

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 12:00 P.M., Monday, June 12, 2023, in the boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund Board Chair
Barbara Riley Vice Chair
Megan Upton Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee Via Zoom - 6:02 P.M.
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee
Casey Heupel Trustee
Dave Wick Superintendent
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Justin Cheff Trustee

Call to order at 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve the agenda as presented.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

- Approve May bills
- Approve the investment report.
- Approve the minutes of May 8, 2023, regular and organizational meetings.
- Student activity account transfers.

With one change on the minutes from May 8, 2023.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Public Participation:

Approximately three (3) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Approximately thirteen (13) people attended the meeting in person.

Community Member Larry Wilson was on the Board that hired Superintendent Dave Wick and wants to thank him for his many years of service to the District and what he does for kids.

Reports:

REPORTS:

K-8 Facility Bond Project – Owners Representative Dave Jolly was not available to provide an update. Superintendent Wick informed the Board regarding a meeting today with Swank representatives and District Administration. The High School HVAC project will commence this summer. Glacier Gateway punch list items will be completed adding accents, completing the

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kitchen and site work like parking lot, planting of approximately 110 trees, and acclimatize the wood in the front. Ruder Elementary will have the basketball court repainted and will have a little kids playground on the north side of building finished, make the school more handicap accessible, dropping ceilings to look uniform, doing finishing safety projects like a catwalk on top of roof for snow removal and drain cleaning for our maintenance crew. Clerk Zuffelato mentioned that it is important to continue to inform the community regarding the K-8 Facility Bond Project. Specifically, to celebrate the scope, the timing, and issues (Covid), and the District is still under budget. The next project is to work toward improving the High School and we need the community support to continue to improve the school facilities. Superintendent Wick commended Swank, with the many projects and COVID issues that it is amazing that it came in under budget.

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports.

High School Principal Jon Konen provided the Board with a written report. Vice Chair Riley mentioned the record breaking scholarship amount of over \$6 million by the senior class.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Budget work on teacher contracts for next year is in progress plus looking at other costs and the amount provided from state of 2.7% is not going to be enough to cover ongoing expenses. At some point the District is going to have to rely on the local community to pass an overbase levy to cover costs or may have to look to make strategic budget cuts if the levy election next spring fails. Harry Cheff, from MSGIA, was there for the District's renewal for Workers' Compensation Insurance. Mr. Cheff and Michaelyn Kimmet have been working hard with safety committees to lower workplace injury claims. Title I is projected to have some year end balances and can roll over to next year to be used to help offset the projected general fund budget deficit. The Food Service program has many unpaid accounts. This appears to be a result of residual perception that meals were free during COVID. Seniors had their accounts paid by an Angel Gift to graduate, but we need to get communications to families reminding them that meal accounts need to get paid. The District needs to look at maybe not allowing unpaid accounts to get so high next year, and to push the free and reduced lunch application to help families. Approximately \$3,000 of debt is from staff lunches. The Hot Lunch Department will continue to collect on outstanding funds.

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

Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, discussed the two resources for new math curriculum - Bridges Math and Big Idea Math. The elementary schools will be trying both and then pick one. Wrapping of dyslexia screenings and looking for ways to do a better job catching students who may be having issues. The District will have five English Language Learners next year in high school who have met with teachers. Jon Konen is to set up a program and a couple students are starting summer school with use of Rosetta Stone. New teacher orientation will be a smaller group this August with 13 new teachers. The Curriculum Office will work on reporting standards on report cards this summer.

Trustee Barbara Riley updated the Board about the recent proceedings of the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) and the Montana School Board Association

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(MTSBA). A written report was provided. Meetings were conducted the week before on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There is an opening for one staff attorney. The annual business meeting information will be coming out at end of month or before the July meeting. School leadership and board training is available online focusing on reviewing responsibilities as a board member and policy changes (30) from state legislature. There are two lawsuits related to schools, the charter school bill and special education dollars that can follow a child by parents' choice. Added with the report is a letter to editor regarding cell phones in classrooms from a retired teacher and the concern about controlling cell phones in all grades.

