

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC INPUT HEARING
 JUNE 19, 2018
 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

- I. **CALL STUDENT MEALS PRICES INCREASE HEARING TO ORDER** – Chairperson/Vice-chairperson. Chairman Abrego convened the special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:45 p.m., June 19, 2018, at the District Administration Office, 470 North 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho, in said district, for the purpose of receiving testimony from interested parties on the proposed student meals prices increase, and pursuant to authority provided by Title 63, Chapter 13, Section 63-1311A – Advertisement of and Hearing on Fee Increases, and Title 74, Chapter 2, Sections 74-202(4)(c)(6)(b) – Open Public Meetings (Special Meeting), and 74-204(2) – Notice of Meetings, Idaho Code, and pursuant to affirmation by the Clerk that notice of the special meeting had been given to each trustee and posted public notice as required by law. A copy of the Notice of a Special Meeting of School Trustees so posted follows:

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Chairman Abrego, Trustee Binion, Trustee Donahue, Trustee Monasterio

**MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 193
 NOTICE OF PRICE INCREASE**

Mountain Home School District				
2018 - 2019 School Year				
Student Breakfast Price Increase				
	2017-2018 Price	2018-2019 Price	Amount Increase	Percent Increase
Elementary	1.25	1.30	0.05	4.0%
HMS	1.50	1.55	0.05	3.3%
MHJH	1.50	1.55	0.05	3.3%
MHHS	1.50	1.55	0.05	3.3%
Student Lunch Price Increase				
	2017-2018 Price	2018-2019 Price	Amount Increase	Percent Increase
Elementary	2.65	2.75	0.10	3.8%
HMS	2.85	2.95	0.10	3.5%
MHJH	2.85	2.95	0.10	3.5%
MHHS	2.85	2.95	0.10	3.5%
Adult Meal Price Increase				
Adult Breakfast	2.00	2.10	0.10	5.0%
Adult Lunch	4.00	4.20	0.20	5.0%
Milk Price Increase				
Milk	0.60	0.65	0.05	8.3%

A public hearing will be held at 6:45 p.m., on June 19, 2018, preceding the Budget Hearing, for the purpose of receiving public testimony pertaining to the proposed price increases.

Sharon M. Whitman
 Clerk, Board of Trustees

First Publication: June 6, 2018
 Second Publication: June 13, 2018

Chairman Abrego called upon Mr. Vick to review the proposed student meals prices increase.

Mr. Vick informed everyone that Mountain Home School District No. 193, Elmore County, is required to increase the student meal price for all the schools in Mountain Home School District due to the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, as required by Federal Law, Public Law 111-296. School Lunches will increase every year until we meet the Federal Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. He then reviewed the federal requirements and how to determine the amount of the increase needed to be to meet the federal requirement.

Chairman Abrego asked for public input from the audience. At Trustee Monasterio's request, he said that he has a member in the audience who wanted to give input.

1. Sylvia Nixon – she claimed that she heard of students not having money and not getting meals. She claimed that the district gives those students a cheese sandwich and nothing else, not even milk. She claimed that she spoke to people in the school district who told her that the kids could get a cheese sandwich, but not milk. Ms. Nixon claimed that there is a disconnect in the district and that the parents aren't getting the paperwork, or the parents can't fill out the paperwork, or the parents are afraid that they will be deported if they fill out the paperwork. She stated that the district needed to get the information to the parents. Ms. Nixon claimed that there is a lady in Bruneau-Grandview school district who fills out the Free & Reduced Forms for the parents. She claimed that every student in Glens Ferry receives lunch. Ms. Nixon continued to state her perceptions of the district food service program and how the district should fill the paperwork out for parents.

Chairman Abrego stated that we would get the principals together to resolve her claimed issues with Free & Reduced Meals.

Superintendent Gilbert said that the important thing to remember on filling out those forms is that it is a federal violation for schools to fill out the forms for the parents, so districts that are filling out the forms are not following federal laws. He informed the board that the district is always working on ways to improve things, but there are just some parents who refuse to fill out the Free & Reduced Meals forms. He added that we have staff in every building that are there and willing to help parents register their students and help them fill out forms, such as the Free & Reduced Form, which is actually part of registration. Superintendent Gilbert explained to the board that it was in the district's best interest and it benefits the district to have as many people who qualify fill out and submit the form; we even have the forms online for parents to fill out and submit.

Mr. Carcas asked permission to explain how the meal program worked and to clarify Ms. Nixon's misinformation. He started by stating that Superintendent Gilbert has made it very clear that all students will receive a lunch, no matter. He added that there is a policy in place in the district that says a student who is negative in their meals account still receive a meal. Once the student is beyond a negative \$20, the student will receive an alternative meal of the district's choice. The meal still meets the child nutrition protocols. We do give them cheese sandwiches, salad, and the student receives milk; all five components of a full meal are met. Once the student goes over the \$20 that they owe for meals, parents are notified that their student is in arrears and that they would be offered the alternative meal. Once the parents contact Mr. Carcas, he and the parents can make financial arrangement and the student gets the meal of their choosing. Once a student goes into the alternative lunch option is usually because the parent never contacted Mr. Carcas or returned any phone calls or emails, etc.; the student gets the alternate meal and not the meal the student wanted such as pizza, or turkey, etc., they usually get the cheese sandwich, salad, and milk.

Mr. Carcas went on to explain just how involved the building administrators are with trying to ensure students get the meal of their choosing including they themselves reaching out to parents and that the district has a benevolent fund for emergencies. The student still get the meal that meets the child nutrition program; it is a full meal, just not the meal that the student would rather have. He added that he and his staff spend countless hours trying to contact parents and he has to explain to them that had they contacted him, this issue could have been resolved.

Mr. Carcas informed the board that many other districts stop feeding students once the threshold of what the student owes for meals has been met, while MHSD continues to feed our students. He added that once a student goes into a negative account, blackboard issues a message, an email, a text, and a phone call to parents every Monday and Wednesday.

Trustee Donahue stated she was aware of how hard food services and principals work to try to resolve the problem.

She also stated that there are issues that aren't just food services or principals, but on family communication and the fear factor, the rumors, and such.

Discussion continued for a couple of minutes.

Chairman Abrego stated that the public hearing is concluded and this would be an agenda item at the following regular board meeting.

- II. **ADJOURNMENT** – Chairman Abrego stated that with no other input, the student meals prices increase hearing was concluded, and that the proposed student meals prices increase would be an agenda item during the following regular board meeting, June 19, 2018. Chairman Abrego called for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Binion motioned to adjourn with a second from Trust Donahue. Student Meals Prices Increase Hearing adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman Abrego

Clerk Whitman