

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC INPUT HEARING
 JUNE 23, 2020
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

- I. **CALL BUDGET HEARING TO ORDER** – Chairperson/Vice-chairperson. Chairman Abrego convened the special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m., on June 23, 2020, via Zoom (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 2020-2021 budget, and pursuant to authority provided by Title 33, 33-801 – School District Budget, 33-801A – General Fund Contingency Reserve; Title 63, Sections 63-802A – Notice of a Budget Hearing, Title 74, Sections 74-202(4)(c)(6)(b) – Open Public Meetings, and 74-204 – 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 had been announced by published 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, Trustee Knox

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
 MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT
 ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District No. 193, Elmore County, Idaho, will be held on **June 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**, via Zoom (District Administration Office), in Mountain Home, at which meeting there shall be a public hearing on the proposed budget for the forthcoming school year.

A copy of the proposed budget, as determined by the Board of Trustees, is available for public inspection on the School District Website, www.mtnhomesd.org, and at the District Administration Office, 470 North 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday, from the date of this notice until the date of the hearing.

This budget hearing is called pursuant to Title 33, Sections 33-510 – Board Meetings, 33-801 – School District Budget, 33-801A – General Fund Contingency Reserve; Title 63, Sections 63-802A – Notice of a Budget Hearing, and Title 74, Sections 74-202 – Open Public Meetings, 74-203 – Governing Bodies, 74-204 – Notice of Meetings, Idaho Code.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93576237461?pwd=T2pUSGRMRHNaN0VsQXR3cTBaVEg4dz09>

Meeting ID: 935 7623 7461

Password: 652606

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 935 7623 7461

Password: 652606

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aAMDTM4ZZ>

Dated the 28th Day of May 2020.



Sharon M. Whitman

Clerk, Board of Trustees

Posted: June 10 & June 17, 2020

Published: Actual Proposed Budget June 10 & June 17, 2020

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Abrego convened the special meeting of the Board of Trustees and stated that the purpose of the budget hearing was to allow an opportunity for the Board to receive public testimony from interested patrons. He then requested Mr. Vick present the budget for FY 2021. *(A complete copy of the budget presentation may be found on the district website under Business & Finances, then Annual Budget.)*

Mountain Home School District #193	
Financial Report	
Fund 100	
	Proposed Budget FY 20/21 6/30/2021
Revenues	
Local Revenue	50,000
County Revenue	2,735,000
State Revenue (inc. rev in lieu of Taxes)	20,088,547
Other State Revenue	1,246,000
Federal Revenue	1,000,000
Earnings on Investments / other rev	60,000
Transfers	-
Total Revenue	25,179,547
Expenses	
Salaries	14,677,597
Benefits	5,317,163
Purchased Services	3,826,450
Supplies	1,077,300
Capital	32,000
Other	207,000
Transfers	35,000
Total Expenses	25,172,511
Revenues over (under) expenses	7,036

Mr. Vick reported that there was a budget workshop held on May 28, 2020. He then presented the published proposed budget for 2020-2021 school year. He explained that the total revenue was \$25,179,547; the total expenditures was \$25,172,511, leaving revenues over expenditures of \$7,036. Mr. Vick added that if any changes are made due to negotiations or other changes would require an amended budget to be published.

Superintendent Gilbert wanted to clarify a few things. He explained that this budget includes the mandated 5% funding holdback from the State and it's important to realize that the State plans to have another 3%-5% funding holdback possibly again in January. These are things that we need to take into consideration this year with the budget and where we are as a district.

Chairman Abrego asked for clarification of the purpose of having a Fund Balance, and the importance of the Fund Balance this school year and again for next school year, especially with the funding cuts from the State. He added that the public needed to know that we are going to be spending money this coming school year and the money will have to come from somewhere. Superintendent Gilbert explained the history of the Fund Balance and that the district didn't have a Fund Balance for many years. He added that we had budgeted conservatively for the last few years so that we could build a Fund Balance. Superintendent Gilbert spoke about the fact that no one knows what to expect with COVID19 or what the long-term outlook would be. The priorities that Mr. Vick budgeted was that was critical that we maintained staff salaries and benefits and maintained staff positions. He feels comfortable that Mr. Vick built a budget that has enough cushion for the next year so that if COVID continues, the district is going to be in a financial position to withstand those additional holdbacks, with the understanding the State could very well increase the amount of the holdbacks. We used the information that we had to build the budget. It is critical in year one that we don't eat up the Fund Balance because at this point there is a big what-if on what year two would look like. The point of the Fund Balance that the Board and the district have worked so hard to build was to put the district in a position that if something majors happens, we can withstand the extended wave of economic decline. He gave kudos to the Board and to Mr. Vick saying it was wise to do what the Board did over the last four years.

Chairman Abrego asked what other school districts are hearing or what do they look like with all the budget, the cuts, the freezing, etc. Superintendent Gilbert replied that in general many school districts are freezing

salaries and benefits and they are having to cut employees or furloughing employees. What you see are districts that didn't have enough of a Fund Balance to address those issues that we didn't have to address. Additionally, the goal is to provide opportunities in our district so that we are not cutting student programs. Secondly, is protecting our employees. We have some great employees and we want to come out of this pandemic and still have our employees. MHSD is in a better condition than a lot of school districts because we planned over the last four or five years to be in a position that if something like this or a recession occurred, we could withstand it. Most superintendent are freezing pay scales, freezing benefits, and furloughing employees.

Trustee Donahue stated we are doing a very good job educating our students and addressing the safety issues that we are faced with. She said that the Board has gone to bat for the employees by not having to cut any employees and maintaining the programs for the students. We try very hard to maintain the programs and not having to make the cuts other districts had to make, so with this budget, even though a bit conservative, it's always been to our benefit because we are in a better position when crises arise. Trustee Donahue praised Mr. Vick and Superintendent Gilbert for their budget because our district is sitting in a better place than other school districts.

Superintendent Gilbert informed the board that when he and Mr. Vick sat down to discuss the budget, they had to consider a decrease in student enrollment. We were budgeting off a 97% protected level. We can hope that the enrollment come in higher.

Trustee Monasterio commended Mr. Vick and Superintendent Gilbert for their prioritizing the budget. He said that he has been in some districts that salary and benefits were frozen and employee cuts were made and that made for a demoralizing experience.

Chairman Abrego asked for input from anyone participating in the zoom meeting. He said that he could see that there was one person who joined in who wasn't an employee and that was good; no input was given. He added that the budget hearing would remain open for a few more minutes to see if there was anyone else who might want to join the zoom meeting and give input.

Trustee Binion said with the great budget that Mr. Vick put together and the Fund Balance that the board built left our district in a position that we can do what we are doing this year, of taking care of our staff at all levels, and taking care of the students proves the direction we took in building the Fund Balance is paying off now in a big way. He too commended Mr. Vick and Superintendent Gilbert with the budget.

- II. **ADJOURNMENT** – Chairman Abrego stated that with there being only one other participant joining the zoom budget hearing, Chairman Abrego asked for a motion to adjourn the public budget input hearing, and that the proposed budget would be an agenda item during the following special board meeting. Trustee Binion moved to close the public budget hearing. Trustee Donahue seconded the motion. Motion granted. Trustee Knox objected and then concurred. Budget Hearing adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Abrego

Clerk Whitman