



Blaine County School District #61

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In an open meeting on Wednesday, January 6, the Blaine County School District Board of Trustees voted 3-2 to offer a 3-year fixed contract to Dr. GwenCarol Holmes, Superintendent of Blaine County School District. Trustees Bennion, Clayton and Freund voted in favor of the contract. The contract can be terminated without cause with a maximum one-year salary payout without benefits and the benefits in the contract are the same as all other district administrators and directors.

In a statement sent to all Blaine County School District staff, Board of Trustees Chairman Bennion stated, "One of the Board of Trustees main responsibilities is to hire and evaluate their sole employee, the Superintendent. The current Board has the utmost faith and confidence in Dr. Holmes' ability to lead our district. We will face some challenges in the near future: the budget, implementation of Idaho Core Standards, teacher and staff retirements, closing of the achievement gap for some of our students, and most of all, the mission of inspiring, engaging, educating and empowering every student. It is only by truly working as a team that we can face these challenges and together create the best outcomes for our students and their future. The Board of Trustees looks forward to working collaboratively with Dr. Holmes to help this district, and in turn our community, succeed."

Trustee Bennion continued, "There are multiple pieces of information that are part of Superintendent evaluations according to Idaho Code. In summary of the evaluation, the evaluation shows overall appreciation for Dr. Holmes's leadership and numerous accomplishments. Data decision making, clear vision for the future of the District, and trusting information that comes from the Superintendent were some of her strongest points on the staff survey. The Board is now working with Dr. Holmes to identify future goals. The Board of Trustees looks forward to working together for Blaine County's future."

Superintendent Holmes stated that she looks forward to putting the focus back on the students. "Every day our dedicated staff come to work to make sure students have the best chance of succeeding. I am grateful to them that they have stayed focused on students during the past several months. We will continue to work together to inspire, engage, educate and empower every student."

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