MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. MARIES JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41 held in the St. Maries High School Gymnasium at 424 Hells Gulch Road, St. Maries, Idaho, Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Chair Jody Hendrickx, and Trustees Devon Barta, Peter Dirlam, and Mark Reynolds

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Vice-Chair Sandy Kennelly

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Alica Holthaus, Business Manager Danette Cordell, Board Clerk Karen Robinson, Principals Jeffrey Andersen, John Cordell, Nicole Goucher, and Tammi Masters

Dianna Badgett, Lyndsey Beckstead, Todd Bitterman, Kaisie Brede, Shelley Bresnen, Shannon Cloud, Sylvia Eberlin, Brad Groce, Alissa Michael, Jennifer Miller, Jodi Noyes, Michael Noyes, Kristi Payne, Angela Schultz, Kippy Silflow, Megan Sindt, Koreena Stowell, Aaron Waits, and Cynthia Willard

OTHERS PRESENT: Christine Ashmead, Robert Baskin, Sarah Baskin, Dan Bresnahan, Silas Brewer, Tina Brewer, Lee Draper, Donald Eberlin, Margaret Gannon, Rod Halvorsen, Glen Inlow, Erik Johnson, Bob Loe, David Nelson, Waylon Newton, Katherine Patzer, Seth Patzer, Jerry Parmeley, Tricia Parmeley, Pam Secord, Marion Smithwick, Larry Sotin, and two unidentified individuals based on sign-in signatures

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m., at the St. Maries High School Gymnasium, 424 Hells Gulch Road, St. Maries, Idaho, on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, by Chair Hendrickx. Silent roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Trustee Reynolds and seconded by Trustee Barta that pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-204, the Board of Trustees approves the Agenda for the meeting. Chair Hendrickx called for discussion and none was forthcoming. The Agenda stood approved with four affirmative votes.

Chair Hendrickx led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Alica Holthaus welcomed the audience members and introduced the Trustees and the District’s Administrative Team.

Superintendent Holthaus reviewed the meeting protocol with the Trustees and audience members as contained on the posted Agenda for the Notice of Special Meeting.
Round One Speakers:

Audience Member Lee Draper:
- Retired Military and University of Washington graduate
- Trained in the use of firearms
- Many retired military and police force in the community who are trained in firearm use who are willing to assist the District

Audience Member Name: Silas Brewer
- Military Veteran
- Good person with a gun is the best defense
- Difficulty of School Resource Officers to cover campus facilities at all times/places

Audience Member Name: Eric Johnson
- Former Police Officer
- Importance of proper and complete training
- Difficulty for staff and trained individuals to secure/protect/conceal firearm in the school environment

Audience Member: Alissa Michael
- Heyburn Elementary School Secretary
- Facilities needs for school safety
- Buzzer system/identification of individuals attempting to enter the building
- School Office located on second floor

Audience Member: Glen Inlow
- Grandparent of District student
- Believes staff should be able to learn, train, and defend building occupants with firearms

Audience Member: Nicole Goucher
- UpRiver Elementary School Principal
- Not supportive of staff members being armed
- Police response time from Benewah County Sheriff’s Office to UpRiver Elementary School in Fernwood due to distance between Sheriff’s Office and School
- Community and parent training of emergency drills

Audience Member: Pam Secord
- Patron
- Supportive of trained and willing staff members being armed, with identity of staff members kept confidential, with weapons secured and locked
- Response training for staff and students

Audience Member: Waylon Newton
- Staff member poll to see if staff are interested in being trained/armed with firearms
- Supports use of staff members for school safety
Audience Member: Margaret Gannon
- State Representative and Former School Board Member
- Communication is key – work with parents, police force, and patrons regarding school safety
- Each Idaho community is unique in its needs and planning for school safety measures
- Funding for school safety needs to be addressed at the State level

Audience Member: Tammi Masters
- Heyburn Elementary School Principal
- Multi-faceted process and steps to address District-wide school safety
- Secure facilities first and foremost prior to considering resource officers and/or arming staff in school buildings
- Relocate Heyburn Office to first floor and address St. Maries High School perimeter
- Survey staff to see if they are willing to be trained to carry firearms in the school setting

Audience Member: Rob Baskin
- Parent of students in Heyburn Elementary School, St. Maries Middle School, and UpRiver Elementary School
- Supports training and arming teachers through multi-step process
- Supports committee of teachers, parents, and concerned citizens working together on school safety matters
- Community programs, church programs, groups and activities to keep youth active and away from inappropriate activities

Audience Member: Cynthia (Cindy) Willard
- District teacher for 31 years, with current assignment at St. Maries Middle School
- Her job is to teach students, listen to them, celebrate with them, support them in the myriad ways that teachers undertake, report abuse to authorities, assist in locating resources for medical/dental needs, attend court hearings involving students, work with families for the success of their students, etc.
- Does not support training and arming teachers with firearms
- Advocates for ongoing safety technique drills and practices

Audience Member: David Nelson
- State of Idaho Senate Candidate
- Appreciates the opportunity to hear the constituents’ thoughts so that he can best represent their interests

Audience Member: Tina Brewer
- Mother of students attending District 41
- Supports firearms in schools, with security measures
- Supports improved facilities to relocate school office
- Supports training for UpRiver Staff and community members due to remote location
Audience Member: Katherine Patzer
- Mother of potential future District students
- Concerned with District processes for parent notification in the event of emergency situations/issues

Superintendent Holthaus advised that the Board will continue to accept comments during the remainder of the community forum, however they will not be sharing their personal opinions or accept audience questions during the remainder of the meeting. The Board welcomes all input and will continue its work to protect its students and staff.

No other audience members came forth for a first round of session comments. Superintendent Holthaus invited first-round audience members to speak a second time if they so desired.

Audience Member: Pam Secord – Second Round
- Must consider both internal and external security measurers
- Trained/armed persons are the best defense to stop the carnage

Audience Member: Glen Inlow – Second Round
- Society has gone in the wrong direction and needs to be reversed to 60 years ago when schools were teaching students about firearms
- Teachers need to be entrusted to protect students

Audience Member: Eric Johnson – Second Round
- Does not believe that in an imminent deadly threat that having a firearm in a locked box will be easily accessible for use by trained staff
- Teachers are not warriors and should not be expected to receive training and be armed with firearms
- Best defense is controlling the facilities’ access points

Audience Member: Waylon Newton – Second Round
- Appreciated the opportunity to share opinions with the Board and would like to have interactive dialogue with the Board
- Appreciates that teachers might not be interested in carrying firearms on school premises
- Supports facilities upgrades to address security issues

Audience Member: Alissa Michael – Second Round
- Concerned with the ability of teachers to safeguard any firearms that may be concealed on their body as staff members are in close physical proximity with students
- Supports facilities upgrades at Heyburn Elementary School so that all visitors first point of contact will be with the school office personnel

Audience member: Cindy Willard – Second Round
- Extensive process District-wide to review, access, and train students and staff, and staff members are more than willing to participate in the process
• Utilize the services of law enforcement personnel who are appropriately trained

Chair Hendrickx thanked the audience members for attending the meeting, and shared that it is the Board’s ultimate goal to keep the District’s students safe. Further, he advised that the Board will continue its works on school safety and addressing facilities issues related to the same.

No additional audience members elected to speak, so they were dismissed at 6:58 p.m. Audience members were allowed to speak among themselves.

Because the Board Agenda advertised the meeting as occurring between the hours of 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Board recessed until 8:00 p.m., to provide an opportunity for any additional late-arriving meeting attendees to address the Board.

Trustee Barta exited the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

No additional attendees joined the meeting.

There being no further business for which the meeting was called, Chair Hendrickx called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Trustee Reynolds, with a second by Trustee Dirlam, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, 2018. The motion carried with three affirmative votes.

/s/ JODY HENDRICKX
Jody Hendrickx, Board Chair

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