

**Salmon School District #291  
Board of Trustees  
Special Board Session Minutes  
February 13, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Overacker at 6:06 p.m.

Present were Chairman Chuck Overacker, Vice Chair Juniper MacFarlane, and Trustee Kellen Miller. Trustee Natelson was absent. 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.

Juniper MacFarlane motioned to approve the agenda, second by Kellen Miller. Passed 3/0.

Chairman Overacker invited questions from community members. He stated that the meeting will go until 8:00 p.m. He asked those who wanted to address the Board, to come to the podium and state their name and address before addressing the Board. Chairman Overacker stated that each person will be given three minutes to ask questions. He stated that they will try to get everyone's questions answered. No heckling will be allowed. Equal time and respect will be given to everybody. Chairman Overacker stated that he was setting the rules. There will be additional time given to those who want additional speaking time once everyone has had a chance to address the Board.

NAME	QUESTION/CONCERN/COMMENT
Dave Gusky	Mr. Gusky expressed concerns about school security and asked if there really was a need for a gymnasium. Wants to see pictures of the school and would like to see figures.
Gerald Holley	Mr. Holley warned the Board that trying to pass the bond at a fast pace would be a problem. Had issues with flyer on website. Referred to past Board minutes/timelines and lack of information that was reported in the newspaper. Mr. Holley stated that the Board has put the District in jeopardy. District and County funds have been used inappropriately.
Molly Newcomb	Ms. Newcomb stated she likes individual Board members but the Board has ignored their responsibility. She stated that they have used tax payer's money to pay a consultant who has scammed them and the voters. She exempted Trustee Miller as he just joined the Board. Ms. Newcomb stated that the Board gave privileged membership on the committee information to yes voters. She stated that people can contact her for handouts. Ms. Newcomb stated that a criminal investigation is possible.
Susan Remley	Ms. Remley stated that everybody understands we need a new school. She is concerned about wants vs. needs. She only found out about the bond 3 weeks ago. Ms. Remley stated that she is a researcher and stated statistics about local property tax payments and non-payments. She is concerned that people won't be able to afford to pay their taxes. She stated that enrollment is down and asked if we afford a new school.

Lloyd Jones	Mr. Jones stated that it doesn't matter what the wants or needs are if people won't pay for it. He stated that the Board needs to get the facts out in front of people in the community. He stated he admires the Board members but feels they need to put something in front of people before they'll pay for it.
Vicky Mund	Ms. Mund expressed the need for people to work together. She stated that it's time to put differences aside and vote yes for a safe school. Kids are our future.
Pat Hurt	Ms. Hurt had a number of questions. She wants to see kids have a school and understands the importance of having a gym. Ms. Hurt stated that she has been confused about information in the flyers and newspaper. She is trying to stick to facts and would like more information.
Liz Townley	Ms. Townley expressed her concerns about middle schoolers going to the high school as well as sewer and water issues. She is concerned about the lack of facilities for kids who are impaired. Ms. Townley stated she is on the committee and that when trying to pass past bonds, the design of school has been contentious. Before spending money to hire an architect, the community needs to know if they have the money. Ms. Townley researched building costs and stated that the dollar per square foot for a new elementary is in line with other school building costs.
Jill Ramey	Ms. Ramey stated the need for everyone to work together. She invited Ms. Newcomb to be on school bond committee. Ms. Newcomb said she hasn't been allowed to attend the meeting.
Don Boots	Mr. Boots stated he grew up in Salmon. He asked what is the problem with the schools? He stated that we do need a school but not an Obama care school building.
Cindy Hallen	Ms. Hallen asked why we are just now having the first town hall meeting. She has a problem with that. She feels the committee was formed to pass the bond, not to build a school. Ms. Hallen stated that the community has been misled. She said the Board is deceiving the public.
Name Unknown	Name was not stated. He stated that that heard verbatim that Jim Bob Infanger was going to fire people who didn't vote for the bond.
Chris French	Mr. French stated that he was at the meeting also and heard Chairman Overacker say Jim Bob was going to fire people who didn't vote for the bond.
Lee Munk	Mr. Munk stated that he has worked on a previous committee and that they did not hold public meetings. He stated that he worked very hard and is sure that the current committee members are working hard as well. If anything has been done that is against the law then there should be action. He stated that he doesn't believe it's true. Mr. Munk believes in education and he will vote yes.
Rob Hallen	Mr. Hallen stated that we have the freedom to vote yes or no. He stated that the Ad Hock Committee's attitude was hostile so that caused him to dig deeper. He stated that buildings do not teach children. He asked what our needs are to clean up our building. Wants and needs are very different. Mr. Hallen read an opinion piece about how to spend public funds. He spoke against 3 contracts for Rich Bauscher for the purpose of obtaining a yes vote for a bond of 35 million.
Deb Westfall	Ms. Westfall stated she has worked in the district and raised her children here. She stated that there is no question that we need a new school. She stated that communities support their children. Ms. Westfall stated that we want to pass a bond because we need a new school. At some point we have to build a new school and the time is now.
Chad Fealko	Mr. Fealko stated he was encouraged by the discussion that we need a new school. He knows that people are concerned about the cost and wants to know what the facility looks like. He stated that he is hearing about good jobs that are being turned down

