



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

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 365
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JULY 8, 2025
RIMROCK LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott McNeley called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and welcomed patrons. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

- Scott McNeley – Chairman
- Allen Merrick – Vice Chairman
- Steve Boren – Trustee
- Elaine Eldridge – Trustee
- Raelynn Mathews – Trustee

Staff Present:

- Jeff Blaser – Superintendent, JayDene Aquiso – Clerk/Treasurer, Zack Dygert-CTE Teacher

Clerk Aquiso confirmed that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT | SUMMARY 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

Bruneau School Closure and Survey Results – Public Comments Summary

The following patrons addressed the Board regarding the possible closure of Bruneau Elementary:

Lynn Foster – A Bruneau taxpayer and volunteer.

Ms. Foster raised concerns about the recent survey conducted regarding Bruneau Elementary. She questioned the timing and method used for the survey and why it differed from past practices. She requested an explanation from the Board and the Superintendent regarding the decision to conduct the survey as they did.

Sammie Steiner – Parent of students in the district.

Ms. Steiner emphasized the importance of the district's long-term goals, particularly regarding the K–12 consolidation plan. She noted that despite attending many board meetings, no official action has been taken on this plan. She urged the Board to clearly state their long-term vision and take concrete steps toward achieving it, stating that "actions speak louder than words."

Cathy Sellman –

Ms. Sellman submitted written comments or minutes to Trustee Sherry Colyer.

Gary Jones – Bruneau resident since 1981, former teacher and coach for 30 years.

Mr. Jones referenced the recently passed two-year levy and emphasized that voters in his zone supported it under the impression that Bruneau Elementary would remain open. He stated that closing the school would break trust with the community and likely jeopardize future levy or bond support. He advocated for keeping Bruneau Elementary open for at least the upcoming school year to allow time for the community to potentially pursue forming their own district.

Sherry Colyer –Former Board Trustee

Trustee Colyer thanked Idaho Ed News for attending. She expressed that community trust has been seriously damaged. She reiterated that the levy was presented as a way to keep **all** schools open, including Bruneau Elementary. She cited Idaho Code, noting that a school is either active (open) or inactive (closed). She shared that the Bruneau community has hired legal counsel and submitted a petition with 104 signatures collected with minimal effort. She emphasized the community's desire to keep both elementary schools open and called on the Board to follow historical precedent. Quoting Mark Twain, she stated, "You are never wrong to do the right thing," encouraging the Board to take action accordingly.



ACTION ITEMS

Approve Agenda

Motion: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Mathews seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approve Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda Items:

- Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - Approval of Paychecks:
 - Ashley Merrick
 - Adam and Amee-Lynn Eldridge
 - Approval of Accounts Payable/Payroll
 - Approval of Bruneau Elementary, Grand View Elementary, and Rimrock Accounts
 - Approve Hires for 2025-2026
 - a. Jessica Florin, Elementary Teacher
 - b. Michelle Aquiso-Secondary Math Teacher
 - c. Nick Ellis, Math Paraprofessional/Intervention working on his teaching degree
 - d. Naya Jewett, Food Service Director
 - e. Kailee McClure, Elementary Principal/Special Ed.-Federal Programs
 - f. Superintendent/Federal Programs Director
 - Approve Hiring Coaches for 2025-2026 school year
 - 1. Jr. High and High School Cross Country, Melissa Raymond,
 - 2. Varsity Football, Sam Ward,
 - 3. Jr. High Football, Nick Ellis
 - 4. Sports Manager, Katy Carothers
 - 5. Nick Ellis, Assistant Athletic Director
 - Supplemental Contracts
 - 1. Jason Tindall, Extra Day Ag
 - 2. Zack Dygert, Extra Day Ag.-Woodshop
 - **Motion:** Trustee Merrick moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Mathews seconded.
- Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

Item G – Meeting Minutes

The minutes were pulled from Item G and tabled for later discussion.

A motion was made by Trustee Mathews to remove the minutes from Item G, seconded by Trustee Boren. The motion passed.

It was noted that the date mentioned in Trustee Mathews' comments should be removed, as she stated she did not have a specific date.



Item B – Teacher Placement Discussion

Trustee Mathews inquired about Item B, questioning why the district is not hiring a certified teacher for the classroom for the high school math position.

