

WHITEPINE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #288
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, February 16, 2026 6:00 p.m.
Deary School
MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair, Beverly Clark, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
 - a. Attendance: Marc Manni, Mandy Kirk, Beverly Clark, Brittany Griffin, Sarah Stanton, Joshua Hardy, Stephanie Fletcher, Stacy Monk, Jalen Kirk, and various patrons
 - b. Changes to Agenda: The hiring of the assistant hs football coach was removed from the consent agenda and added to the action items so further discussion could be made.
 - c. Adopt Agenda*: *Sarah Stanton moved to adopt the Agenda as amended. Brittany Griffin seconded, motion carried.*
2. Public Comments (Limited to 12 minutes): None
3. Approve Consent Agenda*: *By unanimous consent the Consent Agenda was approved as amended.*
 - a. Minutes
 - b. Bill Payments
 - c. Certified, Classified, and Supplemental Personnel Actions
 - Resignation - Assistant HS Football Coach
 - ~~Hire - Assistant HS Football Coach~~ moved to action items.
 - d. Items to be Disposed - None
4. Presentations:
 - a. Mid-Year Financial Report: Stephanie Fletcher presented the mid-year General Fund financial report. At the time of the report, we are halfway through the year and have spent 47% of the budget. Staying within budget for the remainder of the year is anticipated for expenses. Revenue continues to be monitored with ongoing legislative activity.
5. Information Items
 - a. Budget Reports
 - b. Enrollment Report
 - c. Department / Principals' Reports
 - **Athletic Director** -
The end of the HS Basketball Season is near! Here is where we stand at the time of writing this report:
 - Girls - 18-2 OVERALL, & fighting to continue their season tonight (2/12) in a LOSER OUT game vs Highland. If they win, they will advance to the State Play-in on Saturday (2/14).
 - Boys - 5-12 OVERALL, & SENIOR NIGHT is this Friday (2/13) vs Clearwater Valley. This game is a BIG deal - if we WIN, we will host a District Play-in game. If we LOSE, we will be traveling for a District Play-in game.

MS Basketball practice just started (2/11), and we have healthy #'s for both boys/girls teams:

 - Boys - 13 TOTAL
 - Girls - 15 TOTAL

WHITEPINE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #288

MINUTES

HS Track & Field's schedule has just been finalized. Here it is (does NOT include regionals/districts, but those will be May 8th-9th @ Lapwai):

Kamiah Meet	Tue, Mar 17
Lewiston Invitational	Sat, Mar 21
Lakeland/Post Falls	Tue, Apr 7
Leah Swanson Memorial - Deary Invite	Sat, Apr 11
Troy Track meet	Tue, Apr 14
Whitepine League Meet	Sat, Apr 18
Prairie Track Meet	Tue, Apr 21
District 2 Meet of Champions	Thu, Apr 30

- **SPED Director -**
Special Education:

- We were found to be in compliance with this year's General Supervision File Review, which is great.
- The updated Idaho Special Education Manual is going through the approval process and it is anticipated that it will be officially approved and will go into effect on July 1st. This will need to be brought to our school board for approval also after it goes into effect. In this new manual it was originally presented to change the age that a student is eligible for special education services to the age of 22 years to match IDEA, but that was redacted and they went back to districts being obligated to provide special education services for students from the ages of 3 through the semester a student turns 21. This will affect 1 of our students this year.

Federal Programs:

- I am currently working on our self-assessment of our schoolwide title program, which is due at the end of March.

- **IT Director -**

- We reduced the number of phone lines at Deary School, resulting in projected savings of more than \$3,000 per year. A new three-year contract was also secured to lock in these reduced costs.
- A student was caught cheating using Google Lens; as a result, access to Google Lens has been revoked for all students. Additionally, Google AI Gemini has been disabled for all students.
- During a recent power outage, the Session Border Controller (SBC) device that manages VoIP and analog phone lines failed. The device has since been replaced with a new unit. We plan to upgrade the Bovill SBC in the near future to improve reliability and prevent similar issues.

- **Transp/Maint. Director -**

- Bus Update - The new school bus is off the assembly line and in Idaho getting the chains, cameras etc. put on should be a couple weeks until it is delivered to us.

