



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

**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  
JUNE 10, 2025  
RIMROCK LIBRARY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING-ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING**

June is School Board Appreciation Month

Every June, we celebrate School Board Appreciation Month. We know board members wear many hats. They are often decision-makers, community representatives, strategic thinkers, and most importantly, advocates for students. Their commitment often happens behind the scenes, but the impact of their work is felt across every classroom and within our school district.  
**THANK YOU!!!**

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Scott McNeley called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and welcomed patrons. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Members Present:**

- Scott McNeley – Chairman
- Allen Merrick – Vice Chairman
- Steve Boren – Trustee-absent on phone starting with executive session
- Elaine Eldridge – Trustee
- Raelynn Mathews – Trustee

**Staff Present:**

- Jeff Blaser – Superintendent, JayDene Aquiso – Clerk/Treasurer



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Clerk Aquiso confirmed that a quorum was present.

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**PUBLIC INPUT I SUMMARY – Bruneau School Closure**

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

- Sherry Colyer thanked the Board for their service and noted that when a room is full of people, it signals a problem. She referenced minutes from Dave Tindall's father, pointing out that the same issues discussed back then are happening again today.
- Lynne Foster expressed concern regarding the recent survey and offered suggestions for its improvement.
- Shoni Bailey read a letter opposing the closure of Bruneau Elementary. She urged the Board to listen to the community, highlighting how transportation is already disruptive with current driver shortages forcing parents to transport students. She warned of an enrollment crisis being created by the potential closure, citing broken promises and lost trust. She asked the Board to honor their pledge of public service, emphasizing that Bruneau Elementary represents more than just a building.
- Cathy Sellman stated that she and her husband are in favor of keeping Bruneau Elementary open. She noted that combined classrooms have always been a part of the school's structure and that elementary students appear to be doing well. She encouraged the Board to think about a solid plan and fulfill their responsibilities as a Board.
- Ann Black Rutan spoke about the school's history, sharing that her grandfather was on the Board when Bruneau Elementary was built in 1958. Thirty years later, they faced similar discussions about closing the school, and at that time, 75% of the community opposed it. She noted that many valedictorians have come from Bruneau's combined classrooms.
- Holly Black raised concerns about the ethics of the closure discussions.
- Tom Cook, new to the valley, spoke about his positive experience attending a small school and how that contributed to receiving a quality education. He expressed support for keeping Bruneau Elementary open.



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- Brandi Lisle, a former student and teacher at Bruneau Elementary, stated that comparisons to other small schools don't reflect the reality at Bruneau. She referenced the prior Board meeting, where much discussion was centered on the levy. She expressed frustration that the Board had rejected that funding option and suggested that Bruneau has not been adequately supported in efforts to maintain enrollment.

Board Member Responses:

- Chairman McNeley asked the Board if they wanted to respond. He expressed appreciation for the comments and stated that the Board's effort is to be as transparent as possible. He emphasized that the Board works hard on the district's vision, with decisions guided by ethical considerations and what is best for all students, not just those at Bruneau Elementary. He reiterated that it takes money to educate students and that these are difficult decisions that the Board does not take lightly.
- Trustee Mathews stated that on the audit report dated June 30, 2024 we put over \$1 MM back into our fund balances. She expressed concern about outside administrators pushing perspectives that do not align with community values. She stated she is not in favor of closing any schools and believes that if a community chooses to support combination classes, they should have that right.
- Trustee Eldridge stated that most patrons know her position. She expressed that the closure of Bruneau Elementary would primarily save salaries, but that overall savings would be minimal and likely offset by future enrollment growth. She emphasized that the district has a healthy fund balance and that Bruneau Elementary should remain open.
- Trustee Merrick reflected on his personal experience attending Bruneau Elementary, including his long bus ride. He explained that during the 1969 school consolidations, it turned out to be a positive experience for him and his friends. He emphasized that this decision is not being taken lightly, nor is it intended as a punishment, but rather as part of the district's evolution.
- Lynn Bachman stated that this issue has been ongoing for 15 years and offered deconsolidation or alternatives like virtual or charter schools as potential solutions. He expressed frustration that despite having new board members, the leadership focus has remained on consolidation rather than on education. Lynn suggested passing a bond to maintain current operations until a long-term plan is in place, stressing that rural schools are rare and should be preserved as part of the community's legacy.



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- Chairman McNeley reiterated that the conversation is not solely about money, but about how to best serve all 250 students in the district. He acknowledged the need to address overhead costs while balancing educational quality. Lynn Bachman responded by warning that focusing on financial savings could lead to student loss.
- Kit Bachman noted that students are already leaving the district for online schools and warned that the community would continue to lose students if better programs were not provided.
- Sammie Steiner, who works at Gem Prep and grew up in Bruneau, expressed concern about the declining sense of community and questioned where the public support was.
- Martha Araujo, a 2020 Rimrock graduate, shared her experience with college courses during high school. She ultimately chose to pursue college in person but highlighted that students in the district have access to programs like TRIO and dual-credit courses.
- Frank Bachman provided a historical perspective, explaining that when previous schools closed, the community lost part of its identity. He stressed that community involvement is essential to student success and referenced the long-standing community rivalry between Bruneau and Grand View as part of that identity.
- Jonathan McClure spoke to the importance of school culture and expressed his view that the administration is strong and that the district's culture is positive.

The Board moved on to the next agenda item at 8:30 PM.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approve Agenda**

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

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Approve Consent Agenda**

#### **Consent Agenda Items:**



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- Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting
  - Approval of Paychecks:
    - Ashley Merrick
    - Kelli McNeley
    - Adam and Amee-Lynn Eldridge
  - Approval of Accounts Payable/Payroll
  - Approval of Bruneau Elementary, Grand View Elementary, and Rimrock Accounts
  - Approval of Rimrock 2025–2026 Handbook
  - Acceptance of Resignations:
    - Peggy Newman – Bruneau Elementary Secretary
    - Krysta Huling – Bruneau Elementary Teacher
    - Laney Jenkins – Bruneau Elementary Teacher
    - Jessica VanMeer Jones – Bruneau Elementary Teacher
    - Sarah Baker – Grand View Elementary Teacher
    - Deidra Ingles – Food Service Director
- Motion:** Trustee Merrick moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Eldridge seconded.  
**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

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## REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Elementary Principal Report – Alex Meyers

Academic & School Updates Summary – 2025

Testing Data

- Overall Student Improvement:
  - Elementary students have outperformed the state in testing for the past five years.
  - Consistent progress has been made in moving students in the right direction.

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## PLC (Professional Learning Communities) Update

- Structure:
  - 4 rotating collaboration meetings held:
    - K–3 ELA / 4–5 Math
    - K–3 Math / 4–5 ELA



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- Focus Areas:
  - Curriculum alignment across schools.
  - Sharing instructional strategies.
  - Addressing instructional challenges collaboratively.
- Accountability Meetings:
  - Emphasis on Number Sense.
  - Teachers observed each other's classrooms and provided constructive feedback.
- Lessons Learned:
  - Weekly collaboration (1 hr on Mondays) was more effective than previous monthly PD.
  - Peer observations fostered professional growth.
  - Consistent collaborative time is essential for instructional improvement.

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Secondary Principal Report – Jon Waterlander

Mission & Purpose

Goal #1: Academic Growth

- Target: Median Growth Score at or above 60th percentile for every grade & subject (MAP).
  - 100% of continuously enrolled students grow beyond the 20th percentile.
- Results (Language):
  - 80% (82/102) of students showed growth.
  - Median growth = 65th percentile.



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- 14% of students in the lowest quintile.

**Goal #2: Career Readiness**

- Attendance:
  - Goal:  $\geq 95\%$  Avg Daily Attendance.
  - Result: 93% (missed goal; last year = 92.8%).
- CTE / Career-Relevant Classes:
  - 100% participation (MET GOAL).
- Graduation Plans:
  - 100% of Grades 8–12 students have tailored 4-year Graduation Plans (MET GOAL).
- Workplace Readiness:
  - Staff developed and implemented common formative assessments (CFAs) for workplace readiness (MET GOAL).

