

# **MCS D #331 Board of Trustees**

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

### **February 23, 2026 DRAFT**

#### **Executive Session**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 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; (f) legal counsel

A motion was made to move to Executive Session by Trustee Suchan, seconded by Vice Chair Kent. Motion carried. Chair Claridge – yes; Vice Chair Kent – Yes; Trustees Lowder, Moss and Suchan– yes.

#### **Board Members Present**

The following trustees were present: Chair Claridge, Vice Chair Kent, Trustees Lowder, Moss and Suchan.

#### **Call to Order & Roll Call**

#### **Visitor Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval** A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Trustee Moss, seconded by Vice Chair Kent. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda** The consent agenda was then approved by unanimous consent.

**Student Representatives** Andrew Lopez, Minico shared events at Minico. They had their fall sports assembly and held the Red Halverson wrestling tournament. Multiple senior nights have been held, and cheer and dance placed in district and will attend state competitions. Boys' bowling won state and the girls placed third.

**Good News** A slide presentation was shared with the Board from Rupert Elementary. Angela Davidson was not able to be present. Those who attended the IABE conference were also not present.

#### **Discussion**

Administrator/Department/Committee/MCEA Reports – Brandi Milliron, MCEA, thanked principals who volunteered their schools for reps to visit. At the community meeting held, people were encouraged to go out and vote.

Day on the Hill Report – Trustee Lowder shared items discussed at this event in Boise. Speakers stated that we are in a crisis because of tax cuts, and it will probably be 2-3 years until we recover. The house bill presented for all schools start after Labor Day died in committee. Bonds and funding of special education were also discussed.

Superintendent Report - Mr. Larsen reported Federal Programs had no findings on their on-site audit. Transportation went up from 44% to 77% on their audit. He met with principals to discuss staffing. He reminded the audience that the district has to budget for less units due to a fall in attendance. The district sponsored Save the Family Night on digital devices and mental health.

Clerk Page – Tonya Page, Minidoka County Clerk, introduced herself. The county is ready to break ground on a new building. She reminded the Board that resolutions must be in by March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Use of Supplemental Scores for Student Achievement with Alternate Student Achievement – Ellen Austin explained to the board when setting student goals at the beginning of the year, the numbers used were from the old platform. Administrators are requesting to use additional data to help evaluate teachers. Data from original sources will still be used.

Closing of Minidoka Junior High – Mr. Larsen explained to the board and audience that with budgetary constraints and less support unites, he is recommending the school be closed after this year. With only the 40-50 students, we don't get funding from the state to pay for everything. Over \$270,000 has to be covered by the district. He does not see a way this can be funded. He met with staff and there were a few options discussed. One – students go to Mt. Harrison because of lower class size. There was a concern about having junior high students with the older students. Another option was for students to return to their home school. He spoke with Ashley Johnson, West Minico, and she felt with the interventions they have in place students would be successful at West. Terry Bruns stated she understood in the meeting held that students would be at West/East but in their own school within a school. She felt parents should have input on this. Chair Claridge stated this decision would not be made easily. There is a lot of thought that goes into this decision. It is frustrating that the State has put us in this position. The Board felt more information is needed on this before making a decision.

Retirement Incentive – Mr. Larsen stated funding is tough and he has had to let go all Category 1 teachers. This incentive would be for retirement eligible staff who may be on the fence to give them an incentive to retire and save jobs. It would be for classified and certified. His recommendation is \$2,500 and only eligible to retire through Persi and by a certain date.

RFQ's for Minico Gym Renovation, Mt. Harrison Windows and Doors – There were 9 RFQ's submitted. After review (Daryl Kent, Mr. Larsen, Kevin Simmons) they chose two companies, both having the same high score, Gary Jones and Star Corporation. Chair Claridge and Trustee Suchan felt both companies were good. Both projects would take extensive work to complete. Mr. Larsen recommendation to the Board was to award Gary Jones the Mt. Harrison projects and Star Core the Minico gym project.

**Patron Comments** – Steve Roberts, parents, expressed concern over closing Minidoka Junior High. Chief Deputy Clerk Melisaa Price-Bair introduced herself to board members.

### **Business**

Use of Supplemental Scores for Student Achievement with Alternate Student Achievement – A motion to approve additional supplemental scores and data was made by Trustee Suchan, seconded by Trustee Lowder. Motion carried.

Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar – A motion to approve the revisions in the 2026-2027 School Calendar was made by Trustee Suchan, seconded by Trustee Moss. Motion carried.

Closing of Minidoka Junior High School after Current Year (2025-2026) This item will be tabled until next month. Motion to table this item for the next board meeting was made by Trustee Moss, seconded by Trustee Lowder. Motion carried.

Retirement Incentive - A motion for those who are able to retire under Persi and the retirement letter is received by HR dated by March 31, 2026 was made by Vice Chair Kent, seconded by Trustee Lowder. Motion carried.

Acceptance of RFQ's for Minico Gym Renovation, Mt. Harrison Windows and Doors - A motion to approve Mr. Larsen's recommendation of Gary Jones over the Mt. Harrison projects and Star Core over Minico gym projects was made by Vice Chair Kent, seconded by Trustee Moss. Motion carried.

### **New/Amended/Deleted Policies**

1. Policy 544.00 Personal Leave
2. Adoption of 3000 Student ISBA Policies
3. Policy 5320 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace (replaces 524.00)

4. Policy 5750 Employing Retired Teachers and Administrators (replaces 587.00)

5. Policy 5751 Employing Retired School Resource Officers or Bus Drivers

A motion to approve all of the above policies under 10F was made by Trustee Suchan, seconded by Trustee Moss. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was made by Trustee Suchan, seconded by Vice Chair Kent. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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Jake Claridge, Chair of School Board

Attest: March 16, 2026

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Kerri Tibbitts, Board Clerk