

KIMBERLY SCHOOL DISTRICT 414
KIMBERLY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
September 17, 2026

Board Dinner: 5:15 p.m.
Executive Session: 5:30 p.m.
Regular: 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Emilie Carlson motioned, and Leah Meeks seconded the motion to enter executive session at 5:35 p.m. as provided for in section IC 74-206(1) b) To consider personnel matters. Roll call was requested: Chad Allen – yes; Leah Meeks – yes; Emilie Carlson – yes; Rick Jones – yes.

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of Trustees of School District No. 414, Twin Falls County, State of Idaho, convened its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, in the district boardroom at 141 Center Street West, Kimberly, Idaho. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Chad Allen (CA). Trustees in attendance also included Leah Meeks (LM), Rick Jones (RJ) and Emilie Carlson (EC). Zachary Kelsey (ZK) was not in attendance. Also, present were Luke Schroeder, Superintendent; Director of Programs, Matt Schvaneveldt, Cassandra Searby, Board Clerk, Laurie Wirtz, Business Manager, district administrators, students and interested patrons, both in person and via Zoom.

AGENDA

EC motioned to approve the September meeting agenda, LM seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FLAG SALUTE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Those in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

REPORTS

- None

HEARING OF VISITORS

- Elizabeth Bingham, Board Chair for Jerome School District, Zone 1, addressed the Board to express her sincere appreciation for the support provided to Jerome School District by Matthew Searby, Kimberly School District's Director of Operations. She specifically recognized his willingness to share his time, knowledge, and expertise in assisting Jerome's transportation department. Mrs. Bingham emphasized that it is not often that school districts are willing to share their employees and resources to support another district in need. She commended Kimberly School District for its generosity, collaboration, and willingness to go above and beyond to assist a neighboring district, expressing her gratitude for Mr. Searby's efforts and the positive impact of that support.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

- Good Stories to Share: The Board received several positive updates highlighting accomplishments and activities throughout the district. Schools reported positive feedback following the implementation of the daily Moment of Silence. Additional highlights included

student participation in the CSI Leadership Summit, \$525,000 in scholarships awarded to students, and strong FFA participation at the Twin Falls County Fair. Recognition was also given to Michael Browning, the new administrator at RISE Charter School, who has been a great addition to the district. The upcoming Foundation Bingo Night was highlighted as another opportunity to bring students, families, and the community together.

- Important Dates: Provided at the meeting for remainder of 2026-2027 school year.
- Board Tours: Student Support Services is scheduled for October – More Information to come.
- Superintendent Critchfield's office reached out and would like to visit our campus' on October 21, 2026. The board is welcome to attend, and more information will be provided as details are worked out.
- ISBA Convention – November 4-6, 2026, in Boise reminder – All board members who have expressed interest have been registered.
- Region 4 Meeting – October 1, 2026, in Filer – LM and EC have been registered.
- CIP Training – December 1-2, 2026, in Boise – The board discussed there are other location opportunities if those dates don't work.
- Fuel Prices – Current fuel prices are approximately \$2.74, higher than at this time last year. With rising transportation costs, it was suggested the district consider addressing potential travel restrictions for student groups during the current school year rather than waiting until next year to help manage expenses.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Laurie Wirtz presented the September 2026 Financial Report, reflecting August financial activity for FY2027. General Fund revenues totaled approximately \$9.65 million, with expenditures of \$459,138. The report included state foundation payments, levy revenues, investment earnings, and school district facilities funding.

Mrs. Wirtz reviewed investment pool balances, including approximately \$7.4 million in the General Fund, \$456,850 in the Bond Fund, and \$5.5 million in the Modernization Fund. The current investment interest rate was reported at 3.8362%.

The FY2026 financial audit remains in progress, with the final report anticipated in October. Mrs. Wirtz also reported on the district's \$221,487.12 payment to the Idaho School District Benefit Trust (ISDBT), as previously directed by the Board, to cover the district's portion of the FY2026 shortfall and allow remaining employee claims to be covered. The payment will be made from Board Reserves and reflected in the FY2027 December Revised Budget.

The board would like to look at dates in January to have work session with Laurie Wirtz.

LM moved to approve the September 2026 Financial Report as presented. RJ seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

ISAT PERFORMANCE AND RESPONSE:

Program Director Matt Schvaneveldt presented the 2025–26 ISAT results, including district performance compared to state averages, three-year trends, student growth, and comparisons with surrounding Magic Valley school districts. The data highlighted areas of strength in elementary and middle school ELA and mathematics, while identifying science and secondary-level performance as areas needing additional attention.

Mr. Schvaneveldt outlined instructional strategies being implemented across the district for the 2026–27 school year, including increased data analysis, alignment of curriculum and assessments, teacher

collaboration, targeted interventions, and professional development. The presentation also addressed student growth over time and the importance of evaluating instructional practices alongside assessment results.

Trustee Carlson suggested partnering with other school districts demonstrating success in areas where Kimberly continues to face challenges to exchange ideas and effective practices. Tiffany Unger, KHS English Teacher, participated in the presentation and expressed her personal commitment to improving student performance, noting that assessment scores do not always reflect the effort invested in instruction. She shared that she has proactively reached out to Twin Falls School District for additional resources and insight into its ELA performance.

