MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. MARIES JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41 held in the Board Room at the District Office, 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, Monday, March 23, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Vice-Chair Sandy Kennelly and Trustee Jody Terrell

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Alica Holthaus, Business Manager Danette Cordell, and Board Clerk Karen Robinson

OTHERS PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m., at the District Office, 240 S. 11th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, on Monday, March 23, 2020, by Chair Jody Hendrickx.

A motion was made by Trustee Reynolds and seconded by Trustee Dirlam 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 as approved with three affirmative votes.

Chair Hendrickx led the Pledge of Allegiance.

As part of Agenda Item C, a motion was made by Trustee Reynolds, with a second by Chair Hendrickx, to ratify Superintendent Holthaus’ decision to close school beginning March 19, 2020 through April 5, 2020, due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Chair Hendrickx called for discussion, and Superintendent Holthaus advised that based on governmental recommendations, all District schools are closed through April 5. Further, she advised that based on the latest information provided by the Idaho State Department of Education as well as Governor Brad Little’s office, it is unlikely at this point that school will resume on April 6 as originally planned. Trustee Dirlam requested that he be put on record that he believes the safest place for students during times such as this, is in school with staff rather than having the ability to freely move about within the community. Discussion ensued related to the pros and cons of school closures and the benefits of students being in attendance in the classrooms. Superintendent Holthaus advised that she had been monitoring daily student attendance and noted that there was a continuous decline in the percentage of students in attendance in all school buildings. She further advised that the Food Services Department will be providing the “Grab and Go” breakfasts and lunches. Additional discussion ensued regarding access to District school buildings and restricting access to only the most essential personnel as school buildings will be extensively cleaned. Superintendent Holthaus also provided information regarding the District’s potential move to Stage 4 of its plan to provide educational services to students should the closure go beyond the April 6 return date. Chair Hendrickx called for further discussion, and none was forthcoming. Chair Hendrickx called for a vote on the motion, and the motion carried with two affirmative votes, with Trustee Dirlam voting nay on the motion.
An additional Special Board meeting was set for April 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., to review the District’s closure status.

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 Dirlam, with a second by Trustee Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 p.m., Monday, March 23, 2020. Chair Hendrickx called for further discussion, and none was forthcoming. The motion carried with three affirmative votes.

/s/ JODY HENDRICKX
Jody Hendrickx, Chair

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