

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
JULY 10, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, July 10, 2023, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund..... Board Chair
Barbara Riley Vice Chair
Megan Upton..... Trustee
Justin Cheff..... Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee
Casey Huepel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/ Clerk

Call to order at 6:07 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the agenda as presented.

Public comment was requested and there were none.

Passed 8-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

- Approve June bills
- Approve the investment report.
- Approve the minutes from May 26, June 5, June 12, and June 26.

Public comment was requested and there were none.

Passed 8-0

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Public Participation:

Approximately eight (8) people attended the meeting in person.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Community member, Chuck Territo, would like the Board to take a closer look into the District's low proficiency rates indicated from students' test scores. He would like to see a change in the School District to lead the way within the state to improve scores.

Community member, Judy Territo, is questioning the District's Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) contract renewal. She is disappointed that the District is supporting organizations that employ leaders like Lance Melton who makes \$360,000 per year. The district's money is being used and the Board doesn't seem to question or research what is being agreed on.

Community member, Joe O'Rourke, discussed summary pages of 2022 student assessments on the subjects of history and civics. This goes back to the education we want to provide to students. Nationwide scores have declined on average and COVID could be part of the decline, but it is not all of it. If we see a decline in our District's scores, we need to be proactive.

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 10, 2023

PAGE 2

High School Athletic Director, Troy Bowman, shared an email that was sent to Dave Wick, Superintendent, Cory Dziowgo, and High School Principal, Jon Konen, regarding his position on 8th grade participation in high school sports. A recent Montana High School Association bylaw change is leaving the decisions to allow 8th grade participation up to each individual district. Columbia Falls is currently the largest Class A school in the state. Allowing 8th graders to participate will give the athletes five (5) years of eligibility. Mr. Bowman expressed concern that allowing 8th graders to participate may take away an opportunity for a high school student as many of the sports have a finite number of roster positions.

Community member, Dan Boutwell, Volleyball Head Coach Jolandie Brooks's father, spoke on her behalf while she is in Las Vegas at a coaching clinic. Ms. Brooks feels that the District should allow kids the opportunity to develop their athletic skills by playing as 8th graders instead of paying for travel ball expenses or personal training sessions. She is asking for 8th graders to be able to play high school sports.

Community member, Allison Dorr, asked the Board to consider 8th grade participation in high school sports. Athletics are an extension of the classroom and if a student has the talent, then we should make special accommodations for those students. Her daughter's options next year are to play on a club soccer team that is not at the higher level she is, or she could play with the high school players she has been playing with all summer. The need is to take each student on a case-by-case basis. She wants the District to adopt the ruling to allow 8th graders to play high school sports.

High School Principal, Jon Konen, agreed with what Troy Bowman said and will draft something more for the June 24th Special School Board meeting regarding 8th grade participation in high school sports. Columbia Falls High School has two separate Elementary District's that feed into it (Deer Park and West Glacier). There is no state funding to our District to support these out of district students to participate in the high school athletic programs. District policies would need to be revised to determine which out of district students would be served. Mr. Konen likes the policy implemented by the Bigfork School District defining participation thresholds before 8th graders may participate.

REPORTS:

Reports:

K-8 Facility Bond Project – Clerk Dustin Zuffelato discussed the final projects that are being completed this summer. Crews are still working on the ceilings in Ruder and outside work at Glacier Gateway (playgrounds and parking lots). The District is keeping an eye on the budgets and spend down of the entire contingency. Some projects that were cut originally are put back on the wish list. Still waiting on playground equipment for PreK at Ruder. After all items on the wish list are finished the budget will have a zero balance.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Year-end Budget to Actual numbers were presented. The Food Service program enterprise activities were presented. The District is increasing the cost of meals being served. The Department will be investing in some changes at the high school cafeteria to make a more inviting space, more like a restaurant with different tables and booths. With the new kitchen equipment at Glacier Gateway there are more resources to make the program better, but may have to cut into the reserves in the future to keep up with the cost of escalating food prices. There is approximately \$50,000 of unpaid debt. Food Service Employees will start strictly enforcing the policy for unpaid accounts and

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 10, 2023

PAGE 3

get advice from the Auditors to see what legally can be done to write off the uncollected debt. There is also a plan to provide more of a push to families to apply for free and reduced lunch assistance. Health Insurance numbers were not available in time for the meeting and should be ready for the next meeting. Looking at unofficial numbers, claims paid looked to have exceeded the 125% goal and reserves dropped approximately \$150,000. The Business Office pushed through \$4 mil of payroll in June and the efforts of the new Payroll Person and team is appreciated. The District will continue to redesign how we do things in the Business Office. A discussion regarding using the Indian Education for All money was had by many board members. The conclusion is to possibly get a committee or coordinator to see how to spend the money.

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 (MTSBA). There has not been a board meeting and will have action items coming up. There is work being done to conduct in-person regional meetings again and want to start limiting Zoom events. Region 1 Meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2023, and would like to use the Glacier Gateway library for training. MTSBA is a resource for trustees and was formed to provide guidance on tough decisions that need to be made. The next state board meeting is MCEL in Billings during MEA days in October. A national meeting will be in September located at Washington D.C.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo reported that it will take time to get acquainted with the various proceedings of the District and is excited for students and staff to return. There will be Superintendent Curbside Reporting and website messages available. There will be monitoring of social media to see if there is a need for a district account, similar to the individual school accounts. There should be a Board/Superintendent goal setting retreat soon and will strive to make sure the Superintendent is meeting expectations.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund discussed the Superintendent's evaluation and may look at different forms Superintendent Dziowgo has used in the past. Looking at possibly quarterly evaluations or at least three times per year for goals check ins.

Action/Discussed Items:

Each year the MTSBA has an annual meeting and this year there was not enough participation for a quorum. There needs to be a vote on each item to be submitted to MTSBA:

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the FY25 Dues Revenue Estimate.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-2, no votes Jacobsmeyer and Upton

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to support the changes to the MTSBA Principles and Guidelines as presented.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-1, no vote Jacobsmeyer

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the Foundational Elements of MTSBA's Organizational DNA as presented.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-2, no votes Jacobsmeyer and Upton

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE FY25 DUES REV-
ENUE ESTIMATE

MOTION TO SUPPORT
THE CHANGES TO THE
MTSBA PRINCIPLES
AND GUIDELINES

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE FOUNDATIONAL
ELEMENTS OF MTSBA'S
ORGANIZATIONAL
DNA

REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2023
PAGE 4

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MULTI-YEAR VISION-BASED ADVOCACY PROCESS RESOLUTION

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the Multi-year Vision-Based Advocacy Process Resolution.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-2, no votes Jacobsmeyer and Upton

MOTION TO SUPPORT THE MTSBA GAP ANALYSIS RESOLUTION FOR THE 2025 LEGISLATURE

Motion by Cheff, second by Mumby, to support the MTSBA Board Director's Gap Analysis Resolution for the 2025 Legislature.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-1, no vote Jacobsmeyer

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF SUE CORRIGAN AS MTSBA PRESIDENT ELECT

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the nomination of Sue Corrigan (MTSBA Kalispell Municipal Director) as MTSBA President-Elect (and unanimously nominated by the MTSBA Board of Directors).
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-1, no vote Jacobsmeyer

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF KRYSTAL ZENTNER AS MTSBA VICE-PRESIDENT

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the nomination of Krystal Zentner (MTSBA Region 9 Director/Bridger Trustee) as MTSBA Vice-President (and unanimously nominated by the MTSBA Board of Directors).
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0, Jacobsmeyer abstained from voting

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE PROPANE GAS AGREEMENT WITH CITY-SERVICE VALCON FOR FY 24

Discussion was had regarding having a propane fueling station on campus at the Bus Barn, the main cost only being a concrete pad. Moving the fueling station on-site will save time and be safer for the drivers. Other changes for the Transportation Department will be that each bus driver will be responsible for his/her own bus; washing the exterior, pick up and sweep inside, and inspect for any damages.
Motion by Riley, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the renewal of the propane gas agreement with CityServiceValcon for FY24.
Public comment was requested and there is a need for finding more bus drivers.
Passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:
The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Becky Sorensen – GG Special Education Paraeducator, Chad Green – JH Football Coach, Kenneth Little – Food Service, Tad Rosenberry – Bus Driver, Ruby Beach – Custodian, Dave Wick – Superintendent of Schools, Diane Marsh – HS Business Education Teacher

MOTION TO APPROVE ELEMENTARY HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Alyssa Morales – Ruder Music Teacher, Alicia Evans – Ruder Counselor, Bailey Vukonich – Ruder Grade 5 Teacher, Amie Dziowgo – Ruder Grade 2
Public comment was requested and there were none.
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE HS AND DISTRICT-WIDE HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Tabitha Roth – Bus Driver, Jessica Moultray – Learning Strategies and Student Tutoring Paraeducator, Jessica Victor – Freshman Class Advisor, Amanda Perry – HS Traffic Education Teacher

REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2023
PAGE 5

Public comment was requested and the loss of Teacher Diane Marsh hurts the High School and there will need to be some creative thinking to fill the position before the start of school. Passed 8-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve the Temporary Summer hiring recommendations: Blake Rosenbaum – Summer Custodian, Syndi Newbury – Summer Food Service, Paul Rossi – Summer Custodian, Heidi Wolf – Summer Food Service, Dawn Garwood – Summer Custodian, Jessica Victor – HS Summer School Teacher
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE TEMPORARY
SUMMER HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

The following travel request is paid through Medicaid funds.
Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve Out-of-State Travel Requests for: Michelle Swank – Pacific NW Institute on Special Education Law Conference in Vancouver, Washington October 9-11, 2023.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OF STATE
TRAVEL

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:


- Certified Negotiations Committee – July 11, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.
- Policy Committee Meeting – June 13, 2023 – 4:00 P.M. – Administrative Conference Room
- Canyon Elementary Building Use Committee Meeting – June 24, 2024 – 4:30 P.M. – At the School
- Special Meeting/Work Session – July 24, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING


There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of the District emails being hacked. IT Director Chris Grau will look into it.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

MEETING
ADJOURNED



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk