

WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83



Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Who should be recognized for their contribution to student growth and achievement?

- School Board Appreciation - This month is School Board Appreciation Month. It is appropriate to nominate the board for their dedication to the education of students in the school district. There are many challenges to face and the board as a whole have slowed the pace down to consider the impacts of their work.

What has the superintendent been working on this past month?

- 2022-23 Fiscal Audit - The audit is moving along. The Finance Committee discussed this on Thursday, January 9, 2024, at its meeting. The district is still waiting to see what additional items are needed to bring this to a conclusion.
- Field Trip to Junior High School - District level staff took another quick trip to the junior high this past week. Option #4 was our focus. Rooms were identified as office areas. A needs list is being developed for safety and security for either Option #1 and Option #4.
- PLC Guiding Coalition - Professional learning will be led by team members on Friday, February 14, 2025. The next four months will be finalized at the AdTeam Meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. A draft copy is attached to this report. Trustees are invited to attend the PLC Work with the entire certificated staff and/or attend building activities throughout the day.
- Title IX Team Formed - In December, I asked the AdTeam to begin meeting on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, rather than the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. As Title IX Coordinator, there is training held on the second Tuesday of the month.

The AdTeam agreed to the change. At our meeting on January 7, 2024, the following Title IX Team assignments were made:

- Title IX Coordinator - Kim Spacek, Superintendent
- Investigator - Matt George, Principal
- Decision Maker - Tommy Hansen, Elementary Complaints
Lynn Parker, Secondary Complaints
- Appeal Decision Maker - Peggy Loutzenhiser

The team will be attending required training for their position each month.

- Facility Committee - This is a Board Committee and was recently organized in an update of the policy concerning committees. Wednesday, January 8, 2025, Ryan Carruth, Operations Director, led the first meeting under reorganization. It was well attended and productive. All who attended contributed to discussion items on the agenda. Trustees Delbert Pound and Paul Truco attended representing the board. A recommendation will be made by Ryan to surplus and demolish the portable buildings at the junior high and junior-senior high campuses. I recommend approval. Working within the procurement policy, bids will be solicited to complete the work. Before bids are sought a criteria will be formulated to assure the work is completed safely by licensed and bonded contractors.
- Finance Committee - The committee met on Thursday, January 9, 2025. This the second committee recently organized in updating the policy on board committees. Trustees Margy Hall and Kathy Nash attended as committee members representing the board. Also in attendance, were Trustees Paul Turco and Ann Yount. Kendra Salesky, Director of Finance, fielded questions on policy updates and district finance. It appeared those who attended were happy to see the committee engaged in discussing district financial matters.
- Invitation to Attend AdTeam Meetings - Discussion has already begun on planning for the 2025-26 School Year. The team discussed inviting Trustees to our meetings to better understand the issues we are tackling. The next meetings in January are listed below with the primary topics:
 - Wednesday, January 22nd - Mental Health Wellness & School Nurse Updates
 - Wednesday, January 29th - Instructional Program to included Innovational Strategies & Budget for 2025-26 School Year

All meetings are 7 A.M. to 9 A.M. in the District Office - Board Room.

Paul Turco, Trustee, was invited to attend both and has committed to attending. Is there a Trustee who would like to attend one or both of the meetings?

- Facility Management Ecosystem - In an effort to help identify all components in facility management, I have been working with Ryan Carruth, Operations Director, on a graphic. The graphic attempts to show the many parts to school district facilities. A draft of the graphic is attached.
- 5-year Strategic Plan Graphic - I have also worked on a graphic to illustrate the pillars of the 5-year Strategic Plan in a manner that shows the foundation of our community is education. The draft of the graphic is attached. Comments for improving this graphic are welcome.

What tasks need focus for the upcoming month?

