

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
DECEMBER 13, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, December 13, 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
Larry Wilson Trustee
Gail Pauley Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee
Dave Wick Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Barbara Riley Trustee

Chair Rocksund called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

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

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

-Approve the Board Minutes from the November 2, 2021 Special Meeting and the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.

-Approve the investment report.

-Approve November Bills.

Passed 7-0

Public Participation:

Approximately five (5) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

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

Community member Judy Territo requested the Board discuss the social emotional learning curriculum as a formal agenda item.

Community member Joe O'Rourke expressed concern with the social emotional learning curriculum. Mr. O'Rourke noted his research yielded vague guidelines (requirements) from the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the local School Board has broad discretion regarding the content of this curriculum. Mr. O'Rourke expressed dissatisfaction with the opt-out offered by the Junior High as the student would simply not attend school during that period. Students should be offered a replacement as opposed to missing a period of school.

High School Soccer Coach O'Brien Byrd provided a recap of the inaugural Junior High Soccer season. Fifty-five players participated on two boys teams and one girls team.

Paula Koch representing the Teachers Union expressed appreciation for the collaborative effort between the Board and the Union.

There was no additional public participation.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

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REPORTS:

Reports:

K-8 Facility Bond Project – Owners Representative Dave Jolly provided an update. The Ruder Elementary project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2021. Mr. Jolly discussed the timing of completion of Glacier Gateway Elementary. It is still premature to accurately project a completion date. The District will work to get a projection in February.

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports.

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 provided an update regarding the Comprehensive School and Community Treatment (CSCT) program. Regardless of the funding, Logan Health has committed to continuing this program through the current school year. It does appear that changes to how and to which students services are delivered will occur for next school year. It may look more like an outpatient mental health model delivered through the School Based Health Clinic. Mr. Zuffelato informed the Board about procuring IT equipment for the new Glacier Gateway school through the federal E-Rate Program. Mr. Zuffelato informed the Board about obtaining a grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to replace two buses with Propane fueled buses. The grant will provide \$31,500 per bus and the District will provide matching funds from the FY 2023 budget.

Curriculum Director Mark McCord provided the Board with a written report. Mr. McCord is leading a Committee tasked with replacing the District website in an effort to improve functionality, appearance, and content.

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 for November and December. Mr. Wick congratulated teacher Kami Heinz for achieving the National Board Certification.

Board Chair Rocksund presented a letter to the Board from parent Cory Albrecht requesting the Board to place social emotional learning competencies on the meeting agenda for the Board to consider details of this program and receive public input.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action/Discussed Items:

The Board considered a Buy-Sell Agreement for the Glacier Gateway Elementary building. The Agreement contains a description of the property as recently defined by the boundary line adjustment and retracement survey. The parcel encompasses 2.639 acres. Vice Chair Chisholm explained the terms of the agreement which some still need to be devised including the closing date and restrictive covenants. The intent is to execute this agreement to provide a commitment so Ruis Gateway LLC can begin incurring expense to design renovations. The closing date will be contingent on the date the District receives a certificate of occupancy for the new school. Motion by Chisholm, second by Wilson, to authorize the Board Chair to execute an Agreement substantially similar to the proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement with Ruis Gateway LLC. Passed 6-0

MOTION TO ADMIT
STUDENT STDS TO
KINDERGARTEN

Motion by Mumby, second by Wilson, to admit student STDS to Kindergarten for the 2021/22 school year. Passed 6-0

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Superintendent Dave Wick presented the details of the Flathead County Statistical Report for 2021. County-wide enrollment increased 7% from the prior year. Columbia Falls Elementary District enrollment increased 8%. Dustin Zuffelato - Business Manager/Clerk, presented the financial details.

REVIEW OF THE
FLATHEAD COUNTY
STATISTICAL REPORT

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Cassi Banning-Special Education Para-Educator, Ty Morgan-Junior High Basketball Coach, and Jennifer Myers-Nurse.

PERSONNEL:

Motion by Wilson, second by Pauley, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Nancy Goe-Winter Bus Helper, Brittney Hulett-Nurse, and Ian Wheeler-Speech and Debate Coach. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
DISTRICT-WIDE/HIGH
SCHOOL HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Sarah Rosenbaum-Para-Educator, David Hon-Special Education Para-Educator, Derek Andrews – Junior High Basketball Coach, Brittany Boone – Special Education Para-Educator, and MaKenna Avila – Para-Educator. Passed 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Wilson, second by Hill, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE SUBSTITUTE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Wilson, second by Pauley, to approve the out of state travel request for Jenny Lovering to Seattle, WA February 2-4, 2022 to attend the Northwest Council for Computer Education. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST

The Board considered a sick leave bank request for a certified staff member. As the Individual's right to privacy exceeds the public's right to know, Chair Rocksund called the meeting into executive session at 7:43 P.M.

Open Meeting resumed at 7:53 P.M.

Motion by Wilson, second by Mumby to approve the sick leave bank request of the certified staff member through March 31, 2022. Passed 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
SICK LEAVE BANK
REQUEST

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Health Insurance Committee Meeting	December 16, 2021	4:00 P.M.
Regular Board Meeting	January 10, 2022	6:00 P.M.

MISC / FUTURE
PLANNING

The Board discussed a Long Range Planning Committee meeting to consider the restrictive covenants for the sale of property - Glacier Gateway Elementary. The Committee will also consider the facilities budget to upgrade the HVAC system at the High School. The District has obtained cost estimates to improve air flow, provide a more regulated temperature, and enhance the learning environment. The Board will need to consider various project scope options as well as various funding mechanisms.

Board consensus was to conduct a meeting on January 24, 2022 at 6PM.


The Board discussed the relative merits of a public meeting to discuss social emotional learning (SEL). Trustee Mumby suggested placing this topic on a future meeting agenda in an effort to

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MEETING
ADJOURNED

satisfy the demands of the few members of the community who have criticized this instruction during each Board meeting during the current school year. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding a public meeting regarding SEL. The value of discussing SEL would be to obtain public input for the Board to further understand the concerns. Chair Rocksund noted that this instruction is aligned with OPI learning competencies and the Board does not have the authority to disregard them. Superintendent Dave Wick discussed the benefits of this curriculum including enhancing the ability for students to be prepared to learn academics. Now more than ever, this instruction is important as students are struggling with mental health. A School Board meeting is not the appropriate venue to facilitate an effective discussion regarding curriculum and instruction. The District administration could more effectively obtain the specific concerns with whichever specific portions of this instruction are concerning. General consensus was to not hold a public meeting, although Trustee Jacobsmeyer was in favor of holding a meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:22 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk