

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
 JANUARY 25, 2021
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District No. 193 was convened at 6:30 p.m., January 25, 2021, at the District Administration Office, 470 N 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho, in said district, pursuant to authority provided by Title 74, Chapter 2, Section 74-202(4)(c)(6)(b) – Open Meeting (Special Meeting), 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:

January 5, 2021

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 193
 Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho**

Join Courtesy Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93456026831?pwd=UGlrTndVUyt2S3VHUnBITThTWmREUT09>

Meeting ID: 934 5602 6831

Passcode: 612759


Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adKkn7yNaw>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District No. 193, will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at the District Administration Office Boardroom, 470 North 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho, in said District, during which the following business will be conducted:

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER (ACTION)** – Chairman/Vice-Chairman
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.
- II. **DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION OF IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBOE) DIRECTIVE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PLAN FOR GOVERNOR'S ORDERS ON GATHERINGS & SPECTATORS (ACTION)** – Chairman Abrego/Superintendent Gilbert
- III. **ADJOURN (ACTION)**

This Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District No. 193 is called pursuant to Title 74, Chapter 2, Section 74-202(4)(c)(6)(b) – Open Meeting (Special Meeting), Idaho Code.

Dated the 22nd day of January 2021.



Sharon M. Whitman

Clerk, School District No. 193

Mountain Home, Elmore, Idaho

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Chairperson/Vice-chairperson. Chairman Abrego convened the special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Chairman Abrego, Vice-Chair Binion, Trustee Donahue, Trustee Monasterio, Trustee Knox
- II. **DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION OF IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBOE) DIRECTIVE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PLAN FOR GOVERNOR'S ORDERS ON GATHERINGS & SPECTATORS (ACTION)** – Chairman Abrego/Superintendent Gilbert

The board began discussion about the Governor's revised plans regarding spectators at school activities and events. Superintendent Gilbert reviewed the Governor's athletic attendance plan – Stage-2 revisions. The plan's highlights are allowing more spectators at sporting events if the district allows it, up to 40%, but the plan makes it very clear that it is at the discretion of the local school board. Understand that we are getting into the second week of activities from the first change and now the plan has changed again. Superintendent Gilbert asked the boards thoughts on how to proceed as a district. The district was required to sign an obligation document from the SBOE for the last plan and SBOE did get legal guidance that any changes would require a vote by the board.

Board discussed the changes to the governor's revised plan.

Trustee Donahue asked why the state is changing it now. Superintendent Gilbert replied that it was evident that it came from the legislative body to change the amount of people at gatherings. Trustee Binion informed everyone that Representative Crane from Nampa is pushing a resolution to change the amount of people allowed at school events because he felt that schools are discriminating against his family by limiting the amount of people who can attend a game and he is using schools as a means of removing the gathering restriction on all gathering events.

Trustee Knox asked weren't the state and SBOE making a statement initially by limiting the numbers to let everyone know that they were being serious about restrictions and threatened that if restrictions weren't followed funding and sports would be taken away from school districts. Discussion about Stage-2 and winter sports and gatherings ensued.

Chairman Abrego asked how it would work if up to 40% or 4 spectators per student were allowed and how would it be tracked. Superintendent Gilbert responded that is a challenge that when a percentage is set it is very hard to track and manage versus assigning a number of spectators to students. Superintendent Gilbert doesn't want fans behind any of our benches for the safety of our kids, so we will lose some seating behind the teams. Superintendent Gilbert strongly recommends pushing the bottom bleachers in to reduce the number of fans behind the teams. Whatever decision is made, it needs to be about the safety of the kids. Discussion continued.

Trustee Binion asked how we are regarding staffing during the games. Superintendent Gilbert replied that it is a concern, we have very few staff who are willing to work events this year; the issue is not only COVID, but having to interact with the public that has been less than positive. Any additions of spectators would require additional staffing for the games.

Trustee Monasterio clarified that social distancing means a six-foot circumference around an individual or family unit. Superintendent Gilbert added that in the educational setting, the State requires masks to be worn at all times and to maintain a six-foot distance, but ironically at school sports or other gatherings, masks only need to be worn within six-feet distancing, which begs one to ask where this contradiction in requirements came from; it's obviously a lot of political pressure that brought on this State directive.

Discussion began regarding the contradiction from the State of what is required academically is not required for school sports and other gatherings; discussion on the interpretation of the State directive; social distancing; other contradictions; coach(es) and student(s) interactions; yelling from parents during games spreads the particulates; how to manage a student section and social distancing, etc. Superintendent Gilbert informed the board that this directive was written politically and that as the superintendent, he wasn't comfortable having ten unmasked kids on a basketball court below with screaming student body and fans without masks. He added that we have done very well in regard to being able to allow the kids to participate in sports. Trustee Knox stated that she would prefer to have everyone wear a mask so that we can have our students attend the games no matter the distancing. Discussion continued.

The board discussed why would the Governor's directive contradict the requirements for academics versus the requirements for sports and other gatherings without any educational input from educational stakeholders; they're teaching our kids it is okay to have two different standards. The directive was released two weeks ago and has already been revised, so this sounds suspiciously politically motivated and has nothing to do with science. The SBOE backed the directive and strong-armed school districts to sign an agreement or be penalized. The board then discussed how to realistically proceed taking the safety of students into account and consider the age and capacity of the gyms.

With there being no additional discussion, Chairman Abrego called for a motion on how to best proceed regarding school sports attendance of spectators. Trustee Binion moved to increase the number of spectator tickets per student participant from two tickets to four tickets, with the exception of seniors on senior night in which they may have eight tickets for the remainder of the season. Trustee Monasterio seconded the motion. Chairman Abrego asked if there was any other discussion. Trustee Knox would like each student participant to have six tickets. Chairman Abrego would like to see at least five tickets per student participant. Chairman Abrego asked who was in favor of the motion on the table. Trustees Binion and Monasterio were in favor; Trustees Donahue and Knox were against the motion. Chairman Abrego voted against the motion. Motion failed. Trustee Knox moved to increase student participant tickets from two to six and continue the mandatory facemask requirement. Chairman Abrego asked if there was a second. With no other trustee seconding the motion, Chairman Abrego seconded the motion. Chairman Abrego asked if there was any other discussion. Trustee Monasterio asked about the management situation with the increase in spectator tickets. Superintendent Gilbert replied we will make do with what is decided, but whatever is added requires additional staffing. Chairman Abrego asked those in favor of the six ticket increase to student participants say aye. Trustee Knox and Chairman Abrego voted in favor of increasing student participant tickets to six. Trustees Binion, Donahue, and Monasterio voted against increasing student participant tickets to six. Motion failed. Chairman Abrego asked if there were any other motions. Trustee Donahue moved to increase student participant's spectator tickets from two to five and keep the district's current fan attendance plan requirements in place. Chairman Abrego asked if there was a second. With no other trustees seconding the motion, Chairman Abrego seconded the motion. Chairman Abrego asked those in favor of increasing the student participant spectator tickets to five tickets and keeping the district's current fan attendance plan requirements in place say aye. Trustees Donahue and Knox voted in favor; Trustees Binion and Monasterio voted against; Chairman Abrego voted in favor. Motion passed. The board continued the discussion to clarify the meaning of the motion with regards to the revised State Stage-2 requirements. Trustee Binion moved to reduce the 12'ft. distancing requirement to 6'ft., received a second from Trustee Knox. Motion carried. Trustee Binion moved to remove the limit cap of team members allowed to participate at games including cheer, dance, and band. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Motion approved. Trustee Binion moved to make the effective date of the implementation of the revised sports and spectator attendance plan beginning Wednesday, January 27, 2021, received a second from Trustee Knox Motion carried.

- III. **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 granted. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Abrego

Clerk Whitman