**Goal #3: Character Development**

- Character Assemblies: Held monthly (MET GOAL).
- Sources of Strength Program: 1+ event per quarter (MET GOAL).
- Behavioral Goals (BRTI):
  - Stabilize at  $\leq 1$  violation/day by Oct 2024 (MISSED).
  - 3rd Violations  $\leq 5\%$  (MISSED – 6.6%).
  - 4th Violations  $\leq 2\%$  (MET – 0%).



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- ELA Team: Focus on vocabulary.
  - JH: 27% increase on CFAs.
  - HS: Minimal CFA gains, but improved ISAT/MAP vocabulary recognition.
- Quantitative Team (Math): Focus on Number Sense.
  - JH: 20% increase.
  - HS: 8% increase, 90% proficiency.
- Workplace Readiness Team: Focus on Attendance/Communication.
  - New correlation process with PowerSchool.
  - Student communication for missed work increased from 14% → 58.5%.

Lessons Learned:

- Dedicated weekly collaboration significantly improved results.
- Cross-curricular assessments engaged students.
- Developing CFAs improved data collection.
- Student motivation remains a variable affecting academic outcomes.

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Draft 2025–2026 Handbook Changes

- Graduation Requirements: Aligned with updated Idaho law (Policy 2700P, p. 5).
- Grade Advancement Requirements: Revised (Policy 2605, p. 6).
- Individualized Occupational Training: New guidance added (p. 15).
- Electronic Devices Policy:





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- JH: No phones in person during class.
- HS: Still prohibited during class (p. 16).
- Grade Checks: Clarified at the start of each quarter (p. 20).
- Athletics Eligibility: Expanded for dual-sport athletes (pp. 21–22).

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#### Athletics Update

- 5 track athletes competed at Middleton HS (June 16–17).
- Budget Status: Positive year-end balance (recovered from ~\$10k deficit).
- Revenue sources:
  - Advertising from gym banners (Senior Projects).
  - Increased activity/sports fees.
  - Consistent team fundraising expectations.

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#### Employee Recognition

##### Brandi Lisle – Junior High ELA

- Instrumental in year-end planning as JH Lead Teacher.
- Organized:
  - Yearbook (outstanding product for students).
  - National Honor Society Induction.
  - Honor Roll Field Trip.
  - 8th Grade Graduation Dance.



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- Supported Rimrock Field Day (organized by Student Government).
- New Role Next Year: Student Body Government Advisor.

**Superintendent Report – Jeff Blaser**

**Policy Committee – Series 7000:**

- Reviewed updates to Financial Management policies including:  
The committee reviewed the following sections aligning and updating from the old Series 300:
  - Budget
  - Accounting Systems
  - Revenues
  - Expenses
  - Fees
  - Financial Emergency
  - Bond Account
  - Bond Continuing Disclosure and Certification Requirements

[Action Item II(C) - recommendation to approve and adopt]

Additionally, two updates have been made in Series 2000 - Instruction regarding Grade Classification (2605), and newly required Digital Literacy course for graduation (2700P) - copies in your packet.

Action Item II(D) - recommendation to approve and adopt

- Updates to Instructional Policies:  
Grade Classification (2605) also remove the 70% to pass  
Digital Literacy Graduation Requirement (2700P)

Trustee Mathews requested that we send the policies to her when we send out the agenda.

**Recruiting Updates:**

- 1st Grade: 2 candidates, interviews scheduled.
- Secondary Math: No applicants since February; Certified Teacher of Record plan being developed.
- Elementary Principal-Posted May 27, one Applicant from Post Falls, Withdrew in\_house Application June 10, Kailee McClure



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- Business Tech: 1 applicant.
- Food Service Director: Posting on 6/11/25.
- Combo Elementary: Posting on 6/11/25.

**Monthly Financial Report:**

- **Revenue YTD: 101%**
  - Investments: 174%
  - Other Local: 878% (insurance and grants)
  - State Support: 113%
- **Expenditures YTD: 81%**
  - Special Services: 317%
  - Technology: 132%
  - Activity Transportation: 247%
- **Fund Balance:**
  - Fund 290 (Food Service): -\$69,926.86

Time 9:26

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**PUBLIC INPUT II**

Those individuals wishing to address the Board were asked to sign up at the board materials table and submit the completed form to the Board Clerk. Individuals were given a maximum of three (3) minutes to present their views. Open Meeting laws limit the Board's ability to discuss or take action on any topic not previously on the agenda; however, issues brought forward may be included on a future agenda if appropriate.

