MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES held at the District Office, 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, ID 83861 on Monday, July 27, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Chair Donny Masterson, Vice-Chair Christine Ashmead, and Trustees Jody Hendrickx and Sandy Kennelly

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Joseph Kren, Business Manager Danette Cordell, Acting Board Clerk Carol Lanphear, Principal Jeffrey Andersen, UpRiver Lead Teacher Nicole Goucher, and Special Education Director Judy Novobielski Muhs

OTHERS PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., in the District Office at 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, by Chair Donny Masterson; Vice-Chair Ashmead led the Pledge of allegiance. Chair Masterson welcomed the meeting attendees.

AGENDA ITEM I – A

As part of Agenda Item I, a motion was made by Trustee Hendrickx and seconded by Vice-Chair Ashmead that pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-204, the Board of Trustees approves the Agenda for the meeting. Chair Masterson called for discussion, and none was forthcoming. The motion unanimously carried.

AGENDA ITEM I – B

Business Manager Danette Cordell and Superintendent Joseph Kren reviewed the 2015-2016 Budget.

Chair Masterson wanted to re-visit the approved 2015-2016 Budget for clarification on the Full-time Equivalent Certified Staff (FTEs). Superintendent Kren said an aide was originally requested at UpRiver and a .5 teacher was agreed on.

Superintendent Kren indicated that Mr. Andersen would present current class enrollment projections for English and Math in his building.

Chair Masterson listed the three goals of the evening’s meeting was to determine needs, wants, and clarification on the budget.

Business Manager Cordell presented information about the need for a fund balance. The fund balance covers expenditures until property tax monies come in. A fund balance is also needed to help cover unexpected expenditures and loss of anticipated revenues. Next year, Avery tuition and foster care State monies will be lower, affecting fund balance. She noted that the
District was four certified staff members over funded on last year’s budget. The District will be 5.5 over on this year’s budget with the newly approved FTEs. It is a concern to use fund balance for Salaries and Benefits, and it is a budgeting goal to keep expenditures close to the revenue and identify a revenue resource for an increase in expenditures.

Mrs. Cordell went on to say negotiations with the St. Maries Education Association are still in process. Once those are settled, classified salary schedules will need to be completed as well, which will be an increase to the budget.

Mrs. Cordell addressed decision units that have been previously discussed in budget workshops. She asked for clarification as to where last year’s Kindergarten teacher was moved, since we are hiring a new one this next year. According to Mrs. Goucher, the teacher will be assigned to the 6th grade.

Mrs. Cordell looked at enrollment numbers as they are applied to the budget and presented an estimated fund balance. She stated the need to find a revenue source to pay for the additional FTE employees at the Middle School and at UpRiver. She also stated the concern of having too many certified FTEs over funded.

Chair Masterson voiced concern about The District’s fiscal responsibility in adding FTEs that are above what the District’s enrollment dictates. Once an employee is hired, it is hard to eliminate that position.

Mr. Kren discussed scenarios that would affect enrollment numbers and that the need for additional FTE’s may not always be there.

Chair Masterson invited the Trustees to ask for clarification of issues that were unclear to them.

Trustee Hendrickx asked if it was possible to utilize current staff without bringing in another person. Mrs. Goucher addressed that question with what instruction is required.

Trustee Kennelly asked if the UpRiver first and second grade classes could be combined, and could they hire an aide instead of a teacher? Mrs. Goucher explained the different levels of learning for the younger students and how difficult it is to combine the younger grades because the beginning years are foundational years.

Vice-Chair Ashmead commented on the number of children who will be enrolled in the UpRiver Kindergarten. No more questions were forthcoming and the discussion moved to the Middle School’s staffing need.

Mr. Andersen explained his Math and English staffing at the Middle School for Special Education students. He discussed the number of students in Special Education and the wide gap in their ability levels. He outlined how the students are grouped to balance out numbers and according to ability level.
Mr. Kren noted that the highly qualified status is required at the 6-8 grade levels. He also stated that it’s necessary to place students into general education classrooms as much as possible as the law requires.

Trustee Kennelly questioned if the District looked at the whole picture, can Heyburn Elementary School send staff to help with Middle School Special Education classes. Mrs. Kennelly also questioned what other cuts could be made to reduce expenditures.

Mrs. Muhs explained the required minutes of service necessary for Special Education students at each building, and how it relates to staffing.

Mrs. Cordell inquired if a staff member from St. Maries High School could provide support for elective classes.

Vice-Chair Ashmead questioned how many of the middle school 6th graders are from UpRiver. Jeff Andersen addressed her question.

Mrs. Cordell explained Special Education Maintenance of Effort, wherein the District has to maintain the general fund expenditure for Special Education. The per pupil amount, or the total amount spent from the general fund has to be at least the same amount as the previous year. The District cannot deny service for lack of funds. This could potentially be an issue in future years.

Chair Masterson questioned how the District would move forward if the positions requested are not approved. Mr. Andersen stated he could potentially have to teach two or three sections of math if the Middle School did not get an additional teacher. The current Special Education teacher would have to cover the language course. He discussed other possibilities of staffing.

Trustee Kennelly wondered if a .5 Special Education teacher would be sufficient, and was advised that the teacher has to be highly qualified. Chair Masterson wanted clarification if a .5 Special Education teacher would be enough for both the Middle School and UpRiver positions. Mr. Andersen and Mrs. Goucher addressed the questions.

Chair Masterson opened the floor for final questions regarding Middle School and UpRiver staffing.

Superintendent Kren explained a motion for reconsideration would need to be made to change the decision on the UpRiver Elementary and Middle School staffing that has been approved. Chair Masterson stated that he would still like to consider all options to make the staffings with current staff and .5 hires.

Trustee Hendrickx made a motion that the Board move forward with the .5 FTE UpRiver hire that has been previously approved, and continue to look at options for the Middle School position. The motion died for lack of a second. The Board directed Superintendent Kren to look for a part-time 4/7 position to full-time position teacher, and to strive for a part-time position if possible.
Mr. Kren stated there is now a Content Specialist route that can be taken for an alternative route to certification.

AGENDA ITEM II -
Chair Masterson declared it was necessary to go into executive session to discuss personnel and negotiations pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(a) and 74-206(j).

Vice-Chair Ashmead moved that the Board, pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(a) and 74-206(j), convene in executive session to:

(a) Consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general;

(j) Consider labor contract matters authorized under section 67-2345A [74-206A] (1) (a) and (b), Idaho Code.

Further, that following executive session, the Board will reconvene in public session for conducting further business or for adjournment.

Trustee Kennelly seconded the Motion, and the roll call vote for the Motion was:

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<tr>
<td>Chair Donny Masterson</td>
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<td>Vice-Christine Ashmead</td>
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<td>Trustee Jody Hendrickx</td>
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<td>Trustee Sandy Kennelly</td>
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The motion unanimously carried, and the meeting convened in executive session at 8:25 p.m. Chair Masterson called for a five minute recess and executive session convened at exactly 8:30 p.m.

Superintendent Kren, Danette Cordell, and Carol Lanphear were excused at 8:25 p.m. when the Board went into recess.

Persons present were Chair Donny Masterson, Vice-Chair Christine Ashmead, Trustees Jody Hendrickx and Sandy Kennelly.

Discussion was held related to personnel.

Discussion was held related to negotiations.
There being no further business requiring executive session, the meeting reconvened in open session at 9:00 p.m.

Chair Masterson called for a Motion to come out of executive session. Trustee Kennelly moved that the Board come out of executive session, with a second by Trustee Hendrickx. The motion unanimously carried, with the Board convening in open session at 9:00 p.m.

As part of Agenda Item III, Any Action Resulting from Executive Session,

Trustee Kennelly declared the need for a Micro Computer Content Specialist at the High School, Vice-Chair Ashmead seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Vice-Chair Ashmead made the motion to offer Mr. Kren a two-year contract; the motion was seconded by Trustee Kennelly. The motion unanimously carried.

The Board offered Superintendent Kren a two year contract to replace Mr. Kren’s existing contract.

There being no further business for which the meeting was called, the meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m., Monday, July 27, 2015.

/s/ DONNY MASTERSON
Donny Masterson, Board Chair

/s/ CAROL LANPHEAR
Carol Lanphear, Acting Board Clerk