Discussion also focused on student accountability, motivation, and the importance of students taking ownership of their assessment performance. Ms. Unger emphasized the challenge of encouraging students to take assessments seriously and the need for greater parental involvement. The Board discussed potential strategies to increase student participation and accountability, including the possibility of incorporating ISAT performance into course grades or graduation requirements.

The Board emphasized the importance of continued collaboration, identifying the factors contributing to lower performance, and finding meaningful ways to engage students and families in improving academic outcomes.

***CA exited meeting from 7:22 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.**

OLD BUSINESS

2nd READING TO ADOPT POLICY 2340 MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The Board of Trustees reviewed Policy 2430, Moment of Silence, for its second and final reading following approval of the first reading in August. The policy complies with Idaho Code § 33-512B, requiring a daily 60-second moment of silence at or near the beginning of the school day.

LM moved to approve the second and final reading of Policy 2430, Moment of Silence, as presented. EC seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PLANT FACILITY LEVY PLANNING:

The administration presented the proposed Plant Facility Levy budget and community engagement timeline for consideration of a potential May 2027 ballot measure. The proposed budget identified facilities maintenance and improvements, bus lease-to-own payments, land purchase obligations, and curriculum and technology needs. The discussion also included potential use of Modernization Fund dollars for eligible expenses.

The proposed timeline included holding three to four community focus group meetings at the end of October and in November, followed by a broader community survey between November and January. Results would be presented to the Board in January, with final consideration of a levy resolution anticipated in February 2027. Following a lengthy discussion, the Board emphasized the importance of gathering community input to identify priorities rather than making promises or commitments. Discussion focused on maintaining existing facilities, educating patrons about public school finance, and identifying effective communication methods. The meetings will be structured as open conversations, with Matthew Searby and Laurie serving as primary facilitators due to their knowledge of district facilities and finances. The possibility of holding similar community meetings annually was also discussed.

The Board discussed mailing informational postcards to district patrons, and administration will obtain a cost estimate for consideration.

As requested by the Board, Matthew Searby, Director of Operations, presented a prioritized list of proposed modernization projects, outlining the needs, estimated costs, and reasoning behind each project's placement on the list. The proposed projects totaled approximately \$2.765 million, with safety, facility maintenance, and infrastructure needs among the priorities.

Mr. Searby requested Board approval to expend \$29,000 in Modernization Funds for the Kimberly High School east hallway access renovation, identified as the highest-priority project. He explained that the existing six-foot-wide passageway, which includes a barrier, creates congestion as approximately 400 to 675 students pass through during class transitions. The proposed renovation would widen the passageway to 9 feet, 4 inches and include magnetic locks to improve security during emergency situations. If approved, the project is anticipated to be completed by Thanksgiving 2026.

EC moved to approve the expenditure of \$29,000 in Modernization Funds for the Kimberly High School east hallway access renovation as presented. LM seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FY27 BUS ROUTES:

At the August Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the initial bus routes for the 2026–27 school year. With student ridership now established, Matthew Searby, Director of Operations, presented the revised bus routes and associated changes for the Board's review and consideration.

LM moved to approve the revised 2026–27 bus routes as presented. RJ seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

RJ Motioned to approve the consent agenda, EC seconded the motion. The motion passed.

1. Approve District Invoices
2. Approve School Invoices - KHS Transaction/Account Listing; KES Transaction/Account Listing; SES Transaction/Account Listing; KMS Transaction/Account Listing
3. Approve Food Service Expenditures
4. Approve Meetings Minutes from August 20, 2026; September 10, 2026
5. Approve Fundraiser Requests
6. Approve MOU/Contracts/Grants: Valley Community Contract; 49 Alpha MOU
7. Approve Student Teacher (Madalynn J. Schrenk – ISU) September – December w/ Jennifer Bollinger
8. Approve KHS virtual day (freshman/seniors) to accommodate PSAT on October 14, 2026
9. Approve Early Graduation Request(s) for Student X
10. Surplus: Pallets;

DISCUSSION

APPROVE ADDITIONAL INVOICES

After reviewing the additional invoices provided via link and hard copy in person, **LM motioned to approve the additional invoices, RJ seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

BOARD GOALS UPDATE/REVISIONS:

The Board reviewed the proposed updates to the 2026 Board Goals, with revisions identified in green. Several goals remain in progress and will be priorities for the Leadership Team during the fall and winter. Mr. Schroeder will provide the Board with an editable copy of the goals on the shared drive. The item will be revisited at the October meeting to allow time for review and discussion with the Leadership Team.

EC moved to table the 2026 Board Goals Quarterly Review until the October meeting. RJ seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PERSONNEL REPORT

LM motioned to approve the personnel report, EC seconded the motion. The motion passed.

HIRE:

- Ava Christensen Paraprofessional

Resignation/Retirement:

- None

ADJOURNMENT

LM moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m., EC seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cassandra Searby, District Clerk

Chad Allen, Board Chair