

**Salmon School District #291
Board of Trustees
Special Session Minutes
March 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chuck Overacker at 5:33 p.m.

Present were Chairman Chuck Overacker, Vice Chair Juniper MacFarlane, Trustee Richard Natelson, and Trustee Kellen Miller. A quorum was present. Also present were Superintendent Chris Born; Director of Finance, Planning, and Program Evaluation, Eileen Holden; and standing in for Deb Cheney, Board Clerk, was Chaylin Olson.

REGULAR SESSION

Chuck Overacker led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Born stated that a Trustee cannot be sworn in at a Special Board Meeting. Trustee Natelson motioned to amend the agenda to remove item A, New Trustee Oath of Office, second by Vice Chair MacFarlane. Passed 4/0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Miller motioned to go into Executive Session, 74-206(1)(b) and (d): to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, individual agent or public-school student. To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided by law. Trustee Natelson seconded the motion. Passed 4-0. The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m.

Student A: Discussion with Student A, Parent of Student A, and Board occurred.

The Board moved from Executive Session to Regular Session at 6:12 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION-Continued

Regular session began at 6:12 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT

Rick Sessions - Mr. Sessions reported that the Community Bond Committee met and decided that the group wants to wait to run the bond. He said the committee talked to the architect who drew up the Aberdeen Middle School. This architect happened to be the same one that created a plan for the Pioneer Elementary when the roof was fixed. Mr. Sessions stated that the architect already knows about the soil conditions and problems the school is dealing with. The committee looked into what it would cost to remodel the Pioneer Elementary. They also want to look at what it would take to build a middle school rather than a K-8. He stated that his research had some merit. The big problems in the Pioneer will cost a large amount of money to remodel, approximately 6 million dollars, and it would cost more money to do both rather than the bond amount that was proposed.

The committee decided to invite the architect and bring in a general contractor that currently works with the company. They want to bring professional opinions and ideas to the community. They think it would be best if the Salmon School Administration had no involvement in the bond. Mr. Sessions says we all want to accomplish the same goals. The cost may still be the \$26.5 million but he believes hearing it from an architect rather than the Board or committee could get people on board. The Committee wants to post ads to create a committee to work on a building plan. They want to take recommendations from the new committee. Mr. Sessions stated that the Community Bond Committee would like to revisit the bond for the August or November elections.

Evalyn Bennett - Mrs. Bennett recommend refraining from any discussion about the bond due to the ongoing investigation on the school administration. She asked the Board to not to make a hasty decision when it comes to rerunning the bond in May. She believes that there are many alternatives to running it so soon. Bennett read off a list of eight questions that she wanted the Board to be able to answer before they made the decision. She provided the Board a copy of the list.

David Tomlinson - Mr. Tomlinson stated that he was thankful for teachers and parents who made him go to public school. He asked the Board to strongly consider their decision before voting on the bond. He said 20 years is a long time to be paying on a bond. Mr. Tomlinson said his grandchildren and most likely his great grandchildren will be paying on this bond as well. He would like to think that financially they will have the room to afford this \$25.6 million bond. He wants the Board to consider that by the time this school would be paid off Salmon High School would most likely be in the same spot as Pioneer Elementary. Tomlinson stated, in Salmon, 1 in 6 people are living below poverty levels. Many companies have closed over the years. His question is, how is the interest paid? Is it included in the \$25.6 million bond?

Cid Hayden - Mr. Hayden believes that the current administration has inherited previous administrations distrust from the community. He felt if the Board moved on with rerunning the bond people would begin to feel like their votes didn't matter. Moving on so quickly after 10 failures tells people that their votes mean nothing. It adds to the fractured trust. Hayden said on Monday, Overacker brought up a work session to find common ground. He would like to see the Board set up an email and PO Box. He would like to see them send out announcements letting the community know that the Board cares about everyone's votes. He wants to see the Board send out a survey; something with a question along the lines of "I will vote yes if.." He believes this will help to reestablish the communities trust in the Board.

Kenn Roberts - Mr. Roberts stated that there is nobody in our community that wants our kids to attend an unmaintained, run down school. Roberts believes that a new school is a valid idea. Many thought that the bond process was suspicious and felt that voting no was the only way to express their dismay. He believed that there were too many qualified individuals who had the time to verify the out of town experts' evaluations. The Board never asked the science department or music department etc. what resources they needed to teach successfully. The Board instead substituted locals with an out of townner who mislead them. Then the Board used questionable posts and one-way meetings to advance their agenda. Roberts states the process came across as heavy handed, condescending and non-transparent. He believes we have another opportunity to rethink the process. Otherwise the Board has not only failed our community but also the kids again.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Agenda

Trustee Miller motioned to approve the amended agenda as presented, second by Vice Chair MacFarlane. Passed 4/0.

NEW BUSINESS

Determination of Possible Bond Election

Superintendent Born-asked if and when the Board wants to run the election for the bond again.

Chairman Overacker stated he had been talking to everyone in town. He had a lot of no voters explaining why they made the decision they did. Chairman Overacker stated that what he had heard was encouraging. People say that they are now ready. He believes we have great momentum right now. He stated that we have a great opportunity to now bring in both sides and come to some common ground. Chairman Overacker stated that we can't make everyone happy. Getting information out there from contractors and architects could help. He doesn't want to lose momentum. He stated that we need to get back to basics and move forward. Chairman Overacker doesn't think the committee has time to accomplish what needs to be done between now and May

20th. Even if we can prove the cost in 6 weeks, we could not change the amount on the bond. He thinks that the Board should hold off on the bond, and most committee members are in agreement.

Trustee Natelson stated that he believes it is also very important to get our biggest critics involved. It is easy to complain, but are they willing to step up?

Superintendent Born recommended suspending the bond indefinitely. The Board needs to make sure all people are on board.

Chairman Overacker stated that they need to have public meetings and continue with input and finding out everyone's priorities for future reference.

Vice Chair MacFarlane agreed that they needed to continue with the informational meetings.

Trustee Natelson motioned to table a possible bond election indefinitely, second by Trustee Miller. Passed 4/0.

Proposed Bond Resolution

Trustee Miller motioned to table the proposed bond resolution, second by Trustee Natelson. Passed 4/0.

Action Pertaining to Executive Session

Trustee Natelson motioned to expel student A, second by Vice Chair MacFarlane. Discussion followed. Trustee Natelson amended the motion to expel student A with possible reinstatement at the start of second semester in the school year of 2019-2020 if student A petitions prior to second semester, seconded by Trustee Miller. Passed 4/0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Chuck Overacker, Chairman

Date

Chaylin Olson, Stand In for Deb Cheney as Board Clerk

Date