



Blaine County School District #61

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blaine County School District Board of Trustees Take Action to Correct Mistakes, Announces Staff Survey

At the November 17 special meeting of the Board, the Trustees voted 4-0 in favor of extending Dr. GwenCarol Holmes a three-year fixed contract beginning July 1, 2016.

On Thursday, December 3, Blaine County Prosecutor Jim Thomas sent a memo to the BCSD Board of Trustees alleging that two violations of open meeting law occurred during the November 17 meeting, with recommendations on how to remedy the violations. Immediately upon receipt of the memo, the agenda for the regular December 8 meeting was amended to include a correction of the open meeting law violations. It was the desire of the Board to adhere to the law and to take the proper action to correct the mistakes.

At the December 8 regular meeting, the Board corrected the open meeting laws that had been violated and made the motion that any action taken at those meetings was

void. This nullified the Superintendent's contract extension and the Board's decision on November 17. Currently the Superintendent has a contract that expires July, 2016.

After curing the open meeting violations, the Board convened into Executive Session and then reconvened in open meeting. Trustee Corker made the motion to conduct a survey of staff and to reconsider the Superintendent's contract on January 6 in a special meeting. The Trustees voted 4-1 in favor of this motion.

Trustee Bennion stated, "A staff survey will be emailed as soon as we can send the agreed upon survey discussed in the executive session. We hope that staff participation in this survey is strong and that staff also take the time to complete the Budget survey."

Bennion continued, "In the meantime, it is clear that Dr. Holmes leadership is having a positive impact on BCSD administrators, teachers and staff who spoke at the Board meeting. We hope that the staff will remain steadfast in the important work they do for the children of Blaine County and that the proper decision will be made with the best interest of students as the guiding principle. The work our staff do every day for children is appreciated and recognized by the Board of Trustees."

The Board of Trustees encourage patrons to contact them through their email addresses available at www.blaineschools.org. The public is also encouraged to attend a Board meeting, make public comment, or watch the Board webcasts available at www.blaineschools.org.

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