- Idaho Governor Executive Order 2024-11 - Work on this policy was sidelined for other pressing matters. I plan to work on updating our current policy and take it back to the AdTeam prior to proposing it for an update. The guidelines for meeting the policy guidelines and receiving \$5,000 are attached to this report.
- Board Policy Updates - Several board policies need to be updated, as reported in my tasks for last month. I will discuss any changes with the appropriate stakeholder group before asking for them to be placed on the board meeting agenda. The board will be informed as this process begins for any policy.
- Principal Midyear Check-in - The check-in is a formal opportunity for the principal and evaluator to discuss progress related to the goals and the evaluation process. This fall, time has been focused on items that come up. My attention is to move toward the instruction going on in each building. January is the month the Midyear Check-in is to begin.

Are there any other items of significance to report?

- Sensational Successes - This topic has been a part of AdTeam agendas throughout the year. Administrators continue to see successes and share them with the group each month. Here are some examples:
 - Lynn Parker, Principal of Priest River Elementary School, shared the following successes:
 - \$11,000 was donated for implementation of IXL over the next three years and that will be available for all three (3) elementary school use.
 - 56 students in grades 1 through 3 grew in their IRI scores.
 - The first Spelling Bee will be held since before COVID-19 on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

- *Matt George, Principal of Priest River Lamanna Junior-Senior High School, shared the following successes:*
 - *Five (5) juniors scored 90% or above on the ASVAB.*
 - *Registration through Skyward began this week through Skyward. The process will help students focus on Spring Semester.*

Other Items of Interest

I read the following documents to keep up with current issues in the field of education: (Reading is done during each mealtime in the morning, noon, and evening as well as on two weekends per month that I am staying at the house in Oldtown.)

- *Amplify Student Voices - The authors focused on creating a student-centered classroom. Their lens was equity, however, many suggestions applied to all children of all ages. Key to any learning environment is a relationship the teacher has with students as well as an understanding of helping them learn in order to meet the standard of proficiency in whatever the student is to learn.*
 - *APA Citation:*
Baines, A.M., Medina, D., & Healy. (2023). *Amplify student voices: Equitable practices to build confidence in the classroom.* ASCD Press.
- *Whitepaper: Learned vs. Earned - This whitepaper is a product of Alma, a school management system. Even though it was information about selling a product, the information is relevant to proficiency-base or standards-based grading. This aligns with the work completed this year on the standards-based report card and with the PLC initiative the district is undertaking the next two years through a grant. Important elements to remember as PLCs are developed in relation to instruction and grading are listed below:*
 - *Identify teacher leaders to form a working group.*
 - *Construct a reporting system that identifies goals.*
 - *Identify tools needed to support proficiency or standards-based grading.*
 - *Plan a pilot as an opportunity to test implementation and identify unforeseen obstacles.*
 - *Carve out time for collaboration.*
 - *Reassess the reporting system and the components that lead to communication as there are challenges to creating perfection the first time.*

- *Improving School Board Effectiveness* - I began reading this book shortly before the board report was due. Here are some highlights of the book:

- Chapter 1 *Board Leadership that Matters Most: Lessons Learned from the Lighthouse Studies*
- Chapter 2 *Transforming Beliefs into Action: Board and Superintendent Teams Working Together*
- Chapter 3 *School Boards in Their Environment: Balancing Brokerage and Closure*
- Chapter 4 *How Board Governance Practices Affect Student Achievement*
- Chapter 5 *What School Board Members Need to Know: Assessing Leadership*
- Chapter 6 *Elements of School Board Success: A Comprehensive Board Assessment Tool for Systems Improvement*
- Chapter 7 *Assessing Individual Board Members: A Self-Assessment for improved Board Performance*
- Chapter 8 *Superintendent Evaluations: A Opportunity to Strengthen Board Practice.*
- Chapter 9 *The Panasonic Foundation Experience: Promising Practices and Lessons Learned from Work with Urban School Boards*
- Chapter 10 *Learning the Work by Doing the Work: The Massachusetts District Governance Support Project*
- Chapter 11 *Lighthouse School Boards: Effective Boards Making an Impact on Student Achievement*
- Conclusion *School Boards Matter for Student Achievement*

This is a long list of chapters organized into three parts. This quote sums up our work:

“Every preK-12 district in America needs a vertically aligned vision and top-down support -- from the boardroom to the classroom -- to realize the shared goal of more effective instruction that results in higher achievement and greater learning for all students.”