Please Note: The Board cannot hear complaints against personnel in open session. Concerns should be resolved in the following order:



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1. Teacher or Staff
2. Principal or Supervisor
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Trustees

District Office Contact: (208) 834-2260

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Public Comments:

- Holly Black asked if a decision regarding the school closure would be made next month. Chairman McNeley responded that, at this point, the school is slated to be closed for the next school year unless circumstances change in July or August.
- Bill McBride asked whether it was ethical to recruit students. Chairman McNeley responded that enrollment has been declining for years, and that this is a fact the Board must address.
- Discussion followed regarding the 6th grade class that was moved to Rimrock years ago, and the longstanding process used by the state regarding school closures. Chairman McNeley noted that the statute governing school closures has not changed.
- Sherry Colyer expressed that if it came down to a legal challenge, members of the community were willing to pursue that route, with five individuals reportedly willing to pursue an election on the matter.
- Community members asked if there was any possible way to delay the decision until July to allow time to work on increasing enrollment to keep the school open.
- A question was posed about the reason for closure if funding was not the primary issue. Chairman McNeley explained that the decision was about educational quality, emphasizing the desire to avoid combination classes, reduce staff being split between two schools, and provide students with more consistent access to programs like music and art.
- Trustee Eldridge asked if Chairman McNeley had visited Bruneau Elementary to observe the teachers firsthand. Chairman McNeley stated that the Board had heard the public's comments and thanked



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the patrons for their time.

Break Called: 9:45 PM (5-minute recess)

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

**Motion:** Trustee Mathews moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a)(b). Trustee Eldridge 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;
- **74-206(1)(d):** To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code;
- **74-206(1)(f):** To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of, and legal options for, pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

**Time Entered:** 9:56 PM

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

- Boren – Yes (via phone)
- Eldridge – Yes
- McNeley – Yes
- Merrick – Yes
- Mathews – Yes

**Staff Present:** Jeff Blaser, JayDene Aquiso



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**Discussions Held:**

**Discussion A – Evaluation**

**Time: 9:56 PM**

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b), discussion was held regarding the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of staff members.

**Discussion B – Findings**

- **Jeff Blaser exited:** 10:17 PM
- **Staff A entered:** 10:53 PM
- **Staff A exited:** 11:09 PM
- **Staff B discussion held:** 11:14 PM
- **Staff C discussion held:** 11:29 PM  
(All pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b))

**Discussion C – Exit Interviews**

**Time: 11:41 PM**

Action: **Exit interviews were tabled until the next board meeting.**

**Discussion D – Grievance**

**Time: 11:48 PM**

- Jeff Blaser re-entered the meeting.
- Grievance letter dated July 18, 2025, was read.
- Policies reviewed: 3395P, 3295, 5013 – with emphasis on 5013.1 (Professional Integrity - Section G).
- Discussion was held with **Staff A** and **Board Member B** (both exited at 12:22 AM).
- Further discussion was held by remaining board members.

**Discussion E – Open Enrollment**

**Time: 12:52 AM**



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- Jeff Blaser and Trustee RaeLynn Mathews re-entered the meeting.
- Discussion was held on Open Enrollment matters.

**Discussion F – Legal Counsel**  
**Time: 12:54 AM**

- Presented by Mr. Blaser:
  - Letter from Anderson, Julian & Hull
  - Letter from Yorgason Law
- Discussion held on legal matters presented in both letters.

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**Return to Open Session: 1:33 AM** – Patrons were invited back into the meeting.

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## **ACTION ITEMS – PART II**

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

**1. Approve the Superintendent's contract with addendum**

Trustee Merrick moved to approve the Superintendent Contract with addendum Trustee Boren seconded.  
**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously. Mathews opposed

**2. Approve Open Enrollment Applications**  
**Student A and Student B**

**Motion:** Trustee Boren moved to approve Open Enrollment Applications for Student A and Student B. Trustee Merrick seconded. **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.



