

Mountain Home School District No. 193

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
 NOVEMBER 17, 2020
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Max Capacity: Governor Little's Social Distancing Directive leaves our boardroom at a maximum capacity of twelve (12) people including the Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Clerk, Treasurer, and Technology Director. More than twelve people would require those persons to sit in the foyer or other overflow rooms.

Courtesy Livestream Board Meetings: Livestreaming or recording board meetings is a courtesy to give the public an alternative means of participating in the school board meeting; the board meeting would continue even if there is a failure of technology (<https://www.mtnhomesd.org/calendar.html>).

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95199981780?pwd=OUkvTExtUG5vUW5aNitWYWNkVjOT09>

Meeting ID: 951 9998 1780

Passcode: 441563

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/addDGRmKqf>

Public Input: Public input may be provided to the board either in person if signed up at the beginning of the meeting (public input signup sheet) or via zoom, if the **Public Input Form** has been submitted **by noon the day of the board meeting**. Individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to present their views. Please do not include the names of students or staff due to FERPA Laws and privacy protection. There will be no action taken at this time, but action on a problem area could be scheduled for a subsequent meeting of the board. Face masks and social distancing must be followed, or the individual will be immediately escorted out of the building. There is limited seating in the boardroom so patrons might have to sit in the foyer or the overflow room. If you have a complaint against personnel or students by name, you need to schedule an appointment with the Superintendent.

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Chairperson/Vice-chairperson. Chairman Abrego convened the regular and livestream meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Chairman Abrego, Vice-Chair Binion, Trustee Donahue, Trustee Monasterio, Trustee Knox

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. GOOD NEWS – NONE

- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA OR ADDENDUMS** – Chairman/Vice-chairman. Prior to the consent agenda items, Chairman Abrego asked if there was an addendum to the agenda, or if there was anything to add or remove. Chairman Abrego called for a motion to approve or amend the agenda. Trustee Binion moved to approve the agenda as published, with a second from Trustee Donahue. Agenda approved.

- III. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** – Board of Trustees. Chairman Abrego called for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Monasterio moved to approve the consent agenda, with a second from Trustee Donahue. Motion carried.

A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2020, AND THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – COVID OF OCTOBER 27, 2020, AND THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – COVID OF NOVEMBER 3, 2020.

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

C. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

D. PERSONNEL

E. POLICY ADOPTION – 2nd Reading

1. Title IX Policy – Elementary & Secondary Education Discrimination Amendment Act

F. POLICY REVISION – 2nd Reading

1. Leave of Absence without Pay Policy
2. Sabbatical Leave of Absence Policy
3. Paraprofessional Qualifications & Training Requirements Policy
4. School Climate Policy
5. Legal Name Requirement & Proof of Age & Identification Policy

- IV. **DELEGATION – NONE**

Any group wishing to be a delegation must submit a letter to the Superintendent Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board no later than the Tuesday prior to the next regular board meeting; the letter must include the reason for asking to be a delegation.

V. **PUBLIC INPUT – NONE**

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VI. **REPORTS –**

A. **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT – CHANGES TO BOARD PROCEDURES** – Chairman Abrego.

Chairman Abrego explained that some of the board recently attended the ISBA Annual Convention in which they receive new and continual training. He continued to explain that there are a few procedural items the board needs to change to keep the board compliant with Open Meeting Laws. Chairman Abrego reported that the board must meet in person in the boardroom and others may attend as long as they follow the board's social distancing protocols in place. He mentioned that the boardroom new maximum capacity is 12-people including the required attendees; any more than twelve people would require those persons to sit in the foyer or other overflow rooms. Public input may be provided to the board either in person if signed up at the beginning of the meeting or via zoom as long as the public input form is submitted by noon the day of the board meeting; it doesn't mean the board is obligated to read the input aloud. All attendees must follow the board's COVID safety protocols. Chairman Abrego informed everyone that as a courtesy, the board would continue to use Zoom or livestreaming or etc., of the board meetings as a courtesy to give the public an alternative means of participating in the school board meeting. He added that the board meeting would continue even if there is a failure of technology; the board is not required to record any meetings. Chairman Abrego continued to inform everyone that the affected policies would be revised as time permits.

B. **MOUNTAIN HOME AFB UPDATE – MHAFB Liaison.** Mr. Nicksich thanked all the schools along with the base child development center for all the cards the kids made for the veterans for Veteran's Day. He said MHHS and BMS did an awesome job with their recordings for Veteran's Day. He also thanked the students for decorating holiday bags for cookies for the airman living in the dorms.

Mr. Nicksich reported that the base is anxious to see what the second semester brings. He gave his appreciation to the hard work of teachers and staff to provide an education to students. He also gave his appreciation to the parents for exercising patience as they have become educators in their own homes to keep their students on track.

C. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COVID19 UPDATE** – James Gilbert. Superintendent Gilbert reported that as of 4:00 p.m. today, the district has 13 active COVID cases between staff and students and between four different schools. He added that the number is up by one from last week, but down by two school buildings. Obviously, the numbers of infections in the county is what is keeping the county in the red. Superintendent Gilbert read aloud the letter from the 4A and 5A schools in the treasure valley addressing their plea to the communities to do all that they can to keep schools open by mitigate the spreading of COVID; the letter was released to the different media outlets, as well.

Superintendent Gilbert stated that he hoped our district would remain in the hybrid mode and that the wearing of face masks and following the social distancing rules is the reason our transmission rate is low.