More insights will come later, however, everyone wins with vision and support!

- *APA Citation:*

Alsbury, T.L., & Gore, P. (2015). Improving School Board Effectiveness: A Balanced Governance Approach. Harvard Education Press.

Acronyms:

Education has terminology formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a phrase of letters or word. (This list will expand as acronyms are used in this report.)

- *ASVAB = Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery*
- *IRI - Idaho Reading Indicator*
- *PLC - Professional Learning Community*

West Bonner County School District # 83

Work Day Agenda

Friday, January 31, 2025

8:00 - 4:00 Teacher Work Day
90-minute {District Activities/Principal meeting with staff}

West Bonner County School District # 83

Professional Development

Agenda

Time

Activity

Friday, February 14, 2025

7:30 - 8:15 Mentoring
Sara Butler, Mentoring Coordinator
Peggy Loutzenhiser, Elementary Coordinator
Priest River Lamanna High School - Library

8:15 - 9:45 PLC Work
Guiding Coalition Teacher Leaders
Priest River Lamanna High School - Cafeteria

- o *The 4 Essential Questions*
- o *PLC Right vs. PLC Light*

Expected Outcome:

Participants will continue to understand the formation and purpose of Professional Learning Communities.

9:45 - 11:00 Return to Buildings / PLC Work
Loretta Glazier, Principal, and Lynn Parker, Principal
Idaho Hill Elementary School

- o *Work in Grade Level Teams (K-6)*
- o *Open Court Training*
- o *review core learning standards*
- o *create common formative assessments*
- o *devise rubrics for assessing common formative assessments*

Matt George, Principal
Priest Lake Lamanna Junior/Senior High School

- o *review core learning standards*
- o *create common formative assessments*

Expected Outcome:

Apply Professional Learning Community knowledge to building specific activities.

West Bonner County School District # 83

- 11:00 - 12:00 **Lunch**
K- 12 Teachers - on your own/organized by building
- 12:00 - 2:00 **PLC Work**
Potential Areas of focus:
- *To Be Determined*
- 2:00 - 4:00 **Building Activities**
Potential Topics for discussion:
- *To Be Determined*

West Bonner County School District # 83

Work Day

Agenda

Friday, March 28, 2025

8:00 - 4:00 Teacher Work Day
90-minute {District Activities/Principal meeting with staff}

West Bonner County School District # 83

Professional Development

Agenda

Time

Activity

Friday, April 18, 2025

7:30 - 8:15 Mentoring
Sara Butler, Mentoring Coordinator
Peggy Loutzenhiser, Elementary Coordinator
Priest River Lamanna High School - Library

8:15 - 9:45 PLC Work
Guiding Coalition Teacher Leaders
Priest River Lamanna High School - Cafeteria

Expected Outcome:

Participants will continue to understand the formation and purpose of Professional Learning Communities.

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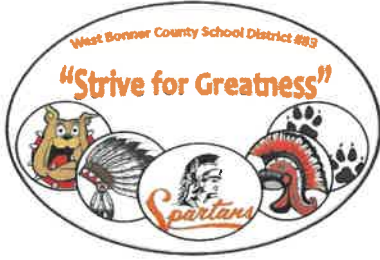
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West Bonner County School District #83

Title IX Team

2024-25 School Year

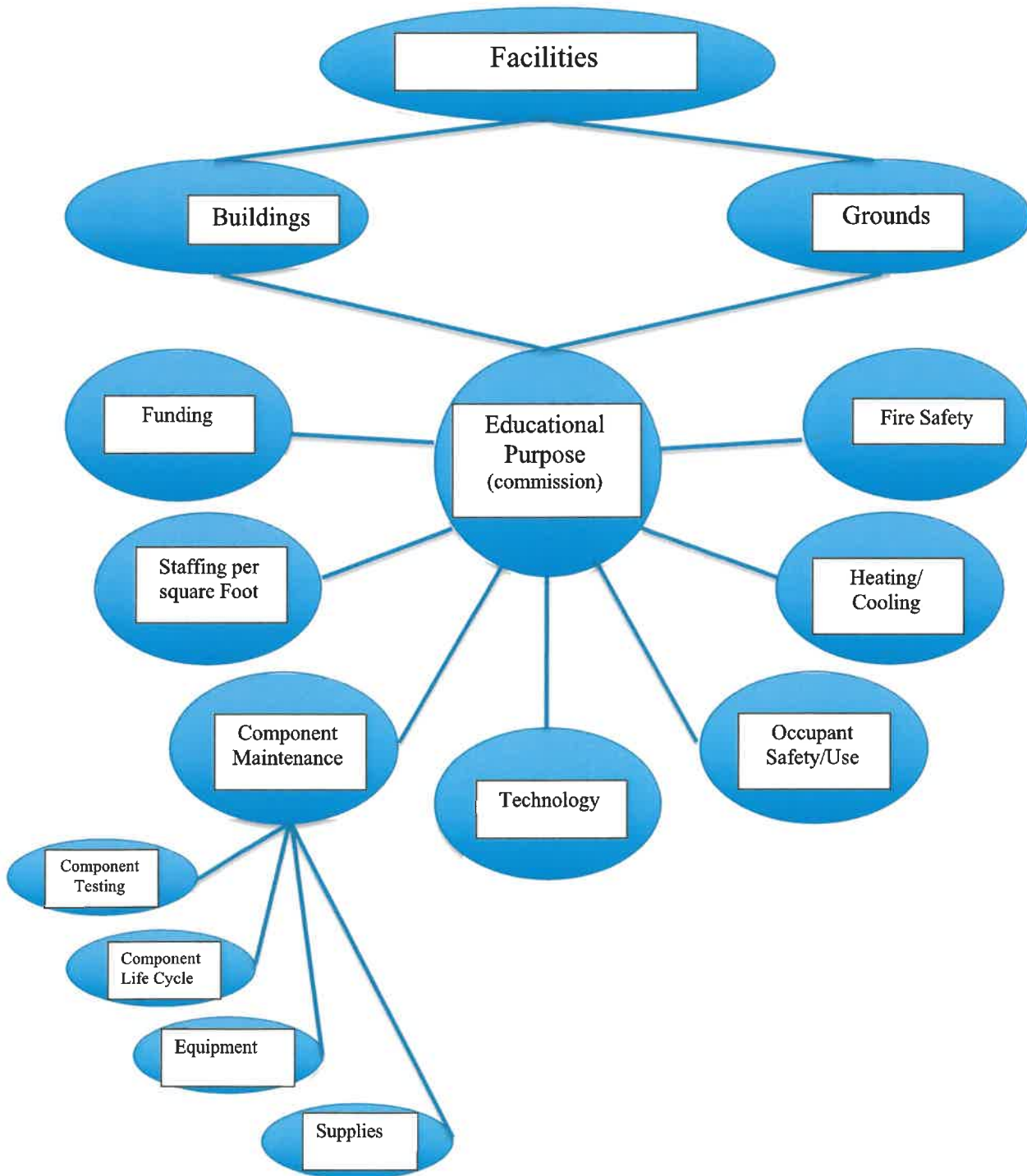
No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

- Title IX Coordinator: Kim Spacek
- Investigator: Matt George
- Decision Maker: Tommy Hansen, Elementary Complaints
(different than the Coordinator and Investigator) Lynn Parker, Secondary Complaints
- Appeal Decision Maker: Peggy Loutzenhiser

- MAJOR REQUIREMENTS:
 - Title IX Coordinator – identify and inform
 - The scope of activity on and off campus is their oversight.
 - Training is on investigation and hearings, appeals, informal resolutions, and how to engage without bias.
 - Trainings must be published each time the team has attended along with names and materials.
 - A team member needs to be trained to facilitate the Informal Resolution Process (someone who has not touched the case).

WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83 FACILITY MANAGEMENT ECOSYSTEM

Definition: School facilities resemble an ecological ecosystem, especially because of its complex interdependent parts. Neglect in one area can cause the system to fail.



WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83
5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
THE FOUNDATION OF EDUCATING STUDENTS

