

**Idaho Department of Education
Public Schools Agenda**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 2, 2004

Idaho State University, Pocatello

- A. Superintendent's Report, Marilyn Howard**
- B. Idaho Falls Request for Waiver of the Length of a Kindergarten Day, Bob West**
- C. Twin Falls/Filer Boundary Change (previously tabled item), Bob West**

A. SUBJECT:

Superintendent's Report

B. SUBJECT:

Idaho Falls School District 91 Request for Waiver of State Board Rules on the Length of a Kindergarten Day

BACKGROUND:

State Board Rule 08.02.01.250.03.a specifies that a school day, or 'day in session' for kindergarten "...will be at least two and one-half (2 ½) hours per day." This time requirement is stated again in IDAPA 08.02.01.250.04: "A day of attendance for a kindergarten pupil is one in which a pupil is physically present for a period of two and one-half (2 ½) hours under the direction and guidance of a teacher while school is in session..."

DISCUSSION:

The Board of Trustees of Idaho Falls School District 91 is requesting a waiver of the above State Board Rules for all their elementary schools on an ongoing basis. Currently, their kindergarten session is scheduled for 2 hours and 40 minutes each day that school is in session. They are requesting that for one day each week, they be allowed to hold kindergarten for two hours. They propose to make up the time by adding 10 minutes to the class time for each of the remaining four days of the week.

Idaho Falls currently has two schools that extend the instructional day for grades 1-6 by 15 minutes a day, four days a week, in order to give teachers an hour a week for collaboration time. They would like to give their kindergarten teachers the same collaborative opportunity. They are requesting the kindergarten day waiver for all their elementary schools on an ongoing basis because other schools in the district have expressed an interest in the flexible collaborative schedule.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education approve Idaho Falls' request for an ongoing waiver of State Board Rules 08.02.01.250.03.a, length of a kindergarten day in session, and 08.02.01.250.04, kindergarten day of attendance.

BOARD ACTION:

It was carried to approve/disapprove/table the request for a waiver of IDAPA 08.02.01.250.03.a and 08.02.01.250.04. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, and carried.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from Idaho Falls Board of Trustees
2. Excerpted article on “Effective Teamwork”

Note: This material was not provided in electronic format. For copies, contact Susanne Daniels, 208-332-6810.

C. SUBJECT:

Continuation of Petition to Transfer Property from Twin Falls School District No. 411 to Filer School District No. 413

BACKGROUND:

This petition was tabled at the August State Board; at the Board's request the petition is now back for further consideration.

A petition submitted under the provisions of § 33-308, Idaho Code, to transfer approximately 3.5 square miles of land from Twin Falls School District No. 411 to Filer School District No. 413 has been received in the State Department of Education. Also received were comments from both school districts. The request is in compliance with the provisions of Section 33-308, Idaho Code, in that the area is less than fifty square miles, no school is operated in the area, and the property is contiguous to Filer School District No. 413.

DISCUSSION:

Twin Falls School District's Board of Trustees opposes the petition; Filer School District's Board of Trustees supports it. Copies of the petition, letters and map are enclosed.

Pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Board, the State Department of Education appointed a hearing officer. The Twin Falls School District requested, in accordance with Idaho Code 67-5252, that the appointed hearing office be disqualified without cause. The request was granted and a second hearing officer appointed. A copy of all information received was forwarded to said hearing officer and a hearing was held on June 29-30, 2004. In addition, the Filer School District sent in a request asking Laird Stone to recuse himself when this matter comes before the State Board. That letter is enclosed also.

The hearing officer recommended that the petition be approved and an election held. The full *Findings of Fact and Recommendation* is enclosed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The State Department of Education recommends the Board approve the petition to transfer property and allow the matter to be voted on by the electors in the area affected.

BOARD ACTION:

It was carried to approve/disapprove/table the hearing officer's recommendation to approve the petition to transfer property. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, and carried.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Entire case file

Note: This material was not provided in electronic form. For copies, please contact Deb Stage, 208-332-6853.