't move the snow at south. Is south asking for snow removal as well?

Superintendent Stutzman said I don't believe the baseball coach wants somebody out there, on his field.

Trustee Hill said the south football coach is OCD and doesn't want anyone to touch his field, but himself.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said maybe it was the softball coach, so check with the softball coach, so that we're consistent with both.

Hill Goedhart said it costs about \$100 an hour to hire out, but we have a lot in the community who are willing to donate. We had Swiss Precision and farmers who have volunteered to bring their equipment. If we know when it freezes and keep it down to 3 to 6 inches with a smaller tractor, then once it freezes, then we can get the larger tractor on it and we can blow it and keep it off and it wouldn't take very long to keep that snow done. Then when you get it off the field, then it's just melting 3 to 6 inches.

Jodi Beard said we have people who are willing to donate a significant amount of money towards a field to call it the Emily Baum field, but we just need to know what our permanent field is. Are we going to use the city field; the grade school field, are we going to build this one? But something needs to be a permanent fixture for these poor softball girls who are running all over town. She said we really should put the money into a field that's going to be ours.

Superintendent Stutzman said before we can do anything on the current city field, we need to have the season be over. Then we could do some work on it. To build our own field, we've got a whole lot of area back here that's currently an alfalfa field. That needs to be a decision that I would bring to the board to make, and that's my recommendation that we do that, because we really truly need to have our own softball field here.

Trustee Packer said with the baseball field and the kids who have put in a lot of time and I worry that we're going to try to raise more money and it's going to be on the kids to do the snow removal and I don't think that's fair. I think the as a district we need to do what we can to build a new field and have better planning so we can help get the kids the better facility that they need.

Trustee Cherry said Lynette Baum has drawn out two scale drawings of where the softball field could go, and we did have some issues with the drainage.

Superintendent Stutzman said we own the alfalfa field that the ag program uses, however it wasn't purchased for the ag program, it was purchased for facilities.

It was determined to put it on the agenda for next meeting.

#### New Job Needs of the District:

Trustee Bonnie Moon said I know we have talked a lot about some jobs coming up. I know Tia brought it up about the jobs up North, and now that the levy has passed how are we prioritizing new job needs of the district. I know we're going to have teacher negotiations coming up. How are our administrators doing and teachers doing, what's our ratio for teachers to students, what kinds of jobs do we need? I know there's mental health crisis right now, especially coming out of COVID. I want a place for the board, and administration can discuss this.

Superintendent Stutzman I created another tab on building facilities needs, and there are a number of things coming up that we are looking at. I've asked the building administrators to put in their needs. I did put the district wide needs and one of the things I would be worthwhile is to have a language arts instructional coach and a mathematics instructional coach and have those two works together to give the coaching that we need to do. Along with that, I put communications public relations/grant writer. I added the behavioral social emotional counselors to be available districtwide, housed at North Fremont High School and South Fremont High School. I did put provided by Grand Peaks, we're still not there yet, and there is still discussions about how it will all transpire.

Chairman Jon Bailey said what needs to happen for us to take action on some of these needs, once they're identified.

Superintendent Stutzman said we advertise, and then we then bring the recommendation to hire to you as a hiring proposal.

Trustee JayLee Packer said the administrators of each school are talking to their schools to make sure we have enough paras and support staff and things like that.

Superintendent Stutzman said we do have that discussion at what their needs are. I'm sure the administrators are talking to their staff about what they need. Right before Christmas Larry asked if we could use some of the COVID money to hire an aide to help one of our English teachers, because she had individualized her classroom so much, that he was worried about her. We brought that hire proposal to you, and we're using our ESSERF funds to do that.

Trustee Tia Cherry I know we get so much funding from the state if we have a certain number of students for administrators. So, I was wondering how North Fremont looks, because I think Drex is doing an amazing job, but I think, especially recently he not only has to deal with student behavior, he's got how many teachers? I know historically in the past we have a part time administrator and part time teacher. Are we to the point of something like that, so we could lighten the load and become much more productive? I'd rather hire more paras and teachers versus a teacher coach. Maybe that's a survey we could do with the teachers.

Superintendent Stutzman said I'm going to defer to the principals to that, and I know most of them are communicating with their staff. Most of our instructional aides come out of federal programs, with a piece of it coming out of the general fund.

Principal Tim Tanner said we do the best with what we have. We really organize our time; more para support means more intervention with the kids. Access to an elementary counselor to help the kids, that would be my number one priority.

Principal Nancy Griffel said this year with Covid has brought on so many issues that none of us in our building are even close to being able to deal with. Their safety is not being met. It is very much a need in our building. We want to be proactive on this, because ultimately if the kids aren't safe, they're not learning.