Discussion continued on the communities responsibility to help mitigate the spread of COVID; to be mindful of large gatherings during the holidays; the board's concern for staff members health and safety; keeping all the protocols in place; the great compliance of students and staff in following the safety protocols; the hopefulness of remaining in hybrid and not going into the red category; the importance of keeping our doors open, especially for our emergency workers and hospital staff because many of our parents work in these fields and should school close would mean putting the hospitals, MHPD, EMT, etc., in a bind because parents would have to juggle watching their children and doing their job; etc.

Chairman Abrego asked if MHHS ever added the one more in school day for the students. Superintendent Gilbert responded that during second semester, the bell schedule would include all the periods on alternating days.

Chairman Abrego asked if we still had teachers who were concerned for their safety. Superintendent

Gilbert responded yes, we will always have some teachers who are in fear. Chairman Abrego said that he didn't feel that the board needed to step in at this time and the board would leave it up to administration for now. Superintendent Gilbert responded that we will do what we have to do to minimize those teachers' fears. Discussion continued.

Chairman Abrego asked where the information is coming from that claims that the ICU beds in the Treasure Valley are filling up. Superintendent Gilbert replied it came from the CEO of St. Luke's.

VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS –**

A. POLICY REVISION – 1st Reading – James Gilbert

1. **Veteran's Preference Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Veteran's Preference Policy. This policy was revised to strike language that no longer applied, add required language, and clarified who qualifies. Trustee Donahue moved to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Veteran's Preference Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Vacation Leave Policy – Fulltime Classified Employees** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Vacation Leave Policy – Fulltime Classified Employees. This policy was revised to clarify the procedure on accruing vacation leave days. Trustee Monasterio moved to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Vacation Leave Policy – Fulltime Classified Employees, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion granted.
3. **Restraint or Seclusion of a Student Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Restraint or Seclusion of a Student Policy. This policy had a lot of revisions to add some definitions, add required language regarding the restraining and seclusion of students, and strike language that was in error or no longer applicable. Trustee Donahue moved to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Restraint or Seclusion of a Student Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion accepted.
4. **Promotions Grades Kindergarten – Eighth Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Promotions Grades Kindergarten – Eighth Policy. This policy was revised to clarify the requirements for 7th and 8th grade promotions. Trustee Binion moved to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Promotions Grades Kindergarten – Eighth Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Special Education & Related Services Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st reading of the proposed revision of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Special Education & Related Services Policy. This policy was revised to add some required language and strike invalid language. Trustee Monasterio moved to approve the 1st reading of the proposed revision of the Special Education & Related Services Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. POLICY REVIEW – 1st & Only Reading – James Gilbert.

1. **Name/Gender Change Request Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st and only reading of the review of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Name/Gender Change Request Policy. Trustee Binion moved to approve the 1st and only reading of the review of the Name/Gender Change Request Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion granted.
2. **Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Student Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st and only reading of the review of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Student Policy. Trustee Binion moved to approve the 1st and only reading of the

review of the Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Student Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Donahue seconded the motion. Motion approved.

3. **Student Suicide Prevention Policy** – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 1st and only reading of the review of Mountain Home School District No. 193 Student Suicide Prevention Policy. Trustee Donahue moved to approve the 1st and only reading of the review of the Student Suicide Prevention Policy, as presented by Superintendent Gilbert. Trustee Binion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- C. **ACTIVITIES FAN ATTENDANCE GUIDE (POSSIBLE ACTION)** – School Board. The board discussed the governor’s recent directive of placing Idaho back to stage 2 and how that affected sports and activities in the schools. Superintendent Gilbert explained that stage 2 meant that no more than ten fans could attend student activities. He continued to explain that according to the governor’s office school activities are at the brink of shutting down completely; he also offered some options. The board continued to discuss the options including the fans should be the parents of the students participating and they would have to rotate each game to allow as many parents as possible to attend school events; he also suggested to terminate gate fees during stage 2.

Discussion continued on other aspects of the requirements of stage 2; the possible stoppage of all student activities; the illogical decision of the governor to allow exemptions for other entities such as bars and churches and political groups, but not allow exemptions to school activities, which meant that the Idaho government has effectively ended programs such as sports for students because of their rigid restrictions on school sports and other student activities; etc. The board agreed that there is zero consistency in the decisions of the Idaho government with them telling schools that COVID closures, determinations of transmissions, etc., are school local control and the government won’t intervene when school districts ask for help, but then the government turns around and takes the local control away from schools regarding student sports and activities.

Chairman Abrego asked why school board meetings were required to be open to large numbers of people gathering in one room, but parents aren’t allowed to watch their kids play sports outside or in gyms.

Trustee Binion moved to adjust the Activities Fan Attendance Guide to reflect that only ten parents would be allowed to attend each event with the caveat that if we move back to stage 3, we automatically revert back to the initial guideline of two tickets per player (24-tickets maximum per team) and fifty fans would be allowed to attend, as well as both band and the cheer squad would be allowed to participate. Trustee Monasterio seconded the motion. Motion accepted.

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE**

- X. **ADJOURNMENT** – All business of the Board having been completed, Chairman Abrego called for a motion to adjourn. A motion from Trustee Binion to adjourn was seconded by Trustee Donahue. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ATTACHMENT

APPOINTMENTS

Canales-Rodriguez, Joanna; Speech/Language Paraeducator, West Elementary
 Dexter, Travis; Head Jr. Varsity/Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, MHHS
 Flores-Contreras, Letzi; “B” Custodian, HMS
 Mederios, Scott; Assistant Wrestling Coach, MHJH
 Schaufele, Miriam; Cook 2, MHJH
 Whitaker, George; 8th Grade “A” Boys Basketball Coach, MHJH
 Wortham, Brooke; Maintenance Technician, MHSD

RESIGNATIONS

Starkey, Patrick; Head 7th Grade Football Coach, MHJH; effective: November 2, 2020

Chairman Abrego

Clerk Whitman