

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2026-1:00 p.m. Grand View Elementary-Music Room

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
Allen Merrick, Vice Chair
Steve Boren, Trustee
Raelynn Mathews, Trustee
Elaine Eldridge, Trustee

Administration Present:

Ken Higbee, Interim Superintendent
JayDene Aquiso, Clerk/Treasurer
Jonathan Waterlander, Principal

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman McNeley called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Aquiso confirmed that a quorum was present.

- **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.

No Public Input

I. A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes for February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Accounts Payable/Payroll – March 2026
3. School Accounts – February 2026
(*Bruneau Elementary, Grand View Elementary, Rimrock Jr./Sr. High School*)
4. Paychecks for: Ashley Merrick, Adam and Ameer-Lynn Eldridge, and Kellie McNeley
5. Approve Jackie Thurman SLP Contract-2026-2027 (no price increase)
6. Approve Resignations:
 - a. Amanda Dygert, Rimrock High School English
 - b. Samantha Ellis, K-12 Music
 - c. Nick Ellis, Rimrock -Para
7. Approve Hires

- a. Brea Baker -Teacher -GVE 2026-2027 school year
- b. Lois Tunkel-Grand View Elementary Title Para-2026-2027 school year
- c. Melissa Raymond, High School Assistant Track Coach
- d. Sariah Pearson, Jr. High Assistant Track Coach

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

IV. CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS- Board visited several classrooms at Grand View Elementary School

V. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Secondary Principal Report-Mr. Waterlander

Rimrock Data Report

Administration provided an overview of the current Rimrock data, including student performance trends, intervention progress, and areas of focus moving forward. Board members discussed the data and asked clarifying questions regarding student growth and support strategies.

Behavior Intervention Update

Administration presented an update on behavior interventions currently being implemented within the district. Discussion included strategies being used to support students, progress being made, and continued efforts to maintain a positive learning environment.

Athletics Update

An update on the district's athletic programs was provided. Recent team performances, upcoming competitions, and student participation were highlighted, and send off to state for Boys Basketball

FFA State Convention

Information was shared regarding student participation in the upcoming FFA State Convention. Students and advisors discussed preparations, events they will be participating in, and opportunities for leadership and competition.

Sources of Strength Assembly, FFA Floral Competition, Sweethearts Dance, Capitol Field Trip, students have been very active and having some fun.

Upcoming Activities & Events

March 11: Journalism field trip to the Bruneau Library.

March 12: End of Quarter 3

March 16: Rimrock Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4:00–7:00 PM.

March 17: SAT testing for juniors (morning session).

Mental Health Guest Speaker – Tom Ballard (“The Heart Rock Guy”) will present to students.

March 19: Boise State University college visit.

Senior Trip: Departure time has been changed to 4:00 AM on March 20. Eight students are currently planning to participate.

State FFA Convention:

Scheduled for April 1–4 at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. 5-7 students may go.

Board approval is requested for student participation.

Employee Recognition- Sariah Pearson was recognized for her outstanding contributions as the Rimrock School Counselor, now in her second year in the role. Ms. Pearson excels at identifying opportunities for students and helping them prepare and finance their next steps after graduation. She has been instrumental in coordinating several key student assessments, including the NAEP and ASVAB, with the SAT scheduled next. In addition, she has provided significant support to the senior class by organizing college visits, assisting with scholarship applications, supporting college admissions applications, and helping students prepare for graduation.

The board and administration expressed their appreciation for Ms. Pearson's dedication and positive impact on students.