Superintendent Dave Wick discussed his last enrollment figures, in last six weeks the enrollment is down about five students. Attendance statistics would like at 95%, otherwise teachers must reteach the material missed. The Friday before Memorial Day weekend is a largest missed day. In the High School, the last three days of school had the best attendance because of final exams. The Policy Committee will be busy getting the manual updated following the end of the state legislative session. Mr. Wick has had several meetings with new Superintendent Dziowgo to help him have a deeper understanding of the District, especially historical issues. This is his last board meeting and wanted to thank the Board for support and everything done for him.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund informed the board that she attended the MTSBA annual meeting on Thursday afternoon. Chair Rocksund recommended each Trustee take the time to view the videos to be informed of roles as a Board Member.

Action/Discussed Items:

Trustee Jacobsmeyer requested to table the approval of renewing the District's contract with the Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) until Superintendent Dziowgo was in office. Motion by Jacobsmeyer, second by Upton, to table the discussion of approving the contract with MQEC until Superintendent Dziowgo was in office.
Did not pass 2-5, yes votes from Jacobsmeyer and Upton

Discussions continued regarding the contract with MQEC. Chair Rocksund noted that MQEC was much more than lobbying for the Board. It protects the constitution that students have the right for a strong education. As Board members, everyone took an oath to support the Montana Constitution. MQEC supports Montana students and the Board as well. It is a service to the entire state to have safeguards in place to ensure the constitution. Trustee Upton does not support MQEC being the lead plaintiff for the lawsuit against House Bill 562. Trustee Mumby mentioned the quality education lawsuit in 2009 that MQEC supported on behalf of the Columbia Falls School Board against the State of Montana. The District should continue to support MQEC.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve MQEC renewal for SY23-24. Public comment was requested and State Representative Braxton Mitchell asks to not renew with MQEC, it is bad for Columbia Falls to be part of the lawsuit against House Bill 562. School District 6 is ignoring what the community wants. The Board should stand with Columbia Falls parents and not Helena lobbyists. Community Member Judy Territo reiterated that the state legislature representing the will of the community passed school choice, that public schools are lacking, and to give parents a school choice. MQEC is not a good organization and they do not support Columbia Falls' interest. Let's not use the District funds to support this. Passed 5-2, no votes Jacobsmeyer and Upton.

Discussion on getting rid of library (classic) books was had.

ACTION/DISCUSSION
ITEMS:

MOTION TO TABLE
APPROVING MQEC
CONTRACT
RENEWAL UNTIL
NEW SUPT. ARRIVES.
MOTION DENIED

MOTION TO
APPROVE CONTRACT
RENEWAL WITH
MQEC FOR SY 23-24.

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MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 414

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve Resolution No. 414: Disposition of Abandoned, Obsolete, and Undesirable Property.
Public comment was requested and Community Member Judy Territo wanted to know if the novels can be seen by the community to purchase. Clerk Zuffelato noted that after a required 14 day notification period, the surplus property will be available for the community.
Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 413

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve Resolution No. 413: Columbia Falls Elementary School District 6 and Columbia Falls High School District Request for Flathead County Election Administration to Conduct 2024 Annual School Election.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE APPOINTMENT OF
TRUSTEE UPTON TO
THE PROF. DEVELOP.
COMMITTEE

Chair Rocksund appointed Trustee Upton to serve on the Professional Development Committee.
Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the Professional Development Committee member assignment.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE KINDERGARTEN
AGE WAIVERS FOR SY
23-24

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the following kindergarten age waiver students for SY 23-24: D.E.B. (01/09/2019), J.M.H. (12/15/2018), O.P.J. (10/3/2018), B.J.K. (10/5/2018), R.W.S.B. (12/22/2018), T.M.R. (05/15/2018), R.S.C. (3/20/2019), A.B.S. (8/06/2019), E.V.L. (3/21/2019).
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
FLATHEAD CROSS-
ROADS INTERLOCAL
AGREEMENT FOR SY
23-24

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the Flathead Crossroads Interlocal Agreement between School District 6 and Evergreen Schools.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
CANYON ELEMEN-
TARY FACILITY LEASE
AGREEMENT WITH
MT DEPT OF
CORRECTIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the Canyon Elementary Facility Lease Agreement between School District 6 and Montana Department of Corrections.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
PROPERTY LIABILITY
INSURANCE RENEW-
AL WITH MSGIA.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the property liability insurance policy renewal with Montana School Group Insurance Authority (MSGIA) for SY 23-24.
Public comment was requested and Harry Cheff from MSGIA commented on the partnership with the District since 1988 for Workers' Compensation and 2009 for Liability and Property insurance. Mr. Cheff is the District's School Risk Manager and works closely with Michaelyn Kimmel. In the next couple of weeks he will be dropping off a service agreement for next school year.
Passed 7-0

REVIEW OF
COMPOSITE HS
SCHOLARSHIP AND
GRADUATION PLAN
STATISTICS

A review of composite high school scholarship and graduation plan statistics was conducted. Seventy-five (75) different students from the senior class received a scholarship, which is a little over 50%. The \$6 million is the total scholarships money and not the scholarships claimed. The report shows how FVCC is a viable option for the District's students.

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Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Kira Luscher – Ruder Counselor, Amanda Douglas – Ruder RISE Paraeducator, Kelsey McFadden – Ruder First Grade Teacher, Peyton Kehr – Ruder Fifth Grade Teacher, Camberia Harwood – JH Cross Country Coach, Tessa Peters – Hot Lunch Helper, Amber Little – Hot Lunch Helper, Neil Johnson Jr. – Custodian, David Walter – Bus Driver, Sharon Dunigan – Bus Driver, Kurt Ruffley – Freshman Basketball Coach, Jessica Victor – HS Math Tutor

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Tana Poor – Ruder Special Ed Para, Caitlin Coghlan – JH Science Teacher, Sarah Sheldon – Ruder Special Ed Teacher, Tessa Peters – Ruder Special Ed Para, Amber Little – Ruder Kindergarten Para, Stephanie Gregorash – Ruder Kindergarten Para, Mary Burns – JH Cross Country Coach, Suzann Andrews – JH Cross Country Coach, Emily Eisenschenk – Glacier Gateway Pre-K Para

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Dawn Boutwell – Food Services Secretary, Sydni Newbury – Hot Lunch Helper, Tabitha Roth – Custodian and Bus Driver, Wendy Weaver – Payroll Accountant, Zane McCaffree – Custodian, Rebecca Linton – HS Special Ed Para, Jessica Victor – HS Special Ed Teacher, Amanda Douglas – HS Special Ed Teacher, Austin Barth – HS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, Manolo Victor – HS Industrial Arts Teacher, Keegan Pendergast – HS Assistant Football Coach, Colleen Finberg – HS Assistant Cross Country Coach, Ron LaTray – HS Assistant Football coach

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0, Hill abstained from voting

Motion by Mumby, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve temporary summer hiring recommendations: Amy Hanson – Ruder Summer School Teacher, Kathy Carl – Ruder Summer School Para, Kim Potter – Ruder Summer School Para, Ashley Bruns – Ruder Summer School Para, Kayla Thompson – Ruder Summer School Para, Sarah Rosenbaum – JH Summer School Para, Kathy Wetsch – JH Summer School Teacher, Tammy Coleman – HS Summer School Teacher.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve temporary summer hiring recommendations: Angel McCarley – Summer Hot Lunch Helper, Shannon Freiheit – Summer Hot Lunch Helper, Amanda Treat – Summer Custodian, Jarrod Calabrese – Summer Custodian, Lauren Rogers – Summer IT Support, Kyle Hubbard – Summer IT Support, Daniel Cadigan – Summer IT Support.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

PERSONNEL:

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE ELEM DISTRICT
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS/DISTRICT-WIDE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
TEMPORARY SUMMER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS/DISTRICTWIDE
TEMPORARY SUMMER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

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MISC/FUTURE
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Classified Negotiations – Wednesday, June 21, 2023 – 2:30 P.M.
- Certified Negotiations – Thursday, June 22, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.
- Special Meeting – Monday, June 26, 2023 – 12:00 P.M.
- Retirement Dinner – Thursday, June 29, 2023 – Jagz
- Policy Committee Meeting sometime during the summer.


Trustee Hill discussed being approached by high school coaches regarding 8th graders playing high school sports. The Board would like to do some research as to what other schools are doing. This rule was recently passed by the Montana High School Association (MHSA).

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk