The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., at the District Office, 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, by Chair Margaret Gannon.

Chair Gannon welcomed the audience, and Superintendent Kren led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Gannon explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Supplemental Levy.

Persons present were Chair Margaret Gannon, Vice-Chair Christine Ashmead, Trustees Donny Masterson and Archie McGregor III, Superintendent Joseph Kren, Business Manager Danette Cordell, and Board Clerk Karen Robinson, staff members and patrons as listed above.

Superintendent Kren also welcomed the audience members and advised that the Board of Trustees is seeking additional input from patrons related to the District’s Supplemental Levy that has been discussed by the Board since October, 2012.

Chair Gannon shared that prior to setting the amount of the March 12, 2013 Supplemental Levy, and after much thought and deliberation, the Trustees cut over $200,000 from the 2013-2014 Budget.

Trustees accepted public comments from patrons and staff members, both those in favor of the Supplemental Levy and those opposed to the Levy. Additionally, Trustees advised the meeting attendees that information is available on the District’s website at www.sd41.org which contains the District’s financial information, including the Budget. Additionally, meeting attendees were encouraged to contact the individual Trustees or the District Office, either by phone or e-mail to Superintendent Kren at jkren@sd41.org for any additional specific information related to the District’s operations.

Trustee Sandy Kennelly joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.
Topics discussed during the meeting included:

- Declining student enrollment and distribution of those non-enrolled students throughout District classrooms
- Reduced State funding for support units
- Number of staff members and reductions thereto
- Increased District operating expenses for fuel, electricity, insurance, textbooks, technology, etc.
- Idaho State Legislature’s position on public education and private school funding
- Additional State and federal unfunded mandates
- Current Supplemental Levy provides 26% of the District’s overall Budget
- Currently there is not a Teacher Union presence in St. Maries School District
- Potential personal property tax repeal
- Longevity for large local employers such as Potlatch Corporation
- Patrons’ Opinion on increased removal of Coeur d’Alene Tribal real properties from Benewah County tax rolls
- Technology expenses for cell phone, internet service, bandwidth, and 80% reimbursement through the federal government’s E-Rate Program
- Transportation routes, student ridership, school bus inventory replacement, and State transportation reimbursement regulations
- Opinion that some patrons who voted against the March 12 levy did so in an effort to draw the Legislature’s attention
- Opinion that the District has not adequately shared budget information and the availability of related financial information
- Stand-mandated Supplemental Levy dates limited to March, May, August, and November
- Belief that some patrons lack confidence in the Board of Trustees’ financial management and that a financial review from outside sources is warranted
- Annual audits conducted for entire District, as well as departmental audits for Food Services, Transportation, Title I, etc., and three new Board members in the last two years who provide a fresh perspective to the District’s finances
- Perception that staff who work 9 ½ months are overpaid
- Need for the District to share very specific information on what the Supplemental Levy will financially support
- Perception that the Board of Trustees is a paid position
- State-mandated textbook rotation and purchasing cycle
- Reduced District programs for music and athletic extra-curricular activities
- Review of athletic extra-curricular activities to reduce number of athletic contests, etc.
- District curriculum and percentage of students going on to post-secondary education/training
- Difficulty for patrons facing increased personal expenses for fuel, medical insurance, cell service etc., to support the Levy
- Venues for the District to share Supplemental Levy information to reach more patrons
- Need for the District to improve marketing efforts to share specific information as to what the Supplemental Levy supports and what will happen if the District is not able to pass a Supplemental Levy
Many District teachers and staff members personally provide supplies and cover expenses for their classrooms out of their own personal funds.

Need to form community partnerships to address Idaho State Legislature’s position on public education.

Desire to continue offering elective curricular classes such as Health Occupations, Forestry, etc., that provide future employee staffing for local businesses.

Supplemental Levy provides funding to replace reduced State funding.

Patrons’ belief that the District needs to make additional cuts and look for alternative educational processes such as having the teachers go to the students instead of the students coming to school.

Patrons’ belief that the District needs to reduce spending in all areas, i.e., shop towels, laundering of coveralls, background records checks, buying cheaper tools and supplies, reducing meeting supplies, etc.

Required services for special education students.

Board directive for all departments to cut 10% from their department budgets for 2013-2014.

Potential effects on the entire communities of St. Maries and the UpRiver areas if the District has no choice other than to reduce its Budget by $1,844,700.

Exodus of families, including District staff members, moving to communities that provide strong educational opportunities for students vs. minimum educational opportunities if Levy does not pass.

Patrons’ misconception that the $1,617,000 Supplemental Levy will remain in place even though the Levy was not approved by a majority.

Mandated special education program for disabled students.

Mandated pre-school program for disabled students with peer component.

Implementation of State and federal core curriculum standards.

Staff professional development needs.

Outdated textbooks.

How the loss of Supplemental Levy funding will immediately affect our students now and in the future.

St. Maries one of five Idaho School Districts with failed March 2013 Supplemental Levy proposals.

Graph comparison of State funding vs. local funding.

Chair Gannon thanked the patrons and staff members in attendance for their comments, and called for additional comments, with none forthcoming.

Chair Gannon read the proposed “Resolution No. 2012-2013-02 Supplemental Levy Election”, which calls for a two-year Supplemental Levy in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars ($1,844,700) each year for two (2) years for a total of Three Million Six Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars ($3,689,400), to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 with said election to be conducted by the Benewah County Clerk and the Shoshone County Clerk pursuant to Title 34 Idaho Code. Following reading of the Resolution, Chair Gannon called for discussion.
Discussion was held related to the proposed Supplemental Levy Amount set forth in the Resolution.

Following discussion related to the Supplemental Levy amount, it was the consensus of the Trustees that since October 2012, they have diligently reviewed the District’s budget, recommended reductions to the Budget, and the amount necessary for the Supplemental Levy to be set to allow the District to continue providing funding for educational programs for its students.

Following discussion, Trustee Masterson moved to pass Resolution 2012-2013-02 to set the Supplemental Levy at One Million Eight Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars ($1,844,700) each year for two years, for a total of Three Million Six Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars ($3,689,400.00), to be held on May 21, 2013. Trustee McGregor seconded the motion, and Chair Gannon called for further discussion. Trustees further discussed the amount of the Levy and their efforts to arrive at the levy amount. Additionally, discussion was held related to the Board’s commitment to continue efforts to share information in public forums, printed informational materials, and the District’s website. Following discussion, Chair Gannon called for a vote on the motion, and the motion unanimously carried. The original Resolution will be filed with the records of the meeting.

Staff member Teresa Benda thanked the Trustees and administration for time and effort in managing the District.

There being no further business for which the meeting was called, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2013.

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

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