MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES held at the District Office, 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, ID 83861 on Thursday, February 5, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Chair Margaret Gannon, Vice-Chair Christine Ashmead, and Trustees Jody Hendrickx, Donny Masterson, and Archie McGregor III

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Joseph Kren, Principals Jeffrey Andersen and John Cordell, Board Clerk Karen Robinson, Kristi Payne, and Angela Schultz

OTHERS PRESENT: Allen Anxo, Christopher Asbury, James Broyles, David Canning, Lynette Cox, Ken Devries, Brian Dickerson, Rodney Dickerson, Tony Eells, Evan Fly, Clark Grogan, Harry Grubham, Robert Loe, Tim Meagher, Nancy Moore, Jim Minser, Douglas Payne, David Resser, Michael Richardson, Arie Sands, Gail Silkwood, and Brandon Vannatter

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m., in the District Office, 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, by Chair Gannon. Chair Gannon welcomed the meeting attendees and Superintendent Kren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Trustee Ashmead and seconded by Trustee Hendrickx that pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-2343, the Board of Trustees approves the Agenda for the meeting. Chair Gannon called for discussion, and none was forthcoming. The motion unanimously carried.

Chair Gannon welcomed the attendees, and attendees introduced themselves and their role in the community as follows:

- Benewah County Sheriff’s Office – Sheriff David Resser and Patrol Deputies Allen Anxo, Brian Dickenson, Ken Devries, Rodney Dickenson, Tony Eells, Evan Fly, Tim Meagher, Michael Richardson, and Brandon Vannatter
- City of St. Maries Police Department – Deputy Robert Loe
- St. Maries School District Staff Members – Jeffrey Andersen, John Cordell, Joseph Kren, Kristi Payne, Karen Robinson, and Angela Schultz
- Avery School Superintendent – Christopher Asbury
- Santa/Emida Fire District – Jim Minser
- City of St. Maries Mayor – Harry Grubham
- Benewah Community Hospital – James Broyles, CEO, and Nancy Moore, Nurse
- St. Maries High School Student – Arie Sands
- Benewah County Extension Agent – Gail Silkwood
- Benewah County Prosecutor – Douglas Payne
- St. Maries Ministerial Association – Clark Grogan
- St. Maries Church of the Nazarene – Lynette Cox
Chair Gannon thanked the Attendees for their participation in the meeting. She advised that approximately 15 years ago the District brought together community stakeholders to review the rising spike in the number of students coming before the Board for expulsion hearings for drug and alcohol violations. As the result of those meetings, the Board, together with the committee members, developed Board Policy 503.11 – Mandatory Random Drug Testing of Co-Curricular Activity Students. The Board has once again seen a rising trend in the number of students coming before them for expulsion for drugs and alcohol, with the age of the offenders becoming younger and younger. Chair Gannon invited the audience members to share their thoughts.

Superintendent Kren advised that there was no specific direction for the meeting’s conversation to follow. Additionally, he provided attendees with information that tracked the number of expulsion hearings held per year since 1993-1994 that were related to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. The District, through the Board of Trustees, wants to move forward with the assembled group, to raise awareness amongst the students and parents and to put preventions and support in place for the District’s students.

Audience members spoke to the following points:

- Policy 503.11 – Mandatory Random Drug Testing of Co-Curricular Activity Students provides students with an excuse when they are faced with peer pressure to partake in illegal activities.
- The age of students participating in illegal activities has continually dipped down to middle-school age students and is not limited to high school students.
- Building administrators are seeing more and more of the activity on the actual school campuses vs hearing of students participating at a party that took place after school hours and off school grounds.
- Local law enforcement officers continually seek training to keep abreast of morphing trends in the drug culture community, including new drugs introduced to the market, clothing that references drug use, etc.
- Two of Idaho’s bordering States, Washington and Oregon, have legalized marijuana, which serves to reduce the stigma attached to illegal substances.
- The explosion of social media is a marketing tool for dealers to sell their wares and students to find suppliers
- Clothing manufacturers create and popularize clothing depicting drug use
- Parents are either clueless to their students’ activities or believe that if the students are participating in the activity in a controlled environment, that it is acceptable.
- Lack of stable home lives for students as parents and grandparents are also involved in the drug culture.
- Parents include alcohol in their celebrations, which has a trickle-down effect that students assume alcohol is the norm and should be a part of their celebrations.
- Benewah County, with its remote areas, is attractive to individuals desirous of “being off the grid.”
There is no longer a certain appearance that identifies users. Users are the popular students, the unpopular students, the student athletes, the introverts, the extroverts, students from solid family backgrounds, and students with little family support.

Obstacles to addressing the problem head on are time, materials, and funding.

Students are very wise as to how to beat drug tests, where to get the tools necessary to beat drug tests, and what websites will help them further their participation in the drug culture.

The Benewah County Sheriff’s Department is undertaking efforts to put some training together and will welcome individuals in the community to participate in that training.

District facilities, including the Idaho Education Network (IEN) Room are available for community use to utilize trainings that might be broadcast from a point other than St. Maries.

Utilization of student leaders as peer role models is a consideration as peer-to-peer conversations have proven to be successful tools in the past.

Adults need to become engaged with students, learn their mannerisms and behaviors, etc., so that when a student seems to be deviating from their normal self, that they can receive help before they advance too far down the path of illegal activities.

Utilize community partnerships to develop services for students such as mentors, etc. Law Enforcement and Benewah Community Hospital have a successful relationship, as does the School District with those two entities as well.

Benewah County has a lack of resources available that can be utilized to assist the students and their families.

Students need activities to keep them busy when they are not in school and when they would otherwise be home alone due to working or absent parents.

The St. Maries Ministerial Association is researching options for an outreach center for middle and high school students, based on a spiritual element.

Past District programs that were developed based on best practices and research have disappeared due to lack of funding and student interest. Some of those programs included the School Resource Officer, Peers Encouraging Abstinence Among Kids, Natural Helpers, Senior Sober, etc.

Increased police presence at school activities and on school grounds during times when students can come in immediate contact with the police officers.

Students are growing up way before their minds and reasoning are fully developed to make safe choices for their personal well-being.

How to reduce apathy on the part of students, teachers, adults, siblings, etc., to get involved and report incidents to law enforcement, counselors, etc., so that the first steps can be initiated in helping students make good and healthy choices. Fellow students don’t want to “rat somebody out.”

Partnership with Benewah County Extension Office on completion of a Social Norming Campaign and review of survey data to better identify specific target areas.

Trustee McGregor joined the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Trustee Masterson joined the meeting at 6:52 p.m.
Next steps to be considered, include but are not limited to:

- Review of Social Norming Campaign as a potential next step, as well as programs available through the County Extension Office.
- Review of surveys currently completed and available, i.e., Substance Use, Safety and School Climate in Idaho, Youth Risk Survey, etc., for data mining to seek out trends, reasons, acceptance of drug use, etc.
- Community-wide trainings for families and community members by professionals highly engaged in the war against drugs.
- Media campaign.
- Implement efforts to find out why students choose to do drugs so that the problems can be dealt with at the ground level.
- The need to recognize that a student of the 1970’s is a completely different student found in school in 2015. The drugs of the 1970’s are completely different than the variety of drugs available today.
- There is a need to be proactive rather than reactive to drug and alcohol issues.
- Development of partnerships amongst all of the agencies – schools, law enforcement, hospitals, service providers, churches, etc.

The time for the next meeting was not set.

There being no further business for which the meeting was called, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2015.

/s/ MARGARET R. GANNON  
Margaret R. Gannon, Board Chair  

/s/ KAREN M. ROBINSON  
Karen M. Robinson, Board Clerk