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**3. Approve to authorize the Superintendent to work with the District's legal counsel to assist drafting the District's response letter to Yorgason Law's letter asserting violations of law, and denying the alleged violations.**

Sherry Colyer raised a concern regarding the executive session, stating that you must have a lawyer present during executive sessions, and debated the legality of the process.

Trustee Merrick moved to authorize the Superintendent to work with the District's legal counsel to assist in drafting the District's response letter to Yorgason Law's letter, denying the alleged violations of law. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously. Mathews and Eldridge voted no.

**4. Approve Adoption of Model Policy – Series 7000  
Financial Management Policies**

**Motion:** Trustee Merrick moved to approve the Series 7000 policies. Trustee Boren seconded.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously. Mathews Opposed.

**5. Approve Updates to Instructional Policies  
Policy 2605: Grade Classification  
Policy 2700P: Digital Literacy Graduation Requirement**

**Motion:** Trustee Merrick moved to approve the Policies 2605 Grade Classification and 2700P Digital Literacy Graduation Requirement. Trustee Boren Seconded. **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously. Mathews opposed

Trustee Mathews **opposed**, stating during discussion that **she would like to see the 10 credit requirement.**

**6. Approve 2025–2026 Rimrock Jr./Sr. High Student Handbook**

**Motion:** Trustee Merrick moved to approve the 2025-2026 Rimrock Jr. Sr. High Handbook. Trustee Boren seconded. **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously. Mathews Opposed

**7. Approve 2025–2026 School Lunch Price Increases  
Elementary Students: from \$3.75 to \$3.85  
Jr./Sr. High Students: from \$3.85 to \$3.95  
Adults: from \$4.95 to \$5.10**

**Motion:** Trustee Merrick moved to approve the 2025-2026 School Lunch Price Increases Trustee Boren seconded. **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

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**PUBLIC HEARING – 2025–2026 Budget and Amended Budget 2024–2025**

Time Opened: 1:47 p.m.

**Summary:**

The Budget Hearing was opened for public input regarding the proposed Maintenance and Operations Budget for the 2025–2026 school year and the Amended Budget for 2024–2025.

**Public Comments & Discussion:**

- Mr. Erwin asked for the plan for the Bruneau Campus and how it would be funded. It was stated that maintenance needs for the building are built into the budget.
- Cathy Sellman expressed concern that the district is not utilizing its fund balance within the budget planning.
- Discussion was held regarding administrative costs, comparing short-term savings versus long-term planning. Suggestions were made that some administrative consolidation might create savings.
- Trustee Mathews mentioned that reducing administrative positions could be implemented immediately, raising the question of whether to hire an administrator or keep Bruneau Elementary open.
- The issue of school culture was raised, with an emphasis on efforts to improve it.
- Sherry Colyer questioned what the district's plan is for transitioning students to Rimrock.
- Discussion followed about funding sources, particularly using the Modernization Fund to prepare the Rimrock campus for K–12 students. It was agreed to add a plan for this transition to the agenda for the next meeting.
- Sherry Colyer stated that there is currently no clear plan, and Chairman McNeley replied that his goals are shaped by community input.
- Ms. Colyer also referenced a previous presentation about swapping out a Plant Facilities Levy instead of pursuing a bond.
- Hummel Architects and Zions Bank visited to review the bond and levy situation, noting that when the current bond and levy expire, the financial impact would be similar to what's in place now.



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- There were concerns about how the community survey was distributed, noting that it was sent to three zip codes with some phone and online notifications but lacked broader outreach. Suggestions were made to improve communication, including using an all-call system or social media (Facebook) notifications.

Approval of 2025–2026 Maintenance and Operations Budget

Superintendent Blaser and Clerk Aquiso presented the Amended 2024–2025 Budget and the Proposed 2025–2026 Maintenance and Operations Budget to the Board.

Motion Trustee Eldridge moved to approve closing the Budget Hearing. Second by Trustee Merrick.,

Motion: Trustee Eldridge moved to approve the 2025–2026 Maintenance and Operations Budget and the Amended 2024–2025 Budget. Second: Trustee Boren seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman McNeley adjourned the meeting at 2:44am.

  
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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE  
JUNE 10, 2025

  
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CLERK/TREASURE