Mr. Blaser responded that the district is currently utilizing an online certified teacher, with a paraprofessional (para) physically present in the classroom. The paraprofessional is actively working toward obtaining his teaching degree.

Trustee Mathews further questioned Mr. Blaser about the certification status of the in-classroom teacher and asked whether the contract is full-time or part-time.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Zack Dygert presented plans for the Greenhouse project, noting that currently the greenhouse class is running without an actual greenhouse. He requested the Board's input on the preferred location for the new structure.

I. Location Discussion:

Mr. Dygert indicated that funds are available to fully cover the project. He has consulted with others on potential locations and believes the proposed site—close to the classroom—is optimal. Maintenance Supervisor expressed support for the proposed location and favored **Option 1**.

II. Utility Costs & Operation:

Estimated ongoing utility costs:

- A. Propane:** ~\$3,000 per year
- B. Electricity:** Minimal (fans, lighting)
- C. Water:** Standard usage costs

III. Funding & Revenue:

- A.** The greenhouse class already generates additional **CTE (Career Technical Education) funds**.
- B.** Future revenue opportunities include **plant sales and other greenhouse-related projects**.

IV. Timeline & Construction:

Chairman McNeley asked about the project timeline.

Mr. Dygert estimated that work could begin in **October**, as the greenhouse is a **kit**.

- A. Superintendent Report - Jeff Blaser**
 - 1. District Long Range Planning



Ad Hoc Committee - Oct. 28, 2014 (Supt. Wilson)

"Mr. Wilson pointed out that the District's enrollment has been on a steady decline, and needs to be a factor in future planning ideas."

V. Question asked to the committee - "What do you want from the district?"

- a) Education - "Students be more disciplined"
- b) "Visible leadership in schools"
- c) "behave professionally - no bad language"
- d) "School grounds kept better"
- e) Advanced opportunities - "Advanced History"

Ad Hoc Committee - January 4, 2021 (Supt. Cantrell)

The intent of the committee, made up of two representatives from each voting district ...is to generate alternative proposals to meet two major objectives

Increase and enhance educational opportunities...

Provide an economically efficient physical infrastructure plan to provide long term fiscal stability to the district.

Ad Hoc Committee - January 12, 2021 (Supt. Cantrell)

Recommendations to the Board:

1. Develop a 3-year strategic plan ...to include:
 - a. Enhance educational opportunities
 - b. Fund additional staffing
 - c. Re-evaluate infrastructure design no later than 2024 and actively plan for implementation of possible infrastructure changes between 2025-2027.
2. Dedicate funds...setting aside \$1M

Ad Hoc Committee - January 12, 2021 (Supt. Cantrell)

Recommendations to the Board:

3. Infrastructure design will be determined in 2024 and may include but may not be limited to:

- a. Maintain all 3 schools as modern functioning physical facilities.
- b. Enhance educational opportunities...
- c. Consolidate all students to an updated or new facility at Rimrock.

Ad Hoc Committee - February 13, 2024

Regarding recommendations moving forward toward the May 2024 election cycle. "In addition to running a levy, the committee majority would like to propose that the board begin the process to draw up plans for a one-campus, PreK-12 layout located at Rimrock to see if it is a supportable option to consider as decisions are made in the uncertainty of the district's future."

June 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting - Action Items

in addition to hiring an architectural firm to create a facility master plan for a PreK-12 school at Rimrock, as noted in the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation:



- Approve an enrollment requirement to continue staffing for Bruneau Elementary School, with a minimum of 35 students in grades K–5.
- Approve authorization for the administration to prepare contingency plans to transport Bruneau Elementary students to attend Grand View Elementary School in the event enrollment drops below 35 by July 1, 2025.

“The committee had much discussion and concern regarding the continued decline in student enrollment as well as a nationwide teacher shortage. We feel that it is in the best interest of students, staff, families, and communities to make a transition in a manner that is planned with thoughtful intent rather than forced, if possible.”

The district immediately directed the superintendent to hire an architectural firm to visit and inspect all three campus locations and present the best options for a PreK–12 campus. Rimrock was selected as the ideal location and drawings were presented 6 months later.

