



# WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83

Special Meeting of the Board  
December 9, 2024 7:00 PM  
Priest River Elementary - Cafeteria  
231 Harriet  
Priest River , Idaho 83856

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## MEETING MINUTES

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Attendance Taken at 7:13 PM.

Board Chair	Margaret Hall:	Present
Trustee	Kathy Nash:	Present
Trustee	Delbert Pound:	Present
Trustee	Paul Turco:	Present
Vice Chair	Ann Yount:	Present

### **I. Call Meeting to Order**

**Discussion:** Meeting Called to Order at 7:19PM

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **III. Approval of the Agenda - Action Item**

#### **Action(s):**

Motion to Approve the Agenda. This motion, made by Ann Yount and seconded by Kathy Nash, Passed.

**Voting Summary:** Yea: 5, Nay: 0

### **IV. Comments from the Audience on the Agenda - Limit of 2 minutes**

**Discussion:** The Board heard from Martin Negle, Candace Turner, Kendra Salesky, and Craig Turner.

### **V. Old Business - Action Items**

### **VI. New Business - Action Items**

#### **Action(s):**

Motion to bring New Business to the table. This motion, made by Paul Turco and seconded by Delbert Pound, Passed.

**Voting Summary:** Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VI.A. Consideration regarding Formalizing the Facilities and Finance Committees

**Discussion:** The Board heard a presentation from Superintendent Spacek regarding the composition and purpose of committees.

Chair Hall expressed that expanding the finance committee could allow for a broader group to have a say in and learn about the District budget, which could affect positive changes in funding the District.

Trustee Turco said that we are already doing many of the things in the presented committee policy document from Blaine County. He cautioned the other Board members to make careful decisions and then reassess them at a later time in order to plan for the future. He would like to see the PTO be a part of the committee process as well.

Chair Hall related that a formalization of the committees may assist the District in avoiding damaging misunderstandings about the inner workings of the District and future District plans. She hoped that the District could bring in special counsel from community members who have expertise in industries and trades which are relevant to said committees.

Trustee Nash agreed that having committee members with expertise would have a positive impact on District functions.

Superintendent Spacek reasserted that revisiting the composition and usage of committees is an important function of the Board.

**Action(s):**

Motion to expand the Finance Committee, allowing for Superintendent Spacek to draft documents for review at the December 16th Finance Committee Meeting. This motion, made by Kathy Nash and seconded by Ann Yount, Passed.

**Voting Summary:** Yea: 5, Nay: 0

**VI.B. Consideration regarding Immediate and Future Facilities' Challenges/Needs and Budget Priorities**

**VI.B.1. Recommendations from the Facilities Committee and Next Steps**

**Discussion:** Trustee Turco presented the recommendations that were brought to the Board as a result of the November Facilities Committee meeting. He expressed that he would ask the board not to accept the recommendation to close the Junior High. The District made a promise to the community regarding the use of facilities at the Junior High and should fulfill those obligations.

Vice Chair Yount related that the Board should carefully come to a decision regarding what to do about the Junior High in the future, and reject the recommendation to close it.

Trustee Pound echoed the sentiments of Trustee Turco and Vice Chair Yount.

Trustee Nash asked what the reason was for the initial recommendation of a January 1st closing date for the Junior High Building. Trustee Yount took responsibility for the decision. She stated that she had attended the facilities' committee meeting and expressed her previous views very strongly. She has since changed her mind and asked the other Board members to consider various options for reducing costs.

Director of Operations Ryan Carruth spoke about the possible methods to reduce costs in the building further. District facilities staff have experimented with the settings of the boiler to heat only sections of the building which are used. He expressed that the District's ability to manage the controls is limited. There is no way to set a specific temperature in the building, but there are ways they can manage temperatures to find a balance and save on costs.

Chair Hall noted that the District has reduced costs by removing a dumpster. She asked Business Manager Kendra Salesky if it was possible to remove another dumpster for further savings.

Business Manager Kendra Salesky noted that there was an issue with the bill received by Waste Management. There weren't any cost savings reflected on the bill and she has been working on discovering the issue.

The Board discussed savings options further, such as modifying plans for expenses like snow plowing.

Vice Chair Yount spoke further on ensuring the Board makes informed and thoughtful decisions regarding the District's budgetary needs.

Trustee Turco reminded the community that without the passage of a levy, the District will have to make hard decisions and further reduce costs to maintain viability for public education.

Chair Hall would like to re-frame the conversation to focus on what expenditures are necessary in order to educate District students in a meaningful and valuable way. She asked how the District could add value to the educational services we provide to the children of the community.

**Action(s):**

Motion to allow Ryan Carruth to continue monitoring heating options at the Junior High building, reduce costs by removing another dumpster and ensure snow plowing meets ADA compliance standards. This motion, made by Paul Turco and seconded by Ann Yount, Passed.

**Voting Summary:** Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VI.B.2. Discussion regarding Moving District Office to PR Junior High Annex

**Discussion:** The Board discussed the option of moving the District Office to the Junior High building annex.

Trustee Pound expressed that the Board does not make decisions quickly and that if we are going to move the District Office to the Junior High we should make the decision now and make a plan for achieving that result later in the coming year.

Trustee Nash agreed that the Board must resolve to be forward-thinking and come to a decision for a future plan.

Trustee Pound noted that he would like to utilize the annex because the main building could still be used for the students of the District or for novel revenue streams.

Vice Chair proposed using the portable unit as a possible office for the Superintendent. However, Director of Operations Ryan Carruth informed the Board that there is black mold in the building and that it cannot be occupied for the safety of staff and students.

The Board further discussed options for the Junior High building.

The Board scheduled a meeting to further explore these topics to be held on the 13th of January, 2025.

**Action(s):**

Motion to instruct Superintendent Spacek to do a thorough analysis and cost analysis of moving the District Office. This motion, made by Paul Turco and seconded by Delbert Pound, Passed.

**Voting Summary:** Yea: 5, Nay: 0

**VII. Motion to Adjourn**

**Action(s):**

Motion to Adjourn at 8:34PM. This motion, made by Paul Turco and seconded by Delbert Pound, Passed.

**Voting Summary:** Yea: 5, Nay: 0

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*Margaret W. Hall, Board Chair*

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*Julie A. Hinshaw, Board Clerk*