

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
NOVEMBER 8, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 8, 2021, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund..... Board Chair
Dean Chisholm..... Vice Chair
Gail Pauley..... Trustee
Barbara Riley Trustee via Zoom
Heather Mumby Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee
Dave Wick..... Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Larry Wilson..... Trustee

Chair Rocksund called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rocksund requested the removal of item 8D – Sick Leave Bank as further information that has been provided to the District disqualifies the applicant (at the current time) for a sick leave bank.

Motion by Mumby, second by Pauley, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed 7-0

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

Motion by Pauley, second by Hill, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

-Approve the Board Minutes from the October 11, 2021 Regular Meeting.

-Approve the investment report.

-Approve October Bills.

Passed 7-0

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Public Participation:

Approximately ten (10) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Approximately ten (10) people participated in the meeting in person.

Chair Rocksund requested public participation on any agenda or non-agenda items.

Community member Joe O'Rourke recommended the Board discontinue membership with the National School Board Association as a result of recent actions requesting the Biden Administration to intervene against threats and acts of violence against school officials.

Swim Team Board Member Lisa McKeon requested the Board consider funding the cost of operating the bus to transport students to practice in Whitefish. The estimated cost of this safety measure is \$5,000 per year. Mrs. McKeon also advocated for the District to fund the Swim Team program entirely commencing school year 2022/23.

Community member Judy Territo requested follow-up regarding the social emotional learning curriculum.

Parent Anika Freely inquired about the process to get on the meeting agenda.

There was no additional public participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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REPORTS:

Reports:

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with a written report. Brenda Krueger, Ruder Principal, cited large class sizes as a result of unanticipated enrollment growth.

High School Principal Scott Gaiser provided the Board with a written report.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato recalled that the District's current year budget authority was based on prior year enrollment, which was artificially reduced as a result of the COVID virus. ANB for budget decreased 28 providing a meager \$85,000 of increased budget authority for the \$17 million general fund budget, which represents a .50% increase. The District does anticipate some relief through a new state law whereas additional funding estimated to be \$600,000 based on current enrollment should be provided to the District's Miscellaneous Programs Fund. Mr. Zuffelato provided an update regarding the K-8 Facility Bond Project. Swank Enterprises retained an approximate \$500,000 contingency budget as part of the Ruder Elementary contract. This budget has been completely exhausted to accommodate various change orders. The good news is the project is nearing completion with no expectation of any additional significant change orders. The District has approved a net \$96,000 of change orders to date related to the Glacier Gateway project. Approximately \$150,000 was to remove concrete/rubble associated with the old Talbot school that was buried on the site plan and Swank has worked with subcontractors to realize some value engineering savings.

Trustee Barb Riley presented an update regarding the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA). Trustee Riley noted that the MTSBA voted unanimously to terminate membership with the National School Board Association citing a gradual decline in NSBA's focus on supporting community ownership and excellence of public schools over the past decade.

Curriculum Director Mark McCord provided the Board with a written report.

Special Services Director Michelle Swank provided the Board with a written report. Mrs. Swank noted the professional development recently completed by staff.

Superintendent Dave Wick provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Wick reviewed the Safe Return to School and Continuity Plan, whereas the District remains in Phase three. Mr. Wick presented data regarding student and staff absences from the beginning of the school year. 4.70% of the student body and 14% of the Staff has tested positive for COVID this year. The COVID statistics are improving. Mr. Wick noted that as enrollment increases, the requirements to meet accreditation also increase including more administrative and support staff including Principals, Librarians, etc.

The Board presented Committee Reports. The Advisory Committee has met with nothing of significance to report. The Discipline Committee has met and one issue resulted in an expulsion recommendation but the student withdrew prior to formal Board consideration. Trustee Riley requested information regarding District Policy concerning when students are in a position to be expelled but withdraw and the District does not continue the formal expulsion proceedings.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MOTION TO NON-RE-
NEW NSBA MEMBER-
SHIP

Action/Discussed Items:

The Board considered renewing the National School Board Association membership. Motion by Mumby, second by Jacobsmeyer, to non-renew membership with the National School

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Board Association. Passed 7-0

Motion by Mumby, second by Pauley, to approve Resolution #391-Disposition of Abandoned, Obsolete, and Undesirable Property. Passed 7-0

The Board considered establishing a Finance Committee. Business Manager/Clerk recommended establishing this Committee as the District transitions to a period of increasing enrollment/funding as well as being tasked with administering and spending millions of federal COVID relief funds over the next few years. The Committee will be used to prioritize and determine the most effective use of District funds. Vice Chair Chisholm noted the Committee could be used to provide information to the Negotiations and Health Insurance Committees. Motion by Mumby, second by Pauley, to establish a Finance Committee. Passed 7-0

The Board considered re-establishing an Agreement with Helena Flats Elementary District to provide transportation services for their students. Helena Flats does not operate buses but needs to transport two students to be served at the Crossroads School in Evergreen. The District could serve these students on the Route 26 with minimal change to the existing route. Helena Flats will compensate the District \$50 per day for the extra cost to transport students from Helena Flats Elementary to the Crossroads School.

Motion by Mumby, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Transportation Services between Columbia Falls School District and Helena Flats Elementary District. Passed 6-0

Superintendent Dave Wick presented the results of the annual Montana Public Education Center survey regarding the great work of public schools.

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Katherine Slater-Custodian, Warren Law-Bus Driver, and Pam Roesner-Custodian.

Motion by Chisholm, second by Riley, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Callie Moore - Teacher, Ashley Bruns - Special Education Para-Educator, and Austin Barth - Junior High Basketball Coach. Passed 6-0

Motion by Pauley, second by Chisholm, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Denise MacDonald - Transportation Para-Educator, Warren Law -Transportation Para-Educator, Katherine Slater - Central Receiving/Delivery Driver, and Mary Behrendt - Long-term Substitute. Passed 7-0

Motion by Mumby, second by Pauley, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations. Passed 7-0

Motion by Chisholm, second by Mumby, to approve the out of state travel request for the High School Band to Seattle, WA April 21-24, 2022. Passed 7-0

Motion by Pauley, second by Chisholm, to approve the out of state travel request for Transportation/Facility Secretary Jodee Perkins to North Carolina to attend the SchoolDude University March 6-9, 2022. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #391
DISPOSITION OF
ABANDONED, OBSO-
LETE, AND UNDESIRE-
ABLE PROPERTY

MOTION TO
ESTABLISH A
FINANCE COMMITTEE

MOTION TO APPROVE
MOA FOR TRANSPOR-
TATION SERVICES
BETWEEN COLUMBIA
FALLS AND HELENA
FLATS ELEMENTARY

MT-PEC SURVEY
RESULTS

PERSONNEL:

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
DISTRICT-WIDE/HIGH
SCHOOL HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE SUBSTITUTE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST FOR HIGH
SCHOOL BAND

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST FOR
TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY

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MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST FOR SPECIAL
EDUC. TEACHERS

Motion by Chisholm, second by Pauley, to approve the out of state travel request for Special Education Teachers to Anaheim, CA January 24-27, 2022. Passed 7-0

MISC / FUTURE
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:


Regular Board Meeting December 13, 2021 6:00 P.M.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:03 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk