Comment to the Teton Valley News

For more information, please contact: Jeanne Anderson, PR Consultant, Teton School District No. 401, mobile phone: 208-360-6518, pr@tsd401.org

August 2, 2019

In response to Representative Christensen's Facebook post
Regarding the TSD 401 Work Meeting held July 30, 2019

Teton School District #401 welcomes diverse opinions. That said, the Board of Trustees held a lawful vote regarding its decision to retire the high school mascot.

Further, Teton School District #401 stands by its compliance with the Open Meeting Law. The district has received emails charging violations of the law and allegations that a complaint would be filed with the Attorney General's office. In its reply, the school district has stated that we welcome a review.

Regarding the neutrality policy, the district's master contact states: "Certificated employees will provide both sides of any controversial issue in any classroom." The internal survey was done for teachers' and staff participation only. The student survey was conducted by the Teton High School Student Council.

Teton School District #401 takes transparency seriously, and complies with state-required transparency regulations. Also, the district is the only local jurisdiction currently livestreaming public meetings as a service to patrons.

Representative Christensen, even a public official can't circumvent district policy. Facebook posts, no matter who they are posted by, are not considered public comment to the board. You are welcome to bring your concerns forward by email, letter, or deliver in person during an allowed public comment period.

Please refer to the following:
- Idaho Code 33-512
- Policy #1500, Board Meetings
- Policy #1600, Code of Ethics for School Board Members
- Policy #2340, Controversial Issues and Academic Freedom (see also TSD #401 Master Contract, Article 3, Part F)
- Policy #4105, Public Participation in Board Meetings

Teton School District #401 policies are posted on our website, tsd401.org.

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