

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
FEBRUARY 13, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February 13, 2023, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund.....Board Chair
Dean Chisholm.....Vice Chair
Justin Cheff Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Casey Heupel Trustee
Barbara Riley Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer..... Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Dave Wick.....Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato.....Business Manager/Clerk

Chair Rocksund called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed 8-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Approval of January Bills
- Approval of Investment Reports
- Student Activity Account Transfer

Passed 8-0

Public Participation:

Approximately five (5) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Approximately twenty (20) people attended the meeting in person.

Student Body Representatives and Freshman Class Officers provided an update regarding activities in the High School during the months of January and February.

Chair Rocksund requested public participation on any agenda or non-agenda items. Community member, Chuck Territo, expressed concern regarding meeting minutes not being available when asked. He also shared a quote by Thomas Paine. There was no additional public participation.

Reports:

K-8 Facility Bond Project – Owners Representative Dave Jolly provided an update. Jackola Engineering will provide concept drawings of the relocatable buildings moved to the High School ball fields, which will be repurposed as concession stands/restrooms. Bids for the High School HVAC system are due February 14, 2023. Updates on Glacier Gateway School: The architect will be working on getting the PreK playground built, the demolition of the north end of the old school is on schedule to commence March 6, 2023, and Swank will start working on landscaping when the weather breaks and looking at April to start on the pavement. The administration building’s utility connections are being completed and Flathead Electric is

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

REPORTS:

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scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, to change the electricity over. Also, on pace to be done is the gas line. Ruder is wrapping up commissioning; plumbing and HVAC will have a final review. The old Glacier building will be conveyed to Ruis on February 15, 2023. The fiber optic WAN connection will require an easement until a new circuit serving the administration building can be constructed via the federal E-rate Program. Superintendent Wick added that some remaining projects associated with the K-8 facility is the PreK playground at Ruder.

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports. Glacier Gateway has added twenty (20) more students since the opening of the new school. Nurse Dawn Lorenzen, from Ruder, presented to staff how to administer first aid and emergency care. The Junior High has been focusing on Data Driven Dialogue during early out Wednesdays.

High School Principal, Jon Konen, provided the Board with a written report. Trustees would like to conduct a meeting for Students on Board in either February/March and again in May.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato mentioned that along with the new chairs in the board room, that there will be new tables coming and possibly audio/video equipment. The Ruis Transaction is scheduled to close in February. Proceeds from the sales of the building will go toward the concession stands at the football field and other needs. The spring count for ANB was submitted to OPI on their new program. Enrollment in grades 9 and lower are all over 150 students.

Special Education Director, Michelle Swank, provided the Board with a written report.

Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, provided the Board with a written report. The District is looking to replace both Math and Reading curriculum by the end of next school year.

Trustee, Barb Riley, handed out a written report containing updated issues from MTSBA. There has not been a board meeting since her last report.

Superintendent Dave Wick stated that the District is maintaining steady enrollment since last fall. Items from the old Glacier Gateway went up for auction in January. HB 235 is being discussed in the State Legislature and states fact only science and no science theory will be taught in schools. There is a bill to prevent districts from discipline for certain types of harassment that will go against Title IX and certain policies. A proposed bill regarding Indian Education for All would require the district to provide additional reports.

ACTION/DISCUSSION
ITEMS:

Action/Discussed Items:

Resolution 406, stating that the Elementary School District will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Community Member, Judy Territo, talked about observing the counting process during last year's election and wondered why the District does not use public poll voting and only relies on mail-in ballots. Chair Rocksund explained how the process for absentee ballots is already in place and that many voters prefer mail-in voting. Clerk Zuffelato said that history has shown that the voter turnout is greater with a mail-in ballot versus poll voting. The County will scan and verify signatures on all incoming envelopes; the District will use the County's tabulating machines to count votes. Chair

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Rocksund noted that the Board will revisit the election in March by setting the levy amount or cancelling the levy election.

Motion by Chisholm, second by Mumby, to approve Resolution 406 as written. Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 406

Resolution 407, the High School School District will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Motion by Mumby, second by Riley to approve Resolution as written. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 407

Clerk Zuffelato discussed the mail ballot plan for the May 2, 2023, annual election. Timeline step number six (6) has a date change to April 17, 2023, to allow a little more time to get ballots in the mail. Trustee Mumby mentioned that the cost of postage needs to be changed from fifty-eight (58) cents to sixty-three (63) cents. Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the mail ballot plan for the May 2, 2023, trustee election with the changes in date of ballots being available and mailing price. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
MAIL BALLOT PLAN
FOR MAY 2, 2023
TRUSTEE ELECTION

Vice Chair Chisholm reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the School District and Columbia Falls High School Baseball Association. The pay rate for coaches is a negotiated term with the Union and needs to be either taken out or have an added statement that approval of salary is contingent on union negotiations. The baseball association is scheduled to cover all costs for the next three years, but future boards should have a plan in place in case the association asks the District to fund costs after three years. Community Member, Judy Territo, stated that the District should give the parents the responsibility to fundraise and drive athletes to events. Union President, Paula Koch, asked if the contract is null and void after the three years. Superintendent Wick mentioned that other club sports lasted longer than three years before becoming school funded. Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the MOU between School District No. 6 and the High School Baseball Association with changes to the coaches' salaries not being defined as part of the collective bargaining agreement. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
MOU BETWEEN SD6
AND THE HS BASE-
BALL ASSOCIATION

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the Commercial Sublease Agreement with the Columbia Falls Baseball Association to use the Sapa-Johnsrud Memorial Field for high school baseball activities. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
COMMERCIAL SUB-
LEASE AGREEMENT
TO USE THE SAPA-
JOHNSRUD
MEMORIAL FIELD

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the Health Insurance Committee recommendations. Specifically, the service agreement between School District No. 6 and It Starts With Me; the EBMS Administrative Services Agreement Amendments #3, #4, and #5; and to approve the Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Testing Resolution in one motion as reported. Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
INSURANCE
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board discussed the renewal of membership with the Montana School Board Association from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Vice Chair Chisholm mentioned that the dues we pay and the money the District saves on workers compensation insurance policies is worth it. Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve and renew membership with MTSBA. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE RENEWAL OF
MTSBA MEMBERSHIP
FOR SY 23-24

Board Chair Rocksund discussed her findings in comparing services and pricing between Montana School Board Association (MTSBA) and the Gary Ray Group for assisting in the new superintendent search. The Gary Ray Group has been used by bigger school districts in Montana such as Billings and Whitefish, and has more of a national outreach. MTSBA has three (3) platforms for advertising and seems to be used mostly by Class B and C schools around

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MOTION TO APPROVE
THE HIRE OF GARY
RAY GROUP TO
FACILITATE THE
SUPERINTENDENT
RECRUITMENT
PROCESS

Montana. Trustee Riley would like to add more on-site visits within the Gary Ray Group contract proposed. Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the Gary Ray Group to facilitate the superintendent recruitment process with the contingent for one more negotiated on-site visit. Passed 7-1. No-Riley.

Clerk Zuffelato discussed the need to increase the cost of Drivers' Education Fees from \$275 to \$300 per student to keep up with inflation and other school districts in the valley. Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the increase of drivers' education fees to \$300. Passed 8-0.

There was discussion on the consideration to change the dates of the March and April Regular Board Meetings. Community Member, Joe O'Rourke, mentioned that April 17, 2023, is the same day that ballots are mailed out. Vice Chair Chisholm may have a conflict and Trustee Riley will need to Zoom in for part of the meeting. Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to change the dates of the March meeting from March 13 to March 20, and the April meeting from April 10 to April 17. Passed 8-0.

Superintendent Wick discussed the need to change the last day of school from June 7 to June 6, 2023, to have the appropriate number of pupil instruction days. A Community Member in the audience mentioned that the half days are difficult on parents when they must pick up their children two hours after dropping them off at school. Motion by Mumby, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the proposed calendar changes for the 2022-2023 school year. Passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Camille Warren – Ruder Teacher, Adam Jeffrey – Ruder Custodian, Amberly Jeffrey – Glacier Gateway Special Education Para, Hannah Riley – High School English Teacher and Yearbook Advisor, Willow Moran – Freshman Class Advisor, Jessie Schaeffer – High School PE/HE Department Chair, Jenny Lovering – Senior Class Advisor.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEM DISTRICT
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Chisholm, second by Riley, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Rebecca Sorensen – Glacier Gateway Special Education Para, Kenneth Weese – Junior High Special Education Para, David Hon – Junior High Special Education Teacher, Tary Middlesworth – Junior High Girls Basketball Coach. Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS/DISTRICT-WIDE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: James Mikkelson – Bus Driver, Scott Corbett – High School Assistant Baseball Coach, Shannon Freiheit – High School Special Education Paraeducator, Amanda Piilola – High School Learning Strategies and Student Support Tutor. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE SUBSTITUTE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations. Passed 8-0.

Vice Chair Chisholm started a discussion regarding High School Teacher Erin Quintia's leave of absence request. The request does not quite fit into any district policies for approval and if approved, then precedent may be set for future cases. This request is lining out criteria for future decisions. Chair Rocksund reviewed the definition of sabbatical leave, which this leave request does not quite fall under. Trustee Jacobsmeyer mentioned how this is a tough time to

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fill positions. Trustee Heupel stated that an approval could cause other employees to want a break too and that consistency for kids is important. Union President Paula Koch would like the Board to be careful of pointing out “quality” versus “non-quality” employees. Erin Quintia also had a chance to discuss why she is requesting the leave of absence and the timing of the leave. Motion by Chisholm, second by Hill, to approve the extended leave of absence request for Erin Quintia for School Year 2023-2024 to travel the US with her family. Failed 1-7. Yes-Chisholm.

MOTION TO APPROVE
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST FOR ERIN
QUINTIA

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the Out-of-State Travel Requests for Diane Marsh to attend a conference in Pennsylvania and Jaimie’ Bell to attend the AP Summer Institute in Idaho. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OT STATE
TRAVEL REQUESTS

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- High School HVAC Bid Opening: February 14, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
- Long Range Planning Committee Meeting: February 21, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. – Could be done as a Zoom meeting.
- Finance Committee Meeting – February 27, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
- Work Session: February 27, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – There will be one (1) action item to consider on the High School HVAC System.

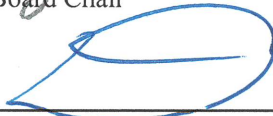
MISC/FUTURE
PLANNING

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

MEETING
ADJOURNED



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk