MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEGOTIATING TEAM held at the District Office, 240 South 11th Street, St. Maries, ID 83861 on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:   Board Chair Jody Hendrickx and Trustee Peter Dirlam

TRUSTEES ABSENT:  Sandy Kennelly, Mark Reynolds, and Jody Terrell

STAFF PRESENT:  Business Manager Danette Cordell, Board Clerk Karen Robinson, and Jenifer Miller

OTHERS PRESENT:  St. Maries Education Association Negotiators – Monique Huddleston and Kathleen Davis

Agenda Item I – Open Session:

The meeting was called to order on June 10, 2020, at 4:06 p.m., at the District Office, 240 S 11th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, by Chair Hendrickx.

St. Maries Joint District No. 41 (District 41) Board Chair Hendrickx and Trustee Peter Dirlam represented the District. Business Manager Danette Cordell participated to provide information, and Board Clerk Karen Robinson took the minutes for the meeting.

St. Maries Education Association members Monique Huddleston and Kathleen Davis represented St. Maries Education Association (SMEA) during negotiations.

District 41 distributed DRAFT minutes from the May 27, 2020 Negotiations meeting at 4:06 p.m., for SMEA’s review. SMEA reviewed said minutes and SMEA noted that the Minutes did not reflect that the District was going to further analyze the 4.6% increase and 5% funding holdback for the 2020-2021 school year as anticipated from the State Department of Education. Business Manager Cordell provided additional information as to the SDE funding process with explanation that funding is based on student attendance and is tied directly to specific areas, such as salary/benefits, technology, special funds, etc., and those dollars can be used for specified items only and cannot be moved from one fund to another fund to cover expenses. SMEA indicated that the Minutes did not need to be formally corrected. A copy of the Minutes will be filed with the meeting’s records.

Chair Hendrickx advised that while the State funding process is extremely complex, the District has tried very hard to make good faith efforts to support District staff, will addressing all of the other needs of the District, such as facilities, programs, technology, etc.

At 4:14 p.m., SMEA submitted their response to the District’s Proposal 2 and SMEA’s Counter Offer In Response to SMSD #41 Proposal B, all regarding Article XVII Employee Insurance and Article XVI Salary Schedule and General Provisions. A copy will be filed with the meeting’s records. Discussion ensued regarding SMEA’s response and Counter Proposal.
Following discussion, the District requested to caucus at 4:18 p.m., and they exited the meeting room. The District’s negotiators returned to the meeting room at 4:35 p.m.

The District advised that after a brief review of the SMEA Counter-Proposal, that the District would not be able to meet that proposal because of the $105,000 insurance increase to the District’s 2020-2021 Budget. Discussion ensued as to the January 2021 potential holdback which has not yet been determined by the SDE, as well as the initial 5% funding holdback, and additional areas of the Budget which SMEA feels could be used to cover funding their Counter-Proposal. Mrs. Cordell reviewed the budgeting process, the projected fund balance, the Board-approved reduction of 2.0 FTE positions, and the need for the District to look at changes to staff insurance costs. The District advised that one area that could be further cut to support the Budget is additional reduction in staffing. SMEA provided rationale to support their Counter-Proposal. Discussion ensued related to any other insurance plan options that might be available to the District. The District will respond to SMEA’ Counter-Proposal at the next Negotiations meeting.

The District advised that they have no further Proposals to advance during the meeting.

The next negotiation’s meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., at the District Office.

There being no further business for which the meeting was called, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

/s/ JODY HENDRICKX
Jody Hendrickx, Board Chair

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