

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

The Bruneau Grand View School District Mission: BGVSD will provide a high-quality education, prepare students for their futures, and enable them to be positive contributors to society.

Board Members Present:

Scott McNeley, Chairman-came in at 1:25 p.m.
Allen Merrick, Vice Chair
Steve Boren, Trustee
Raelynn Mathews, Trustee-excused herself at 2:06 p.m.
Elaine Eldridge, Trustee

Administration Present:

Ken Higbee, Interim Superintendent
JayDene Aquiso, Clerk/Treasurer
Kailee McClure, Principal
Jonathan Waterlander, Principal - absent

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Vice Chair Merrick called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Aquiso confirmed that a quorum was present.

- II. PUBLIC INPUT** Those individuals wishing to address the Board may sign up at the board materials table and must submit the completed form to the Board Clerk. Individuals will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes to present their views. Open Meetings requirements limit the ability of the Board to discuss or take action on any topic not previously on the agenda; however, the issue may be included on a future agenda if appropriate. Please note: The Board cannot receive complaints against personnel in open session, and recommend that concerns be resolved through the following order: (1) Teacher or Staff, (2) Principal or Supervisor, (3) Superintendent, (4) The Board of Trustees. District Office Phone: 208-834-2260.

Public input

Sammie Steiner-Staff Resignations- Mrs. Steiner addressed the Board regarding recent staff resignations. She shared that her daughter began kindergarten during the 2020 school year when COVID impacted in-person learning. She spoke about her daughter's experience in grade school, noting the positive support she received from her first-grade teacher, which reassured her that her child would be successful. Mrs. Steiner stated that her daughter has since transitioned from grade school to middle school and has continued to thrive. She expressed that the junior high team has been excellent and has helped her daughter grow academically and personally. Mrs. Steiner also shared that she is saddened by the resignation of the junior high teacher.

III. STUDENT PRESENTATION:

- A. The Rimrock Student Council presented at 1:13 p.m. regarding the Student Body Government. They shared their goal of bringing back school spirit and creating a more positive and engaging school environment. Plans include celebrating student successes through Student of the Month and Student of the Quarter recognitions, hosting monthly spirit assemblies, and organizing school-wide class competitions. The council also plans to invite a mental health speaker to present to students. Mrs. Lisle was recognized for her support in helping the students organize their efforts and develop ideas.

IV. A. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Mathews provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes for January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Accounts Payable/Payroll – February 2026
3. School Accounts – January 2026
(*Bruneau Elementary, Grand View Elementary, Rimrock Jr./Sr. High School*)
4. Paychecks for: Ashley Merrick, Adam and Amee-Lynn Eldridge, and Kellie McNeley
5. Approve Bruneau Elementary Closure -January 14, 2026 due to water leak
6. Approve Resignations:
 - a. Michelle Aquiso, Rimrock High School Math
 - b. Claire Smith, Rimrock High School Science
 - c. Delaney Guldseth, Bruneau Elementary Teacher
 - d. Emily Waterlander, Jr. High Science Teacher
7. Approve Hires
 - a. Jon Nicholson, Jr. High Basketball Assistant Coach
 - b. Amanda Dygert, Head High School Track
 - c. Nick Ellis, Head Junior High Track
 - d. Susan Wampler, Head Teacher Bruneau Elementary 2026-2027
 - e. Christine Meyers-Rimrock Administrative Assistant/Manager of Day Care

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Eldridge seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

V. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Secondary Principal Report-given by Dr. Higbee

Dr. Higbee thanked the Board of Trustees for their service and leadership. He presented Mr. Waterlander's report in his absence due to illness. Dr. Higbee provided an overview of Rimrock academics, noting that all senior papers have been completed. He also reported on school culture and athletics and presented a proposed senior trip to Crescent City, Northern California, scheduled for March 20–24, 2026.

Morgan Field addressed the Board regarding the senior trip and reviewed the proposed itinerary. Currently, 10 students from the senior class are planning to attend.

Employee Recognition – Amanda Dygert

- Facilitated outstanding academic growth in MAP assessments:
Language Usage: 67th percentile (Grade 9) and 69th percentile (Grade 10)
Reading: 69th percentile (Grade 9) and 57th percentile (Grade 10)
Serves as Senior Class Advisor, mentoring students through the graduation planning process, coordinating senior projects, and organizing the senior trip.
Will serve as Head High School Track Coach for the upcoming spring season.

B. Grand View Elementary Principal Report

Celebration of Success:

Mrs. McClure, Elementary Principal, shared several celebrations, including hosting an Idaho Theater for Youth performance and a Boise Philharmonic presentation for students. She also noted that the school was featured in *Idaho Education News* for ranking in the top 10 on the new IRI reading assessment.

Mrs. McClure reported positive student growth on the i-Ready assessment and provided an enrollment update. She explained that the data presented reflects results collected after Christmas break, during a period of significant student illness. She emphasized that the purpose of the testing is to help teachers identify students' current levels and determine targeted areas of instruction to best support their learning.

Upcoming Events:

- March 2–5: Read Across America Week
- March 5: 100th Day of School
- March 17: Student-Led Conferences and Math Literacy -Raider Quests and food provided.
- March 23–26: Spring Break

Employee Recognition- Grand View Elementary Susan Wampler -She is amazing.

Bruneau Elementary-Summer Virnig-We are thrilled to recognize Summer Virnig, our 2nd/3rd Grade Teacher at Bruneau Elementary, as this month's Teacher of the Month! Ms. Virnig joined the Bruneau-Grand View Joint School District in the fall of 2025, bringing with her a deep dedication to student success. Before stepping into her current classroom, she gained valuable experience as a Special Education Paraprofessional at Kimberly Elementary School. She is working on a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Western Governors University and is known for her skill in fostering student engagement through both group and individual instruction.