	because of the condition of the school. People are talking about leaving Salmon due to the condition of Salmon's schools. Mr. Fealko stated that it's time to get engaged and to put energy towards getting a new school. He stated that things are tough in all communities. He expressed the need to get a school for the kids and the town.
Alex Alexander	Alex stated that he is hearing a lot of accusations of misconduct. If they are true, he is appalled. A right action cannot arise from a fraud – Quote from Oliver Wendel Holmes
Stephanie Orr	Ms. Orr stated she was representing hospital where she was employed for over 10 years. She stated that she can vouch that several employees chose not to move to Salmon due to the condition of Salmon's schools. She stated that two things that help communities grow are a good hospital and good school.
John Campbell	Mr. Campbell stated that he had talked to Chuck and said he respects him for his honesty. He stated that he was involved in a similar circumstance with the same identical concerns. He was asked to be on the building committee as well as other qualified people in the community. He said we need to quit throwing darts. Mr. Campbell agreed Salmon needs a new school, but the big thing is there are no demographics to justify the things we're asking for. The Board needs to rationalize the need.
Ross Wilson	Mr. Wilson stated that money taken out of taxes is taken out of community. He stated that we need more openness. He mentioned the problems with the Middleton school and stated that people will not come here for a school. There is no industry here, no commerce, and no transportation. Mr. Wilson said the district needs to get a think tank with different views and find out what the absolute needs are. He expressed his concern that we are building something bigger than necessary and added that if the need arose, there could be an addition added onto the school.
Alexis Rodriguez	Mrs. Rodriguez stated that the proposed school is not just an elementary school but includes K-8 and Preschool students from the CDC. She stated that our 5 <sup>th</sup> through 8th graders are in portables. Our youth is our future. Right now, we are telling them they're not important. Most schools have advanced technology. We don't have that because the school doesn't have the capability. She stated she has a Middle Schooler right now and there is no gym space for practice. He has practice at 6:00 a.m. because there are so many teams using the gym. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that this bond is an investment into the future.
Dr. Joseph Rodriguez	Dr. Rodriguez moved to Salmon 2 years ago and saw a condemned building with a fence around it. He stated that he wants to raise his kids in the best schools. The problem is we have to get it together. He stated that we need to have trust and have faith in our outstanding leaders and come together to get the bond passed. Dr. Rodriguez stated that if you start with a cavity and do nothing it eventually becomes a root canal. If you do nothing it becomes an extraction and that's where we are at with our school. It's time to build a new school.
Jenny Tracy	Ms. Tracy stated she wants to have a safe school for her kids to attend. She was there to talk on behalf of the hospital. She stated that she has seen what has happened when trying to hire hospital staff. People love the community but not Salmon's school buildings. Ms. Tracy is asking everyone to look at the cost and benefits of having a new school. We hope that after our kids graduate from college they will come back to Salmon so they can give back to the community.
Evalyn Bennett	Mrs. Bennett stated she has provided information to the School Board and local newspaper. Her questions have not been answered. She is concerned about the survey questions and that there was no indication that new district offices would be

