



**Preston Joint School District #201  
Board of Education**

**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, December 17, 2025  
7:00 PM

District Office  
105 East 2nd South  
Preston, ID 83263

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda - Action Item  
*Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.*  
*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*
4. Consent Agenda - Action Item  
*Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee) and seconded by Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee), Carried.*  
*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*
  - 4.A. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting - November 19, 2025
  - 4.B. Financial Summary - Nov 2025
  - 4.C. Monthly Expenditures - Nov 2025
  - 4.D. Personnel Report - Nov 2025
  - 4.E. Restraint & Seclusion
5. Public Requests to Address the Board - Stakeholders may request to address the Board in open meeting by filling out the online request form at <https://psd201.org/en-us/meeting-minutes-agenda-691ac9e8> or signing a public comment form available at the meeting location and giving it to the clerk before the meeting begins.  
No requests for public comment were received.
6. Informational Items
  - 6.A. Kelley Agreement  
Mr. Darron Kelley requested to revisit the 2012 land sale agreement between the school district and Kelley Land Holdings that was signed when the addition to the Preston Jr. High and the driveway was added. Since that time, the board and administration have changed, and he wanted to make sure everyone was aware of it due to some talk about construction of a pavilion or gazebo in the area that is restricted by the agreement. The agreement is in the book provided by the title company, but it is not signed. Mr. Kelley has a copy of the signed document, which he provided to the school district. Without a notarized original signature, it can't be attached to the land. Discussion was had about fixing the fence and whether it should be a lower fence for safety reasons. The board appreciates Mr. Kelley and his willingness to share the background of the agreement with them. Superintendent Thomas will look into the repair/replacement of panels in the fence to fulfill the district requirement in the agreement.
  - 6.B. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Gary Thomas made the board aware that the school district did give all employees a Christmas bonus that was sent out last week.

SPED Statistics - Individuals with Disability Act, IDEA, was enacted in 1975 and is a civil law that guarantees access to public schools and free appropriate public education for all students with disabilities. Idaho is the only state in the nation that does not provide dedicated state funds to support special education or related expenditures. Special education positions remain among the most difficult to fill and retain. Burnout rates are especially high among special education paraprofessionals and teachers. Nobody is arguing or disputing that these students need or deserve an education, but we need to be aware of what it costs the district. The state superintendent is actually approaching the state legislature this year for money to help offset the cost, so they have generated some reports for each district showing how we are affected. Looking at the 23-24 year, for example, the state does have a formula that they give us money, which was \$1.4 million, but our cost was \$1.7 million, so the difference of \$334,000 has to come out of our general fund to help offset the expense. Our hope is that the state legislature will get on board with the funding which will give the district additional latitude to be able to use the general fund as it needs to. Our child count number in SPED is actually going up, unlike the district as a whole, our numbers are down. The other thing with SPED is the maintenance of effort which is the funds you spend, it can never go down so if the district spends \$1 million this year it has to spend \$1 million and \$1 dollar next year.

Brady Garner, SPED Director, shared how one general education student can cost \$5766 but one severe SPED student can cost \$59,700.

#### 7. Kindergarten Report

Cindy Murray, Pioneer Elementary Principal, Amanda Jones, Instructional Coach and Amy Marshal, Kindergarten teacher presented to the school board the results they have seen so far from full-day everyday kindergarten. Cindy gave a refresher on where they were 3 years ago when she became principal and their test scores were down. They changed reading programs the first year and the 2nd year went with structured literacy and intervention. The kindergartners that were there every day all day were doing great with the reading program. This year there are 7 kindergarten classrooms with 163 students. When parents signed up in January, they were leery of all day every day, but we had 3 of the classes that offered math and reading in the morning, so if someone did not want their student full day, they could take them home at lunchtime and the other 4 classes had reading in the morning and math in the afternoon. After 2 weeks every parent had decided to have their student stay all day. Amanda Jones presented the data for the past 6 years and showed the difference in growth. This year's kindergartners in December already tested at 82% on grade level after only a few months of instruction. They feel this is in a large part due to double the amount of instruction time, curriculum and the way they have set up their phonics tiers. Amy Marshal shared the growth she has seen in her class is significantly greater than she has seen in prior years. She said repetition for struggling students is so important and by having them here all day, every day she is able to provide the repetition and exposure to the letter names and sounds. She has students that are already blending sounds and reading with 75% accuracy. There are still a few students that struggle to leave parents but it isn't any worse than those that struggled that came for half-days in previous years. Superintendent Gary Thomas thanked them for taking on the challenge and the board trusting them. All day kindergarten isn't funded by the state, so once again you look at that general fund pot of money, and we are doubling our kindergarten teachers compared to funding, which has an impact across K-12 education in the district. What you're seeing is that it is worth it. If we can start them with early intervention and maintain it, they will start off on the right foot in their education.

#### 8. Action Items

##### 8.A. Non-Fulltime Students

Chairman Dax Keller presented that in a previous meeting, a procedure was passed to charge a transportation fee to non-fulltime students. Since that procedure passed, it was discovered in a state report that the state takes the funding that we collect from non-fulltime students and doesn't reimburse us for that amount. So basically, it's a net zero for us and doesn't accomplish why we passed the procedure. With the information the board had it made sense to pass the procedure, but now that we know it doesn't do as we intended, we wouldn't intentionally want to cause a burden on families in the district. I would like to change the previously approved procedure if the rest of the board feel the same. Launa Moser asked about those that had already paid the fee. Chairman Keller has drafted a letter to send to those families that it affects stating any that have already paid would be reimbursed and apologizes for any unintentional contention it may have caused.

*Motion was made to rescind the transportation fee for non-fulltime students and grant a reimbursement of all funds received. This motion, made by Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee) and seconded by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee), Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

#### 8.B. January 2026 Meeting

Discussion was had about holding meeting in January and needing to set a date. It was decided to set it for the whole year. Regular school board meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the district board room for January 2026 through December 2026.

January 21, 2026	July 15, 2026
February 18, 2026	August 19, 2026
March 18, 2026	September 16, 2026
April 15, 2026	October 21, 2026
May 20, 2026	November 18, 2026
June 17, 2026	December 16, 2026

*Motion was made to set the regularly scheduled school board meeting for the 3rd Wednesday of each month for January 2026 through December 2026 at 7:00pm. This motion, made by Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee) and seconded by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee), Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

#### 9. Policy - Action Item

##### 9.A. Policy 2nd Reading

Policy 414 reflects the strikethrough for words to be removed and the new verbiage is in red. It is being updated to reflect having an HR Director and Title IX Director. Discussion was had and the board feels the policy is good but would like to go to a 3rd reading so the public has time to see the language that has been changed. Policy 414 will be moved to a 3rd reading in January board meeting.

Policy 671P1- the current policy is attached but does not meet state regulations. We took a document which was provided to us from the state and updated with our school district information. Highlighted in yellow is the information the district inserted into the document. The Policy name changed from Section 504:Hearing Procedure to Section 504 Grievance Procedure.

Discussion was had on Policy 671P1- Launa noted that there are a couple of spots that list our current coordinator's name and as a policy, it should be generic so that we don't have to redo the policy if the employee's role changes. The places that list Brady Garner's name need to be updated to 504 Coordinator.

*Motion was made to move Policy 414 - Sexual Harrassment to a 3rd reading. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee),*

*Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

*Motion was made to move Policy 671P1 to board policy with the stipulated change, 504 Coordinator, replacing a specific employee name. This motion, made by Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee) and seconded by Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee), Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

10. Executive Session - Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student

*The board discussed Employee A - no action needed.*

*The board accepted the resignation of Employee B - no action needed*

*Motion was made to enter executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b). This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

11. Resume Open Session

*Motion to resume open session. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Abstain (With Conflict), Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*

*Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1*

12. Board Meeting Summary and Assignment Review

12.A. Acknowledge Departing Board Members

*This is Susan Yardley and Dax Keller's last school board meeting. Their service and leadership for the district is greatly appreciated. The perspective brought to each meeting from their willingness to listen to their constituents and recognizing the role of the board and how it affects everyone in the district. Ultimately, the board's job is the education of the students and that was always foremost in your mind and how you handled tough situations.*

13. Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.*

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea*  
*Yea: 5, Nay: 0*