WHITEPINE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #288
MINUTES

• **Business Manager / District Clerk-**

- Fee Increase Hearing - this is a heads up that athletics will be requesting a fee increase for gate. We will include this in the Fee Increase Hearing scheduled for April. All other schools in the league will be moving to this pricing structure. The last increase was in 2019. The cost of refs and other expenses for athletics continues to rise every year and the need to generate a bit more revenue is needed to maintain the activities.

Meal prices will also be reviewed before the hearing and can be included in that hearing if need be.

- Property Ownership - It was recently discovered that the parcel ownership for all of the district's properties are labeled with the old district number #284. I will be working with the county assessor's office to get these updated to Whitepine Joint School District #288. At this time, I do not know the cost or documentation that may be required to accomplish this. With the recent property ownership search and lack of clear paper trail, I want to be sure to document this change correctly so there are no issues down the road.
- Digitization Mid-year update: Last year we discussed the need to digitize the district's permanent records. We have started the project, and it will be ongoing for the foreseeable future, but we are making headway:
 - Board Packets - 2001 through 2020 have been scanned and backed up.
 - Student Records - this process has been started and the "A's" are complete.
 - Payroll Records - we need to research the best practices to accomplish this task.
- FY27 Budget season has begun. I am following the legislative process and gathering as much expense data as possible.

• **Elementary Principal -**

- Rescheduled Christmas Concert:
 - This is much later than usual, but well worth noting. The rescheduled concert was excellent. Ms. Heath and the students put on a great show, and we had a large turnout.
- Amira Reading – Amira Champions Program:
 - This program was developed to assist Idaho School Districts navigate intricacies within the Amira application. Mrs. Summerfield is our representative. She came back from the January meeting with helpful information and tips for our staff.
 - Fun and Financial Classes, grades 4 and 5, last month
The University of Idaho Extension Department visited Deary elementary last month. The fourth-grade theme was how to sell a rock, and the fifth graders got to create a Skittles budget.
- Schweitzer Engineering will conduct an engineering activity for the fourth and fifth grades later this month.
- Fundraisers:
 - Bovill's Little Caesars fundraiser was highly successful. Our goal was to earn \$1,000, and we raised more than doubled that amount. Thanks to everyone who supported that fundraiser.
 - The World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser for the 4th and 5th grade began Friday the 13th and runs until February 27th.

WHITEPINE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #288
MINUTES

• **Secondary Principal -**

- Message from Mrs. Brown: “I just pulled some circulation reports for my interim grant reporting. I have no idea if students are actually reading more, but they are using the library more. We've had a noticeable increase in student usage and I've seen some "new-to-the-library" faces this year because of the new books.”

Deary Library Circulation Numbers

Year-to-Date

Dates #		% of increase
August 1, 2022-January 8, 2023	483	N/A
August 1, 2023-January 8, 2024	523	8.28%
August 1, 2024-January 8, 2025	724	38.43%
August 1, 2025-January 8, 2026	1047	44.61%

By School Year

School Year #	% of change
22-23 811	N/A
23-24 894	10.23%
24-25 1536	71.81%
25-26 N/A	N/A

Accreditation Update: Our accreditation review date is set for Thursday, March 12th. We do not yet have a specific schedule/agenda. The review will consist of interviews with teachers, students, and parents over a period of time.

d. Superintendent’s Report

• Funding Outlook:

- IDLA - As you are aware, we are well into the 2026 Legislative Session and things kicked up pretty heavy. IDLA is a current target for major cuts of approximately \$10 million. It is unclear at this point the extent to which this will affect us. I have attended several meetings at which this has been a major point of concern. For now, the only thing we can do is reach out to our local legislators and express to them how vital IDLA services are to our students.
- Budget Cuts - In addition to the cuts requested in December for our current FY, JAFC tried to have Supt. Critchfield plan for additional 2% cuts. Supt. Critchfield’s response was blunt and supportive of public education. I reached out to Mrs. Critchfield personally and thanked her for standing up for Idaho’s students and schools.
- More Tax Cuts - Gov. Little signed a bill into law last week to enact the tax cuts laid out in Pres. Trump's “One Big Beautiful Bill.” These cuts are retroactive for 2025. The immediate tax cuts could further reduce state revenues by approximately \$155 million for the current fiscal year. Again, I do not know if this will have any significant impact on our current funding, but additional losses in revenue will impact us eventually.