	included with the new school. Mrs. Bennett feels that a levy would allow the community to build a school without going into debt. If that would have been done in the past, she stated that the district would be 6 years into having the funds for a new school. She stated her concern over the interest that would need to be paid.
Rob Hallen	Mr. Hallen stated that the large gym was dropped. Regarding safety - he stated that there has not been one recorded death of one student. Mr. Hallen talked about legislation of public funds. He feels the Board hired a fox to guard the hen house. He noted the manned table at the Pioneer to register voters and stated that there was information on voting yes for the school. He stated that it is electioneering and against the law. Mr. Hallen said that hiring Rich Bauscher was wrong and illegal and we do not need this slush fund.
Lindsey Bradley	Ms. Bradley stated that her children attended amazing schools in Missoula, MT and it was hard to come back to the school buildings in Salmon. She loves Salmon's teachers. She felt lucky that her kids got into the Charter school. She believes in school and feels it's admirable to bring in someone with expertise to help pass a bond. She stated that we need a new school but the last 9 have failed. Because of the different approach this time she is hopeful it will not fail. She stated that if the bond doesn't pass it will be one more mark that our community is dying.
Molly Newcomb	Ms. Newcomb stated she wanted to clarify one thing. She is a psychologist. She noted that people can perceive things differently when dealing with emotionally charged issues. She is in favor of a new school, but the Board has been making the same mistakes as in the past. They haven't done due diligence. Ms. Newcomb stated that she has talked to the Board many times but haven't seen that they will spend any time talking to the people. She stated that she along with Robert Stoddard, and Joe Proksch talked to Mr. Born about how to pass a bond as they helped pass the bond for the high school.
Mallori LaMoure	Ms. LaMoure stated she is a 6 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher and is worried about security. She stated that some people say we need a new school but say they are voting against the school. She doesn't understand the mentality. Ms. LaMoure stated that we need to figure this out. Some are saying no to a school that is needed.
Jerrilee Sever	Mrs. Sever stated she has been a teacher in the district for many years. She wanted to address not being asked to be on a committee. She stated that she has never been asked to be on a committee but has always volunteered when wanting to be on a committee. She stated that a lot of people are ingrained in their no vote. Mrs. Sever stated that you have to give yourself permission to change, to do something different. In regard to the safety record of our school, it is because teachers and staff are diligent in keeping students safe, but not too long ago they had to have a debriefing with staff regarding a safety issue. She stated that we can't wait for a child to die.
Joanne Wolters	Ms. Wolters thanked the Board for all the work they have been doing. She has been around for all the bonds, has seen a lot of architectural work, and all have failed. Ms. Wolters stated that she understands it's a lot of money and knows that it will be difficult for those on a fixed income. She has also seen, along with the hospital, people who will not come to Salmon due to schools. She stated she is willing to pay more.
Partrick Reagan	Mr. Reagan stated that he is naturally opposed to bond as he was raised a Libertarian. He is unsold and uncommitted. He would like more information and was disappointed that no answers were given during the meeting. He stated that the Board needs to get some information out. He would like a handout. Mr. Reagan stated that he needs to be convinced to say yes.
Pat Hurt	Ms. Hurt stated she wanted to add that she is in favor of a new school but wants to