B. Grand View Elementary Principal Report -Dr. Higbee

- Elementary Data Report
- Elementary Enrollment Update-No Change on either elementary projected pre-k for next year currently 5 registered
- Upcoming Events-3/12:End of Quarter 3-3/16-3/19: Book Fair-3/17: Student-Led Conferences and Raider Quests-3/23-3/26: Spring Break-4/6-4/9: start ISATs- 4/10: In Service provide assistant with behavioral support-physically and emotionally -4/13: Spring Picture Day
- Employee Recognition-Venessa Corza-Coming to Grand View for my first 2 years of teaching was easily the best choice I could have made. Though originally from Mexico with Spanish as my primary language, I grew up in Boise and was drawn to education because of my lovely mom and the wonderful teachers that I had along the way. I vividly remember being told time and time again that I would make a great teacher. Now, getting to see that same love for learning in many of my students brings me so much joy! I received my Bachelors in Education with a Middle School Math Endorsement from Boise State in the Spring of 2024. The tight-knit community and fun-filled staff caught my attention and I'm so happy it did. I can't imagine working in a better place. During the weekends, you can find me on the slopes at Bogus Basin with my husband, or crafting on the couch watching Friends.
- Employee Recognition-Madison MacMillan -Madison's journey is defined by a high standard of performance. A standout student-athlete, she was a legendary track star at Rimrock High School, securing ten conference championships and seven district titles. She carried this momentum to Eastern Oregon University (EOU), where she competed as a sprinter, jumper, and thrower for the Mountaineers. Her collegiate career was marked by elite balance:Academic Honors: Graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Health and Human Performance. Distinctions: Named a Daktronics Scholar-Athlete and earned multiple Academic All-Conference honors in 2024.Local Roots & Personal Life After finding success on the regional stage, Madison returned to the Bruneau-Grand View Joint School District to inspire the next generation. She translates the discipline of a collegiate athlete into the classroom, fostering growth and "grit" in her students.Outside of school, Madison is a true Idahoan who finds balance in the outdoors. She is an avid hiker, fisher, and hunter who enjoys spending time with friends and cooking her favorite chicken fettuccine alfredo.

C. Interim Superintendent Report/Dr. Higbee

- 100th Day Celebrations
- Baseball/Softball Update
- Track Update
- Spirit Bus-was a great success
- Accreditation Training-on going for six years
- Legislative Update-
- Personnel Update for open positions
- Evaluations Update
- Bus Driver Needs
- Community Outreach Update- Grand View/ Bruneau-Dr. Higbee will send out an email to board members on what was discussed
- Food Service Update-we continue to work on menus and what kids like. Transport hot meals to Bruneau after spring break..

- **Sports Program Discussion** The Board discussed whether there is sufficient student interest to continue offering football or if the district should consider offering soccer instead. Trustees suggested conducting a student survey to determine the level of interest and help guide future decisions regarding athletic programs.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Roll Call Vote)

- The Executive Session will be held in the Music Room at Grand View Elementary School. All patrons were excused and notified when open session reconvenes.

MOTION: Trustee Merrick moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a)(b) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, evaluation, discipline, complaints. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote (2:42 p.m.)

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:43 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and reconvened in open session at 4:03p.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 Mathews 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 to Rescind 2026–2027 Superintendent/Principal Contract for Dr. Higbee and Approve 2026–2027 Superintendent Contract

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to rescind the 2026–2027 Superintendent/Principal Contract for Dr. Higbee and approve the 2026–2027 Superintendent Contract. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approve Grand View Elementary Principal Contract 2026–2027

MOTION: Trustee Merrick made a motion to approve the Grand View Elementary Principal Contract for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Eldridge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Approve Advertisement for Rimrock Principal

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the advertisement for the Rimrock Principal position for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approve Advertisement for High School ELA Position

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the advertisement for the High School ELA teaching position for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Approve Advertisement for 19-Hour Elementary Specials Teaching Position

MOTION: Trustee Merrick made a motion to approve the advertisement for a 19-hour Elementary Specials Teaching Position for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Approve Advertisement for Music Teacher

MOTION: Trustee Merrick moved to approve the advertisement for the Music Teacher position for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Trustee Eldridge voting in opposition.

H. Approve Advertisement for Paraprofessional – Location TBD

MOTION: Trustee Boren made a motion to approve the advertisement for a Paraprofessional position (location TBD) for the 2026–2027 school year. Trustee Merrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Approve FFA State Convention Trip – April 1–4, Twin Falls

MOTION: Trustee Merrick made a motion to approve attendance at the FFA State Convention in Twin Falls, April 1–4. Trustee Boren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

2025–2026 Board Self-Assessment Discussion/Training

The Board reviewed the self-assessment results and discussed conducting student assessment three times per year to monitor progress. Trustees agreed that maintaining a focus on students and their success should remain the Board's primary priority as they continue working to improve their effectiveness.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Trustee Boren moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m. Trustee Mathews seconded the motion.



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE



CLERK/TREASURER

March 10, 2026