



# Forrest M. Bird Charter Schools

Board Meeting  
 Forrest M. Bird Charter High School  
 615 S. Madison,  
 Sandpoint, ID 83864  
**Date: Dec 15, 2020**

	Board Meeting Minutes
Minutes taken by	Jennifer Greve
Board members Present	Stacey Mueller, Kate McAlister, Jim Zuberbuhler, Chris Warren
Excused Board Members	
Staff present	Jennifer Greve, Mary Jensen, Greta Warren, Hillary DeCecchis, Misty Rains, Eric Fulgenzi, Mitzi Vesecky, Bill Krutz, Bonnie Jakubos, Holly Walker, Laura Maas, Sarah Evans, Shainnie Wade, Mark Webber, Vicki Vesecky, Christi Burns, Amy O'Hara, Kenda Russell, Janenne Russell, Becky Campbell, Michael Bigley, Aprill Logan
Absent Staff	
Guests	Jacob Iverson, Jessyca Kimball, Jill Lang, Wyatt, Molly McCahon
Call to Order	<b>Meeting called to order at 4:32pm</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Chris Warren</b></span> Pledge of Allegiance
Minutes	<b>Meeting Minutes</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Chris Warren</b></span> <b>Action Item:</b> Approval of Meeting Minutes for the meeting Oct 20, 2020 <b>Date:</b> ✓ <b>Motioned – Kate Mc</b> ✓ <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Stacey M</b> <b>Approved Unanimously</b>

Public Comment	<b>Emailed Letters read by Mary Jensen</b> Parent Jill Lang HS Teacher Mark Webber Parent Molly McCahon Parent Lisa Cirac Parent ---- Dahlen HS Teacher Lyndsay Holland
Financials	<b>Discussion: Financials</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Greta Warren</b></span> First quarter of the year, things were going as should be. October report was sent out. <b>Action Item: Approval of Financials</b>

**Approval of Financials: Check**

- ✓ Motioned – Jim Z
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Kate Mc

Unanimously Approved

**Presentation: Science and Elective Departments**

**FBCS Staff**

**Science Dept**

Dept Head Sarah Evans began. Teachers Misty Rains, Aprill Logan, and Becky Campbell shared their topics. Focus of presentation: changes made in science due to COVID plan. 6/7 Science utilized Generation Genius online videos and games; hands on activities easier with the smaller groups; learning different technology skills to present 8 Science focused on Nature of Science. Utilized virtual teams, surveys, self-paced, ZOOM, games, alternate module, VTS  
Biology/Marine Bio based on mastery-based style. Students work at their own pace showing mastery through a project. Students had topic choices based on their interests and focus meeting standards. Top down or bottom-up grading system.  
Chemistry/Physical/Environmental Science self-paced modules. Project modifications made by students. Identified safe learning environment and created a Q&A “Café” discussion where informal discussions and help was provided.

**Electives Dept**

Department created a video of all the different things they are doing in each class: PE, Art, Foreign Lang, Culinary Arts, Fungi, Cornerstones. Each teacher recorded a section which was edited together. Board Chair shared being impressed by their creativity. Kudos given to Hillary DeCecchis for pulling together the video.

**Discussion: Adding Board Members**

**Chris Warren**

Kate Mc spoke up for Jacob Iverson as someone who would be a very strong member. He was a participant in her Chamber Leadership group and has experience as a board member on various types of groups.

Other board members were to bring other names to the board since we will need fill two positions. Jim Z stated he has been working on this. He has not been able to find someone that will be a good fit yet.

**Action Item: Jacob Iverson as Board Member**

**Kate McAlister**

Vote moved to February Board meeting as Jacob Iverson was not in attendance.

**Discussion: Spring Ski Trip**

**Janenne Russell**

Janenne Russell, PE teacher, shared the history of Life Sports and bringing skiing back to that philosophy. Monster Mash Dash funds would help pay for the skiing this year. Looking into how to make it safe: eating outside, storing gear on buses, limiting any exposure within lodges. Schweitzer has dates in March already set up for FBCS. Kate Mc felt the plan was coming together well. Chris W was most concerned about Schweitzer availability and was glad to hear signed up already. Jim Z said it sounded good and well thought out.

**Action Item: Allowing Middle School Spring Ski Trips to Occur**

**Approval of Plan**

- ✓ Motioned – Jim Z
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> - Stacey M

Unanimously Approved

**Action Item: Maddie Herron Van Driver Jennifer Greve**

**Approval of Plan**

- ✓ Motioned – Kate Mc
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Stacey M

Unanimously Approved

Open  
Business

## **Action Item: 2021 Graduates use of Basic Diploma**

**Mary Jensen**

Normally when a student receives a Basic Diploma it is approved by the board on individual basis. Mary recommended that the board move to approval of Basic Diplomas for all the students who will need it now as there will be many due to COVID. Mary explained that most of the students who will be doing this will not be moving on to college/university.