	know what we are building. She feels building a new school would help in bringing in people. She also stated that she sees the need to build in a little bit additional space for students who will come in the future. She said we need to accommodate future needs.
Hugh Christiansen	Mr. Christiansen has kids in school and is concerned about the state of the facilities. That being said he would like to see more information. He wants to be encouraged to vote yes.
Dan Schroeder	Mr. Schroeder stated that he voted yes for bond already. He said that Idaho is 47 <sup>th</sup> or 49 <sup>th</sup> in the amount of funds that are spent on education. Mr. Schroeder stated that he voted for the bond because the students, teachers, and community deserve it.
Ronnie DeFord	Mrs. DeFord stated that there will be a building committee and that's a person's chance to have input. She would love to have input and knows others in the community would love to also provide input. She was at the initial Piper Jaffray community meeting in May where they talked about finding out what the community wants. She thought it would be nice to have a new school. There is not enough space in the gym. She stated that there were some who were not happy that so much money was put into architectural drawings, but the bonds didn't pass. Mrs. DeFord stated that there is no point in putting money into drawing architectural plans if the bond doesn't pass.
Kent Hill	Mr. Hill stated he has lived in Salmon since 1975 and has been on the city council. He has talked to lots of people and corporations who have decided not to come here due to our school buildings. Mr. Hill stated we need this school for the community.
Mike England	Mr. England stated that he went to school in Salmon, that he was provided a good education, and has 2 sons who graduated from Salmon High School. He stated that he has served on many boards. Mr. England stated that if we want our kids to come back to Salmon, we need to wake up and build a new school facility.

Throughout the meeting, Chairman Overacker made the following comments:

Regarding the allegation that Chairman Overacker stated in a public meeting that Jim Bob Infanger took his employees to the courthouse to vote on the bond and told them they were fired if they didn't vote yes: Chairman Overacker stated that he did not make that statement. He said that he told those attending the meeting that Jim Bob Infanger took his employees to the courthouse so they could vote on the bond and told them not to tell him how they voted.

There is a plan to build a full-size gym that will seat 500 people. The Salmon Jr. Sr. High School gym is being used all the time. A gym can be justified. There will not be a separate auditorium, but they would like to include a stage. The cost of building includes desks, chairs, a parking lot, etc. The Board has not hired an architect because the committee recommended against it due to the last 9 bonds where building designs were picked apart. It will be a turnkey building.

Chairman Overacker stated that he called other schools to see how they ran bonds and got a lot of good information. Some schools had architectural designs prior to passing the bond and some did not. It was about 50/50. He stated that the Board's planning is if the bond passes, another volunteer committee would be formed consisting of knowledgeable builders, architects, and numbers guys. Architects will be interviewed. The school would include Pre-K students from the CDC, SPED offices, and District Offices.

The Board would like to get everything on the same side of the highway. That's the vision. Not everyone will agree. In May, Piper Jaffray came to Salmon to provide information to the community about the tax

base and bonds. It was advertised. The Board has tried to be as transparent as possible. They have talked about the bond at Board meetings. Ms. Newcomb stated she was never asked to be on the committee, although the Board thought they had asked. Chairman Overacker stated that nobody has been denied being on a committee.

Chairman Overacker reported on the cost of repairs and updates to the Pioneer Elementary School. Money has been put back into the school. Chairman Overacker stated that he takes offense to those stating that the School Board is purposely making the buildings look bad.

Chairman Overacker stated that the Board and Mr. Born have consulted with their lawyers and have been in contact with them throughout the process and they have assured them that we are within our legal rights. The last thing they want is to do something illegal. They always take the advice of their attorneys. Chairman Overacker stated that theoretically speaking, if the bond passes, they will get bids and that if only 20 million dollars is needed instead of the projected 25.6 million, then they would not sell the remaining 5 million dollars' worth of bonds.

Chairman Overacker thanked everyone for coming. The Board will try to get more clear information out to the public so they can make an informed decision. He invited those who have questions to contact the district office or him. They will work on getting clarification. He reminded those in attendance that tours of the Pioneer Elementary School were still available and thanked them for attending. He stated that another meeting is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> if not sooner.

Kellen Miller motioned to adjourn, Juniper MacFarlane seconded the motion. Passed 3/0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 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