6. Discussion / Action Items

- Approve Academic Calendar: *Sarah Stanton moved to approve the 2026-2027 academic calendar as presented. Brittany Griffin seconded, motion carried.*
- Board Training: Discussion was had regarding the various training available to the board. The new trustee will attend the training courses available through ISBA. The board will schedule the Team Building Workshop for later as well as the annual training.

WHITEPINE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #288

MINUTES

- c. Levy: Discussion was had by the board about the current district finances and other factors to consider when setting the levy amount. At this time the consensus is to set it at the same amount as last year.
- d. MS Track & Field - Proposal for 2026/27: Mr. Jalen Kirk proposed to start a Middle School Track & Field program. Directive from the board is to budget for this for FY27 and a final decision will be made when reviewing the budget.
- e. Leah Swanson Memorial Fund S.O.P.: Mr. Jalen Kirk presented the document that outlines the purpose and use of the Leah Swanson Memorial Fund. A link to the application can be found on the website for any Whitepine student wanting financial assistance with extracurricular activities.
- f. New Teacher Mentor Plan: Mr. Hardy presented the draft of the New Teacher Mentor Plan. The board requested to add it to the board agenda to approve in March.
- g. Hire High School Assistant Football Coach: The board did not approve this as they would like more transparency in the posting of the position. The position will be reposted on the website, Facebook, and emailed to all staff. Once the process is complete, the recommended hire will be at the March board meeting.

7. Other Business

- a. Special Board Mtg. - Credit Appeals: The board discussed available dates and chose to add this to the March agenda.

8. Policy Items:

- a. Annual Review: Policy 1303 - Policies and Procedures to Review Annually – no action taken
- b. 1st Readings:
 - 3340 Corrective Actions and Punishments – Keep in 1st Reading
 - 3340 P; - Keep in 1st Reading
 - 4260 - Records Available to Public – Moved to 2nd
 - 4260 F(1) - District Record Request Form – Moved to 2nd
 - 7235 - Fiscal Accountability and Federal Grant Funds – Moved to 2nd
 - 7237 - Retention of Records Relating to Federal Grants – Moved to 2nd
 - 7270 - Property Records – Moved to 2nd
 - 7320 - Allowable Uses for Grant Funds – Moved to 2nd
 - 7320-P(2) – Moved to 2nd
 - 7400 - Miscellaneous Procurement Standards – Moved to 2nd
 - 7400-P(1) – Moved to 2nd
 - 7400-P(2) – Moved to 2nd
 - 7400-P(3) – Moved to 2nd
 - 7400-P(4); – Moved to 2nd
 - 7405 - Public Works Contracting and Procurement – Moved to 2nd
 - 7430 - Travel Allowances and Expenses – Moved to 2nd
 - 7450 - Federal Cash Management Policy – Moved to 2nd
 - 7450-P(2) – Moved to 2nd
 - 7455 - Federal Debarment and Suspension – Moved to 2nd
 - 7600 - Declaration of Financial Emergency – Moved to 2nd
 - 7600P(1) – Moved to 2nd
- c. 2nd Readings: *None*

WHITEPINE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #288
MINUTES

9. Executive Session - Idaho Code 74-206:(b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or a student.
(h) To consider labor contract matters authorized under section 74-206A (1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code.
(d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code.

- Staff Spotlight
- Principal Contract 26-27
- Test Scores - CIP Goals

Mandy Kirk moved to enter Executive Session under IC 74-206 b, h, & d. Sarah Staton seconded. Roll Call Vote as follows: Marc Manni – Aye, Mandy Kirk – Aye, Beverly Clark – Aye, Brittany Griffin – Aye, Sarah Stanton – Aye.

IN: 8:34 p.m.

OUT: 9:47 p.m.

10. Adjourn: *By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.*



Chair, Beverly Clark



Clerk, Stephanie Fletcher