

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2020
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE – ZOOM

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District No. 193 was convened at 7:00 p.m., October 27, 2020, via zoom, 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:

October 27, 2020
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 193
Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97221253415?pwd=Y01XczcrRFJDTXpEdjVGSC95MWFxdz09>

Meeting ID: 972 2125 3415

Passcode: 838213

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District No. 193, will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom, Mountain Home, Idaho, in said District, during which the following business will be conducted:

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER (ACTION)** – Chairman/Vice-Chairman
- II. **DISCUSSION AND/OR DETERMINATION OF COVID19 SITUATION** – Chairman
Abrego/James Gilbert
- III. **ADJOURN**

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 26th day of October 2020.



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 7:00 p.m. He informed everyone that this meeting is to address Governor Little’s COVID status address to the state. He said that the Governor put Idaho back into category 3.
- II. **DISCUSSION AND/OR DETERMINATION OF COVID19 SITUATION** – Chairman Abrego/James Gilbert. Chairman Abrego called upon Superintendent to better explain the COVID situation the district is in (category yellow) versus Elmore County being in the red category.

Superintendent Gilbert explained that CDH moved Elmore County to the red this week and what everyone needs to understand is that this is a community rating and not a school rating. Every community is different, and our region includes Ada County, Elmore County, Valley County, Garden Valley, etc., so when they list an area in a certain category, there is some variances between areas. To date we have had thirty-one positive COVID cases among both students and staff. None of the transmissions came from the schools, they all came from outside of the schools; students and some staff are being exposed from their home and social settings and then coming to school and exposing others. Very few of the thirty-one cases are still active. When a case is identified, administrators begin the close contact tracing investigation for every person who came in contact with the infected person and to place those individuals who were within 6’ft for more than fifteen-minutes into quarantine. In the contact tracing

investigations, we have had about 175 students and staff who have been placed into quarantine due to exposure, but that doesn't necessarily mean those 175 persons were infected, they were exposed. What we have seen is the only school related transmissions came from activities such as football and not from the classrooms, so the measures we have in place are working. That contact tracing data is what drives the decisions about schools and categories. Superintendent Gilbert continued to explain contact tracing and the fact that none of the transmissions have come from the school buildings or classrooms, but instead from students' homes and social activities.

The board discussed the changes from the SBOE and their changing the categories; how the CDH determines what category a school is in and what category a community is in; the variances between communities within the same counties and general area; discussed that eastern Idaho has four categories as does western Idaho and that the SBOE, a political entity, recently added a fourth category last week just like eastern and western Idaho; the CDH, non-political entity, uses three categories and our district falls under the CDH; discussed the CDH system; discussed how schools are trying to remain open as much as they can in some form or another; etc.

The board reviewed and discussed the SBOE Framework for Reopening Schools and Decision Making. The SBOE added a fourth orange category.

FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKING		July 9, 2020 8		
	Category 1: No Community Transmission	Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	Category 3: High Community Transmission	Category 4: Critical Community Transmission
Definitions	Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering.	Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.	Accelerated widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.	Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc.
Level of Operations	School buildings open with physical distancing and sanitation.	School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation.	School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation.	Targeted, short-term, or extended building closure. School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation.
<small>Regardless of the risk level, everyone is asked to: stay home if you are sick, maintain physical distancing as appropriate to the situation, wear face coverings in public when physical distancing is not possible, and wash hands frequently.</small>				

Superintendent Gilbert explained that with the orange category, school buildings are open, but have the option of limited use; have the buildings available for the hybrid models and have the buildings open for those students with special needs, but close the buildings to outside organizations. CDH is sort of in the same mindset, but what is unique to the CDH is they left the decisions up to the school boards to open or close, and in our community the only governing body doing any mitigation is our school board. Superintendent Gilbert shared an email from CDH addressing wearing face masks, social distancing, and hybrid type models of education. There is some misinformation going around from the media outlets that claim that once in the red category, all schools must close. We aren't going to close the district if there is only one classroom or one building that might need to close. What we really need is the support from our community. It can't just be the school district doing the mitigation and unfortunately, that is exactly what is occurring. Superintendent Gilbert has reached out to our elected official in our community and our community officials told us that we are on our own. With that, we really need our parents and community to do everything it takes to slow the spread of COVID down until the transmissions are in a large downward trend. Discussion continued.

The board and the superintendent continued the discussion regarding the determination of the status of COVID; the different transmissions of COVID categories; discussed the lack of support from elected officials and the lack of support from the state and especially community leaders; discussed the recent staff survey results ; discussed the majority percentage of staff who wanted to remain in hybrid and not to go red; discussed how things might look in the near future; discussed having another staff survey and even a community survey that might give us a better sense of how everyone feels regarding the category the district is in or might be in; discussed needing much more parent buy in in setting forth a plan;

discussed the fact that there are about equal numbers of people at both ends of closing schools or opening schools to a certain degree; the fact that the hybrid is the best possible solution at the moment, and the board would like to hear some legitimate alternatives that best meets students' needs; the board is concerned about the effectiveness of our education models; of education being received by students; discussed the disappointment from community leaders allowing social gatherings without following any of the social distancing rules or guidelines therefore our community leaders are working against the district and our students; kudos to MHAFB for cutting down the spread of COVID by following the CDH guidelines; the need to stay the course and not make constant changes all of the time; etc. The board asked staff to reach out to their administrators or to the board about their concerns.

Superintendent Gilbert informed everyone that COVID information would not be published due to FERPA laws regarding the protection of students and personnel rights. He will say that the only school that hasn't had a COVID case is Bennett Mountain School. He added that the low transmission numbers the school district has should be an indicator of how well the district's transmissions level are by following the CDH guidelines.

The board discussed and determined to still hold next Tuesday's scheduled board meeting. The board then discussed public input during board meetings. The board informed everyone that they conclusively decided for those wishing to give public input, the following rules would apply:

PUBLIC INPUT:

*Regular Board Meetings (3rd Tuesday of each mth): Individuals wishing to give public input **MUST** physically come to the board meeting and sign in. There is limited seating in the boardroom, so the person might have to wait in the foyer. Face masks and social distancing must be followed, or the individual will be immediately escorted out of the building. Individuals may also submit a Public Input Form (NLT noon the day of the meeting) and the form would be forwarded to the Board, but the input might not be read aloud during the meeting.*

*Special Board Meeting (any day or night, at any time): Individuals wishing to give public input **MUST** submit a Public Input form NLT noon the day of the meeting. During the special board meeting, the Board will unmute those individuals who submitted a form. Individuals who did not submit a form will not be unmuted and will not be allowed to give input.*

Discussion regarding school activities including attendance at school activities; the Intervalley League Conference (MHJH) is collectively not allowing any attendance at school activities; the Great Basin Conference (MHHS) is still working on their plans, but expect heavy restrictions and substantial limitations; discussed the decision to not allow any outside groups to use our facilities due to the extensive amount of time and resources to sanitize the areas; discussed the Activities Director contracted with a company for live streaming indoor activities, that system should be up and running; the system at the football field still needs parts that have been backorder for a few months.

Chairman Abrego asked for a motion to stay in the hybrid category: Trustee Binion moved for the school district to remain in the hybrid category. Trustee Knox seconded the motion. Trustee Donahue and Trustee Monasterio agreed with remaining in the hybrid category. Chairman Abrego opposed staying in hybrid. With the majority in favor of remaining in the hybrid category, the school district will remain in the hybrid category.

- 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 Knox. Motion granted. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Abrego

Clerk Whitman