At the January 14, 2025, regular school board meeting, the architectural firm presented its drawings, putting them on display and providing a detailed and colorful presentation to the board and attending audience.

Between January and June, 2025, the district held multiple public meetings to address long-term planning and respond to questions and concerns. It provided information and maintained frequent communication with families through newsletters, local media, the district’s website, and monthly “School Talks” open forum meetings - most were poorly attended.

Following the recommendations of previous committees, a community survey was approved by the Board. The survey ran from May 25 through June 27. The survey targeted key issues in connection with all three Ad Hoc Committee discussions and recommendations from 2014 through 2024.

A discussion was held regarding the levy proposal brought forward by the Ad Hoc Committee. Trustee Mathews emphasized the importance of the need for accurate, transparent financial information moving forward to ensure informed decision-making and community trust.

Survey Report-Amy Holly and Micheal Keith joined the meeting virtually

- Do not put a bond vote on the November ballot - What is the benefit for the district to continue toward the November election if the survey data tells us the vote won’t pass?
- Use the information - We have learned a lot from our communities



- Split opinion on consolidation - need more information
- Confidence in the district is low - build trust
- What are our best options moving forward?
 - A PreK-12 campus is still the best option for all
 - We need to continue to bring people together and work together to find a workable plan

Survey Validity and Outreach Methods

Questions were raised regarding the validity of the survey, particularly how responses were limited to school district residents and how multiple responses were addressed.

- Survey Security:

The survey platform tracked unique identifiers and IP addresses. While some individuals responded more than once, the number was not significant or impactful. The best control against duplicates was through identifying responses from the same IP address.

Amy noted she would provide detailed response data to Jeff by the next day.

- Text-Based Survey Limitations:

Some individuals opted out of certain communications (e.g., text messages or phone calls), which impacted who received the survey.

Alternative channels were used, including:

- PowerSchool
- District social media accounts (e.g., Facebook)

- Questions and Communication on the survey

Acknowledged that while challenges were known from the start, the survey results clearly reflect strong community opinions. Survey results were likely not what the board hoped for. Why were some survey responses incomplete or skipped questions.

responded that some participants chose to skip questions, which is common in voluntary surveys.

Questioned the emphasis on registered voters, pointing out that the survey was not distributed exclusively to them. It was noted that the intent was to gather broader community input, not just from voters, especially ahead of any future ballot questions.

The overall response rate, which was described as relatively strong, though it did not meet the target threshold.

Urged the board to consider the support shown in the survey for keeping Bruneau Elementary



open and use that input in future decision-making.

The social media platforms used (response: District accounts, including Facebook)
Text message delivery issues, with four people in the room indicating they did receive it
Telecom carriers can allow individuals to opt out of survey-related communications, impacting reach results

Suggestion:

A patron suggested the district consider mailing a physical letter to improve outreach in the future.

Survey Cost:

The survey cost was reported to be approximately \$4,000.

Rebuilding Trust:

A final question was raised: How do we build trust?, reflecting broader community concern about transparency and communication.

Recruiting Report

First Grade - Recommend Jessica Florian, Grand View Elementary- Conditional Offer.

Resident, Substitute K-12 all buildings during 2024-25

Secondary Math - No certified application or inquiries - Plan with Teacher of Record

Certified Secondary Math - Michelle Aquiso-Lehman (2023-24)

Classified in-progress for math degree- Nick Ellis

Elementary Principal -Recommend Kailee McClure, for Grand View Elementary. Conditional Offer.

Business Technology -Open and posted

Food Service Director -Recommend Naya Jewett-district wide. Conditional Offer, Coordination with the State FS

Combo Elementary -Emma Sanders - BSU graduate 12/24, Long term substitute,

Taft Elementary, Boise SD,Experience.

Morton & Company who manages our commercial insurance coverage negotiated our coverage for next year with Alliant. ICRMP, our former provider, increased their costs. Morton & Company along with ISBA has been working to find a provider whose value included more competitive prices for equal to or greater coverage.

We budgeted an estimated increase of \$55,000.00 not knowing what the increase would be.

The new plan will be \$57,486.00 with substantially better coverage.

Alliant Property Insurance Program (APIP) handles insurance for over 10,000 entities in 45 states. Their coverage is going to be broader than ICRMP in well over a dozen different areas.

Liability coverage will be underwritten by a company called Obsidian Specialty Insurance.

Morton & Co. will continue to partner with Anderson Julian & Hull for defense work on all claims.



See the ISBA Insurance Plan and policy limit changes, in your packet

Monthly Financial Report

Target goal is 100% in YTD Total Column for
both R&E)

REVENUES (Total Revenues for June - 102%)

Tax Supplemental - Expecting revenue in July

Solar Farms - Expecting revenue in July

Earnings on Investments 174%

Other Local 999% - Unexpected revenue -

Insurance - Wall Repair, Workmans Comp, Blue Cross Returns, Blue Cross Grant Award,
NonFed Grant \$

Agri Prop Tax - Expecting revenue in July

EXPENDITURES (Total Expenses for April - 95%)

Technology Program - Planned to invest over what was budgeted

Maintenance - Build/Equip - Mower, Well & Pump,

Maintenance Grounds -

Pupil Transportation -

Vehicle Program -

Support Services -

FUND BALANCE

290-Food Service - YTD -\$68,619.62

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Trustee Merrick moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b)(f). Trustee Boren seconded. The Executive Session was held in the Library. All patrons were asked to wait outside and would be notified when the open session reconvened.

Executive Session was held in accordance with Idaho Code provisions:

- **74-206(1)(b):** To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, individual agent, or public student;
- Sub F communicate with legal counsel for the legal agency



8:49pm

Roll Call Vote:

- Boren – Yes
- Eldridge – Yes
- McNeley – Yes
- Merrick – Yes
- Mathews – Yes

Staff present-Jeff Blaser, Superintendent-JayDene Aquiso, Clerk

Attorney–Client Discussion-Time Entered: 8:57 PM

Legal matters were discussed with the district’s attorney under attorney–client privilege.-Phone attorney-with Anderson, Julian and Hall.

Student Matter – Plea Agreement

- **Time: 10:38 PM-Discussion held regarding Student A and a plea agreement with the County.**
- **District Office Staff Evaluations**
- **Staff A Evaluation – 10:39 PM**
- **Staff B Evaluation – 10:57 PM**

Exit Interviews

- **Time: 11:03 PM – 11:29 PM**
Discussion was held on Exit Interviews
Return to Open Session-Time: 11:34 PM
 - **Patrons were invited back into the meeting following the conclusion of the Executive Session at 11:36pm..**
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ACTION ITEMS

A-1. Action Item: Plan to Keep Bruneau Elementary Open for 2025–2026

Motion: Trustee Eldridge moved to approve the plan to keep Bruneau Elementary open for the 2025–2026 school year, depending upon staff availability. Trustee Mathews seconded the motion. Vote:

Motion passed unanimously.

A-2. Action Item: Vote to Close Bruneau Elementary Beginning with the 2026–2027 School Year

Motion: Trustee Boren moved to approve the closure of Bruneau Elementary beginning with the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Trustee Mathews discussed the importance for district stakeholders in each community to have the opportunity to decide whether to close BES and consolidate elementary schools at one location or to keep it open. She stated to the audience, We will adhere to the voter feedback whatever the outcome. The results of the vote will give the board direction for future planning.

B. The Board's long-range plan is to continue to explore the viability of a K-12 school located at the Rimrock campus sometime in the future. The Board will continue the planning process later in the 2025-2026 school year to determine the plan is financially sustainable and to consider the advantages for student academic performance.

Motion: Trustee Merrick moved to table the Board's long-range planning to continue to explore the viability of a K-12 school located at the Rimrock campus sometime in the future. The Board will continue the planning process later in the 2025-2026 school year to determine the plan is financially sustainable and to consider the advantages for student academic performance. Trustee Boren second. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion; The board did not want to form a committee before we had the results of the November election. The board wants to understand what the community wants before we start long range planning

C. Request approval of the Greenhouse Grant and confirmation of its proposed location.

Motion: Trustee Boren moved to approve the Greenhouse Grant and confirmation of its proposed location in site number one Trustee Mathews second. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion-None



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JULY 8, 2025

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
RIMROCK JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Trustee Boren moved to adjourn. Trustee Merrick seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman McNeley adjourned the meeting at 11:46 pm.



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE
July 8, 2025



CLERK/TREASURE