### **Approval of Plan**

- ✓ **Motioned – Stacey M**
- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim Z**

Unanimously Approved

## **Discussion: COVID update and plan review**

**Mary Jensen**

Mary Jensen shared her personal beliefs regarding COVID and how these beliefs need to be removed to determine what is best for the school and students. Her priority list is School, Students, and then Staff. She shared new research that has come out since the plan was voted upon. Sources for the data/research are CDC, AAP, AAMC. All recommend that all students should be in school. Mary then shared quotes and statistics from AAMC: Brown University, Duke University. Using these new guidelines and information, new guidelines from the Idaho Governor and SBOE, we can keep a safe school environment. "If we stay vigilant with wearing masks, social distancing and cleaning". She then offered the option for choice: families still have the choice to stay online or come into the school. Teachers also have this option; they can work from home with a sub in the room. Mary shared that since going online the mental health of the students has deteriorated. There are concerns around their academic performance as well. FBCS is currently at 294 students. FBCS threshold to operate is 300. It was noted that we knew we were able to utilize the contingency plan.

Recommended to revise the plan.

Move to Yellow regardless of the county is in Red considering the following:

- LPOSD goes online
- Substantial school community transmissions
- Not enough substitutes to cover staff absences

On ROADS days, giving teachers choice to meet with students in the building or online with stipulations

- Appointments are made with the teacher/staff
- Appointments are not longer than 2 hours per day/per student
- Families responsible for transportation
- No more than 3 students in a classroom, per teacher at a time
- Families may not make appointment if someone in the family is showing symptoms

Allow in class field trips, single day field trip.

Board then discussed this presentation and changes. Kate Mc shared her belief that FBCS should open, she is very concerned about the students/their mental health/their needs. She feels that it is important that they are in class. She empathizes with teachers who are immune compromised and that she is very concerned about students we cannot connect. Jim Z stated he feels we are in a very different place than this past summer when the plan was initially designed. There is a lot of evidence-based materials to help make this decision. The overwhelming consensus is that students need to be in the classroom/school. Looking at the health aspect, schools are 'not the locus' for the virus and it's spread. He stated his concerns around the financial, 'or long-term issue', regarding the finances of the school. "It is important for the board to look at the evidence to look at long term decisions." Stacey M shared that she as well that she has been investigating this question in preparation for this meeting. She then shared a personal story with her son who is a student at FBCS. She shared the struggles he has had with motivation and focus with online. She feels that there is a strong safety valve for families to make choices that suit them but we need to be open for that choice. Chris W stated that it is important to we focus on what students need. He felt that he was very proud how administration focused initially on teachers/staff and keeping them safe. "You can't have a school with out them." He feels much safer now knowing that the safety precautions work.

	<p>Opening the school makes sense. Mary clarified that when she talks of opening, she means “the hybrid model” we had been using. Stacey M shared with the teachers who were present for the meeting “I want to commend all the teachers for how hard you have all been working to make this work.” She noted the effort, commitment, and the relationship with kids. “Most of the kids who go to this school need this personal interaction.” It was noted, the teacher effort in making these connections is making such a difference.</p> <p>Regarding the ROADS request, Stacey asked how the number 3 was determined in per classroom. This number works to keep FBCS within it’s number per classroom</p> <p><b>Action Item: Changes in the FBCS COVID plan: Moving back to Yellow even when the county is Red</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Mary Jensen</b></span></p> <p><b>Approval of Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Motioned – Stacey M</b></li> <li>✓ <b>2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim Z</b></li> </ul> <p>Unanimously Approved</p> <p><b>Action Item: ½ Face Shields Use</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Jennifer Greve</b></span></p> <p>Jennifer shared that a few students have shown up to school (prior to online) wearing face shields that are worn around the ears and cover nose and mouth. Stacey M and Kate Mc stated that it seems this type of shield does not protect as much. Jim Z noted that only masks really protect people Mary noted that many teachers use the face shields as a means to connect with students; students can see their faces and reactions. Chris W reminded the vote was regarding these particular shields. Board members shared concerns over the protection provided to all with the ½ face shield.</p> <p><b>Denial the ½ face shield</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Motioned – Stacey M</b></li> <li>✓ <b>2<sup>nd</sup> - Kate Mc</b></li> </ul> <p>Unanimously approved</p>
Policy	<p><b>Discussion: 8000 &amp; 9000 Policy Series</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Mary Jensen</b></span></p> <p>These two policy series are the last for the board to review and approve. There are no revision decisions to be made as the policy is set by state and federal laws. The board is to read/review before February meeting when approval vote will occur.</p> <p><b>Action Item: Policy 3085: Title IX</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Mary Jensen</b></span></p> <p>The gender equality and sexual harassment issues as well as the sports components. Mary Jensen explained how much was wrapped around sexual harassment, rape, and abuse. The title was initially intended for colleges. It is mandated that secondary/elementary schools needed to add it to their policies. It has been written by the Idaho SBOE and is a federal mandate.</p> <p><b>Approval of Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Motioned – Stacey M</b></li> <li>✓ <b>2<sup>nd</sup> - Kate Mc</b></li> </ul> <p>Unanimously Approved</p>
Executive Session	N/A

Operations/ School Reports	<b>Building Reports</b>
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Adjournment	<b>Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm</b> <b>Warren</b> ✓ <b>Motion to adjourn – Kate Mc</b> ✓ <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Z</b> Unanimously Approved <b>Chris</b>
Next Board Meeting	<b>February 23, 2021 4:30 pm</b>

**Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Greve**