Her teaching philosophy is driven by her two biggest passions: working with children and exploring nature. She strives to bring that sense of discovery into her classroom every day.

Bruneau Elementary Students of the Month-Aden Eldridge, Roan Folkman, Ian Black.

C. Interim Superintendent Report/Dr. Higbee

Dr. Higbee provided updates on students and school activities, as well as professional development held on January 16. He shared information from the i-Ready professional development session, including discussion around the concept of "productive struggle" and its importance in student learning. He also provided a leadership update, highlighting John Wooden's principles on leadership.

Food Service Update:

Dr. Higbee reported that the Food Service Department is working diligently to improve operations. The team is conducting taste tests and has formed a student advisory group with two students from each class to gather feedback and identify ways to improve the program. They are also seeking outside support to strengthen recipe development. A food service audit was conducted, reviewing food quality, menus, and waste. A detailed report outlining recommended food items for students will be presented next month. Dr. Higbee expressed appreciation for the Food Service Director and her commitment to continuous improvement.

Trustee Mathews, Trustee-excused herself left at 2:07 p.m.

Border Contract:

Dr. Higbee explained the border contract and reviewed the increase in the per-pupil rate.

Fraudulent Checks:

Two additional fraudulent checks were identified this month.

Staffing Update:

Letters of Intent were sent out on January 26 and returned by February 5. The Math Teacher position at Rimrock is currently being advertised, along with High School Science and Junior High Science positions. Dr. Higbee discussed the future staffing plan for Bruneau Elementary. Ms. Wampler will serve as Head Teacher and teach grades K–3 and Ms. Virnig will teach grades 4–5.

Testing Update:

Dr. Higbee reviewed the amount of testing at each grade level and outlined the assessments students are currently taking.

Accreditation:

An update was provided regarding accreditation.

Community Meetings:

- Oreana Hall – February 9: Dr. Higbee reported a positive meeting. Mrs. Steiner shared that she and her community expressed common thoughts and feelings and felt their voices were heard.
- Valentine's Dinner – February 13 (attendance planned)
- Bruneau Elementary – March 9
- Grand View Elementary – March 4

Leadership Team Focus/Training:

Continued study of John Wooden on Leadership.

2026–2027 Calendar:

Discussion/update provided.

FFA Recognition Month:

The district greenhouse was highlighted. Dr. Higbee invited board members to tour the greenhouse with Mr. Dygert.

Board Training:

Scheduled for March.

Grand View Elementary Gym Floor:

Update/discussion provided.

Dr. Higbee's Schedule:

Reviewed with the Board.

Financial and Operations Report:

The monthly financial report as of January 2026 was presented. All accounts are in good standing, with the exception of Food Service.

Chairman McNeley assumed leadership of the meeting.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Roll Call Vote)

In accordance with Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a) and (b) for, the Board entered into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. The Executive Session was held in the Boardroom (Library), and all patrons were excused to the hallway during the session.

MOTION: Trustee Merrick moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a) and (b) for personnel matters. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote (2:41 p.m.):

- Trustee Boren – Yes
- Trustee Eldridge – Yes
- Chairman McNeley – Yes
- Trustee Merrick – Yes
- Trustee Mathews – No

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:41 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and reconvened in open session at 5:13 p.m.

Staff Present During Executive Session:

- Ashley Merrick
- Dr. Higbee
- JayDene Aquiso

Discussion topics included student and personnel matters.

During Executive Session:

- Dr. Higbee left the meeting and later returned.
- Ashley Merrick left the meeting.
- Dr. Higbee left and returned to the meeting again.
- The Board returned to open session at 5:13 p.m.

VII. ACTION ITEMS II

The Board may take action to approve, deny, amend, modify, postpone, or take no action on any of the items listed below:

A. Approve Merrick Diesel Solutions Bill

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the Merrick Diesel Solutions bill. Trustee Eldridge

seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Trustee Merrick left the meeting room and abstained from voting. Trustee Merrick then returned to the meeting.

- B. Approve Border Contract for the 2025–2026 School Year with Elko County School District
MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the Border Contract for the 2025–2026 school year with Elko County School District. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion was held regarding the increase in the per-pupil rate.
- C. Approve Bruneau Grand View Joint School District 2026–2027 School Calendar
MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the Bruneau Grand View Joint School District 2026–2027 School Calendar. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Trustee Boren asked whether the school year could begin one week later in August.
- D. Approve Motion to Rescind Prior Action to Advertise the Principal/Superintendent Position with ISBA for the 2026–2027 School Year
MOTION: Trustee Merrick made a motion to rescind the prior action to advertise the Principal/Superintendent position with ISBA for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Eldridge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Approve 2026–2027 Superintendent/Principal Contract – Dr. Higbee
MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the 2026–2027 Superintendent/Principal Contract for Dr. Higbee. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Authorization to Solicit Bids for Gymnasium Flooring Replacement at Grand View Elementary
MOTION: Trustee Merrick made a motion to approve the authorization to solicit bids for gymnasium flooring replacement at Grand View Elementary. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion was held regarding subfloor issues contributing to the current floor problems. It was noted that the new flooring system should address these concerns.
- G. Approve Class of 2026 Senior Trip to Crescent City, CA (March 20–24, 2026)
MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the Class of 2026 Senior Trip to Crescent City, CA, March 20–24, 2026. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

2025–2026 Board Self-Assessment Discussion/Training Next Month

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Trustee Boren moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion.



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE
February 10, 2026



CLERK/TREASURER

