

**Salmon School District #291  
Board of Trustees  
Special Session Minutes  
January 7, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Overacker at 6:01 p.m.

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

Chairman Overacker led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Vice Chair MacFarlane read a letter from a patron who had concerns regarding a newspaper article in the Recorder Herald about the Board's plan to seek public support for a new elementary school. The patron had concerns about article's reference to Pre-K, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades being included in new elementary school, and a full size gym and auditorium.

Vice Chair MacFarlane stated that she addressed the patron's concerns about Pre-K, noting that the School District is mandated to provide services to students 3-5 who meet certain requirements and stated she would bring the other concerns to the Board.

Chairman Overacker stated that it would be good to have the committee discuss the issues that were presented.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approve Agenda**

Superintendent Born recommended the Board approve the agenda. Trustee Natelson motioned to approve the January 7, 2019 agenda, second by Trustee Miller. Passed 5/0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Survey Results**

Rich Bauscher reported on Salmon School District's pre-bond survey results. There were 150 males and 150 females surveyed who were randomly selected registered voters.

Survey Responses:

- 100% of the 300 surveyed currently lived within the Salmon School District #291 boundaries
- 51% of those surveyed have been inside any of the Salmon District schools within the past 12 months
- 63% of those surveyed believe that the Salmon School District is making the best use of their existing funding in educating the 890 students enrolled in their schools.

- 71% of those surveyed would approve of the construction of a new PK-8 elementary/middle school that would have a capacity for 650 students
- 67% of those surveyed would approve of a 20 year bond issue for approximately \$25.6 million to allow the Salmon School District to finance construction of a new PK-8 elementary/middle school, at a cost of +\$2.85 per \$1,000 of AV.
- 54% of those surveyed would approve \$9.1 million to finance a 1,000 seat capacity gymnasium and a 350 seat capacity auditorium

Mr. Bauscher stated that generally, definite yes and no answers do not change. There is a 2% margin on both so voting percentages could change.

Financially people are inclined to approve of the scope but when it comes to financing, may not approve for paying for it.

The interest rate dropped so the information provided will be changed from \$2.85 factor to \$2.65.

Mr. Bauscher stated that he recommends dropping the separate larger gym and auditorium due to the results of the survey.

Superintendent Born asked for Mr. Bauscher's opinion on the outcome of the survey. Mr. Bauscher stated that it turned out okay. He was pleased that 71% agreed that we need a new school. The formation of a committee has been helpful. He stated it was a wise decision to address the auditorium and larger gym separately. The committee still needs to work on getting out the vote and getting the information to the public. Mr. Bauscher stated that bonds are not easy but it has a good chance to pass.

Superintendent Born asked how Salmon's results compared to other schools. Mr. Bauscher stated that our results were the highest in support of a bond. He is optimistic that with a lot of hard work in the future the bond could be passed.

Trustee Natelson stated that 67% approved to support the bond financially and 66.6% is needed to approve the bond. Mr. Bauscher stated that there is a 2% buffer either way. If the percentage was 55% he would not think the bond would pass. The community would then be more concerned about the money than the need for a new school.

Superintendent Born recommended the Board accept the findings of the survey concerning the possible school bond. Trustee Natelson moved to accept the survey findings concerning the possible school bond, second by Vice Chair MacFarlane. Passed 5/0.

### **Determination of a Possible Bond Election**

Superintendent Born recommended the Board then vote to approve or deny attempting a bond election for a new school building. Vice Chair MacFarlane motioned to approve to move forward with issuing a bond election for a new school building on the March of 2019 election date, second by Trustee Prange.

Discussion followed. Trustee Natelson asked what the cost would be to the School District for the bond election. Superintendent Born stated that it will run four to five thousand dollars and the county will pay for it. Vice Chair MacFarlane asked if the March vote is too short of a timeframe. Chairman Overacker stated that the committee has discussed the

timeframe. He stated that the Board is here to provide support to the committee. We either have to pursue or not pursue. Chairman Overacker stated that statistically, of the four dates, March is the best time to run a bond. Statistically, August is the worst time to run a bond.

Trustee Prange stated CEI will be attempting a bond in May and it would be less confusing to vote on the school bond in March then vote on a community education district in May. She feels there is a strong reason to vote in March. Dorrie has always been pro building a new school and is hopeful that the committee is ready to work hard. Vice Chair MacFarlane stated that she did not disagree, and that the District is operating two schools over capacity.

Chairman Overacker stated that a great committee has been put together and asked if they would be ready for the March date.

Mr. Bauscher stated that the committee has been working for a few months. They are ahead of other districts he has been working with. He stated that in Idaho, March is by far the most favorable time to run a bond because there are no political elections. Parents are gone on vacation during August. The committee is prepared to go full force. They know what their goals are and are ready to go forward.

Chairman Overacker stated that it was not an easy decision.

Chairman Overacker asked Jenny Tracy, committee member, to comment. She stated that the average school district pays about \$4.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value and currently Lemhi County residents are paying 70 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the bond passes patrons will be paying something much lower than the average at \$3.31.

Trustee Prange stated that she knows you need to increase your yes voters through phone calls. It takes manpower and people who believe in it.

Vice Chair MacFarlane stated that it takes committed committee members to make this happen and the Board should support them in their efforts.

Trustee Natelson stated that the District's schools are over capacity and people need to know that.

Chairman Overacker asked the Board for a vote. Passed 5/0.

**Proposed Bond Resolution (See attached)**

Superintendent Born recommended the Board vote on the proposed Bond Resolution. Chairman Overacker read the following resolution:

A resolution calling a special election to be held for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of School District #291, Lemhi County, State of Idaho, and in providing for the issuance of such bonds, the levy of a tax to pay such bonds.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was then duly made by Trustee Miller and duly seconded by Trustee Natelson, put to a vote and carried, the vote being as follows:

Those voting yes: Chairman Overacker, Vice Chair MacFarlane, Trustee Natelson, Trustee Miller, and Trustee Prange. Passed 5/0.

Thereupon the Chairman declared said motion carried and said Resolution duly passed and was adopted. The Resolution was thereupon signed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and was attested by the Clerk of the Board and was ordered recorded in the records of the Board.

Superintendent Born stated County Clerk, Brenda Armstrong confirmed that Election Day will be held March 12, 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Chuck Overacker, Chairman

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Date

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Deborah K. Cheney, Board Clerk

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Date