Superintendent Stutzman said we are working with Grand Peaks, but it's not a done deal. It is great for us because it wouldn't be a cost to the district by utilizing an outside entity. There's a possibility of a meeting this Friday with Grand Peaks to see if we can get it figured out.

Principal Dave Marotz said most Jr. High and High School counselors are there for basic stuff. A lot of these kids are dealing with some very heavy things, and they aren't qualified to address a lot of these concerns. Many of those students are trying to get outside counseling, but there are problems with the times. Parents can't get them there.

Principal Drex Hathaway said I feel lucky with what I have got. I've lucked out with the counselor we have this year, that is highly qualified, and we are able to meet the needs of our special needs. We were able to pick up another special ed teacher in our building, and you just approved her tonight for full-time employment for next year.

Trustee Tia Cherry said I just talked to one of the counselors and she said I put a band aide on the gash. You know a school counselor is only qualified to do so much. I love the idea of an elementary one that can help with those band aids at least. I know there's a possibility there to meet the needs of both, and we share or split a counselor with AEM, TEM, PEM.

Chairman Jon Bailey said we did have a big discussion about this last December and we said let's figure out the levy. I still think it's wise for us to consider a Public Relations person to write grants would basically pay for that position and bring in additional resources for us to do more, I look at that as a no brainer. I like the idea of getting a counselor and helping the students, but this P.R person helps us make sure the public keeps informed, while they are writing grants and bringing more money in to assist in teachers and what they are doing. He asked the Superintendent to look into what the cost would be to hire a P.R. person.

Trustee Moon said we got some information about hiring a Vice-Principal at Henry's Fork Elementary for next year and asked if that was already in the works.

Superintendent Stutzman said it is in the works right now and we have advertised, when that happens, that recommendation will come to you. Nancy is setting up the committee, and I think there are 26 applicants, four in district and move forward from there, and Nancy has posted open until hired. It had been in the budget a year ago, and kudos to Nancy for bringing a proposal to save money, because I thought we were going to lose 5%. ESSERF funds have helped pad that and have really made a big difference.

I can set up a work meeting for the board and can explain school finance, and we can walk through the budget.

#### Superintendent's Report:

Spring Leadership Institute for the Idaho School Board Association is April 28<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00 pm. I have sent you a calendar invite and ask that you let Hali and I know if you are attending. There is a registration form and fee so please let us know. I plan on attending as I generally gain some insight to what is happening statewide.

I talked with each of the principals who have extra-curricular activities. Each of them thought it would be difficult to come up with a board policy to address every scenario that could come about in dealing with all the attendance issues. I feel for all student, parents, patrons, and relatives for missing out on participating as a participant or a spectator. I know each administrator who has dealt with the issues created by covid and closures has been beat up and derided, but I do know we all have done what we thought best for our students. Many folks have thanked us even when in disagreement with what we are required by law to do. My heart goes out to all who were not able to have real school last spring, and all the stringent ways we have had to run our extracurricular activities. We live in a great school district, and we need to focus on that greatness and on our continued improvement. It is best to leave the distribution of tickets during a pandemic up to the administrator in charge with a full understanding of doing all we can to help our students have a great experience.

While I think there are still cases within our district, Covid cases have not been reported back to me by EIPH. The last reported case of Covid within our schools was of an infectious period of March 15-26, and we went without a report for about a month before that. I have been watching Eastern Idaho Public Health's website periodically, and we should drop into the minimal risk category soon.

I have tried to keep you up to date on the ESSERF issues. We still have a little bit of ESSERF I available, but that will be encumbered. We will utilize the remaining \$\$ to purchase the buses, freeing up the depreciation dollars to use for other things in plant facilities. Bus depreciation is housed in the plant facilities funds. We also will use the last of it to purchase new stoves for NFHS as the ones there are falling apart. Kudos to Tyler Cude for trying to save them, and to Hali for being such a great Food Service Director along with all her other duties. ESSERF II, while originally expected to be roughly \$1,700,000.00 of new money, is going to be used to backfill the 5% holdback, leaving us a net increase of roughly only \$300,000.00, and we will need it to shore up our discretionary support. I thought we had a chance to knock out many of the facility needs, but with the shuffle goes those dreams. ESSERF III appears to be almost double ESSERF II, but who knows what the legislature will do once those arrive. Hali and I are working on all of the budget amendments this is



causing, and we will bring that to you at the June board meeting along with the new budget. Do we need a working meeting to go over the budget amendments and new budget?

I will be out of the office Thursday and Friday of this week.

Future Agenda Items:

Action Item-Second Reading Policy 4605

Action Item-Student Handbooks

Action Item-Softball Field

Discussion Item-Construction Manager General Contractor RGQ

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.