

SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
JULY 24, 2023

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, July 24 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: 6:01 P.M

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

Public Participation:

Approximately twelve (12) people attended the meeting in person.

There was no public participation at that time.

Action/Discussion Items:

There was discussion regarding 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating in high school sports. It was previously shared that the High School Athletic Director, Troy Bowman, does not support 8<sup>th</sup> graders in high school sports.

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to consider changing policy for 8th graders to participate in high school sports.

Public comment requested and many members of the audience wanted to be heard.

Jolandie Brooks, HS Varsity Volleyball Coach, supports 8th graders playing in high school sports and asked to give the choice to parents, coaches and administrators. Coach Brooks is asking to change the policy from “based on program numbers” to the “needs of the program”.

Community Parent Allison Dorr would like to see the District adopt 8th graders playing high school sports. Many athletes are looking for more competition and the District should accommodate differences for those more gifted-skilled. Mrs. Dorr feels the Montana High School Association (MHS) rule should not only pertain to rural, smaller schools.

Jessie Schaeffer, HS Head Wrestling Coach, has mixed feelings regarding participation of 8<sup>th</sup> graders in high school athletics. His daughter was frustrated in Junior High Wrestling because of the short six-week program and wanted more; she wanted to keep building on skills to be successful later on in her High School career. Coach Schaeffer also feels that there are some parents that might try to push their own kids too hard if allowed. The Junior High program had

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

MOTION TO CONSIDER CHANGING POLICY FOR 8TH GRADE PARTICIPATION IN HS SPORTS

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eleven 8th grade girls at the state wrestling tournament, one in the finals. With girls who mature faster than boys, they would be able to handle the high school competition better. He feels that the athletes deserve quality coaches.

Amy Caudill, HS Head Swim Coach, supported 8th graders to participate in the high school programs. There are not a lot of opportunity to swim unless athletes join the city team and do more traveling than in the high school program. Participation on the city team can be too expensive for some parents. Coach Caudill would like to have athletes for five years to help develop athletes in swimming and to help them grow personally. The High School Swim Team provides everything for a student to swim instead of having to pay \$150 per month with another team.

Ben Schaeffer, Assistant Wrestling Coach, feels blessed to be able to coach the first year of girls wrestling at the high school level. Girls Wrestling is the fastest growing sport in the nation right now. If the high school team is going to grow and build the program, it would be easier with 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls participating. Right now, 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls are having to compete against males. At that age, it is not ideal for a female to wrestle a male. Coach Ben Schaeffer expressed support for 8th graders competing at the high school level.

Tanya Stoltz, Deer Park Parent, stated that her son would have had an extra year to participate in athletics. Ms. Stoltz's daughter is currently an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and plays volleyball. Her daughter is choosing not to play volleyball at Deer Park this year because the competition is weak and Deer Park always destroys the other schools. By participating at Deer Park, her daughter would not gain that competitive school environment when her team is always destroying others.

Community Member, Michael Pederson, feels that the Board should give consideration for 8th graders to compete in high school sports.

Trustee Jacobsmeyer is concerned that adding 8<sup>th</sup> graders to high school athletics will affect the District's busses, but it was determined that each team can only fill so many athletes on a roster. Trustee Hill, feels that the Board hired high school coaches and are entrusting them to these programs. The Board needs to honor that.

Trustee Upton, mentioned that it is a select few that would be able to move up to high school athletics as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and the numbers won't impact the teams much.

Trustee Cheff reminded everyone that Columbia Falls High School is one of the largest Class A schools in the state. Trustee Cheff was told that the District's Junior High is not grooming for the high school sports. He has some concerns with younger kids participating and thought MHSA was not properly addressing the issue. The original rule was for Class C and it is not a Class A type rule. Trustee Cheff mention he does believe in the coaches present, but also worries about a "Glacier High incident" in any sport and especially if it was an 8th grader. Trustee Mumby would like to amend the original motion to add 8th graders to be used only when it was necessary to fill an adequate roster.

Chair Rocksund would like to have more time to consider the effects of 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating in high school athletics. Chair Rocksund added that she would like to have the administration come up with a few options.

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to table this decision and consider at next board meeting. If we get information earlier, we could call a special board meeting.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO TABLE THE  
DECISION TO  
ALLOW FOR 8TH  
GRADE PARTICIPATION  
IN HS ATHLETICS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ACTIVITY TICKET  
INCREASE FOR SY 23-24

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the following activity ticket increases for SY 23-24: \$40 – students, \$65 adults, \$200 - family.

Public comment requested and Trustee Riley mentioned the Wildcat Endowment is a good

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resource to help offset the increase as well as help with spirit packs. Coach Jessie Schaeffer feels the increase is definitely needed. The High School fee to participate is minimal compared to other school districts.

Passed 8-0

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the recommended changed to Policy #1400 – Board Meetings.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #1700 – Uniform Grievance Procedure.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #2132 – Student and Family Privacy Rights.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #2158 – Parent/Family Engagement.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

There was a discussion regarding Policy #2423 and what was brought to the Board through Senate Bill 8 and House Bill 214. This policy is to align with Montana Law.

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #2423 – Personalized Learning Opportunities.

Public comment requested and there were audience members who spoke.

Community Member, Chuck Territo, said that if the legislature passed this and we have to follow it, then Bill 562 was also passed and the Board had taken oaths that children have the right to an education. Mr. Territo feels the policy is not applicable. It is all theories from the 60s and 70s. He does not feel this has anything to do with education and does not need to be in Columbia Falls. The District needs to be more concerned with test scores and I think you should take more time to look at that. Teacher Amy Caudill has a child going to into first grade. Mrs. Caudill values this learning and values open concepts. Community Member, Judy Territo is against the policy because it is a theory. It is not the school's responsibility and we are an independent school district and we can choose to follow or not. Mrs. Territo asks that the District vote against this policy. The District's proficiency scores are not high enough to be based on a theory. She asks that the Board at least table the decision, study it some and come back with what you see is necessary. Community Member, Lisa Tate feels the District is starting at the back end of education and does not really know what it is to look like. The District has not shown what it looks like in a classroom. If the pathway is tracking, the District should look into that because it used to be illegal. There is no plan for it here.

Members of the Board had continued the discussion. Trustee Cheff said that the Legislature approved the policy with their guidelines. Trustee Jacobsmeyer said it feels that we have to pass it before we know what it truly is. Chair Rocksund said that those from the Board at the legislature sessions had an opportunity to hear what the policy is about and does not feel

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #1400 -  
BOARD MEETINGS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #1700 - UNI-  
FORM GRIEVANCE  
PROCEDURE

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2132 -  
STUDENT AND FAM-  
ILY PRIVACY RIGHTS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2158 -  
PARENT/FAMILY  
ENGAGEMENT

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2423-  
PERSONALIZED  
LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES

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MOTION TO TABLE  
POLICY #2423 - MOTION  
DENIED

uninformed. The Policy Committee recommends the definition and it referenced the law, so others can look them up. Trustee Mumby feels the theory is not what the legislature approved and that the Board members are well informed. The District is trying to teach every student the way they need to be taught. Trustee Riley feels that the District needs a policy in place to see what it will look like to share with parents and community. The Board has been asked to be better for each individual student. The policy is law and we don't know how this will look. The Board needs a starting point and the policy does that.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2423

Motion by Jacobsmeyer, second by Upton, to table the vote on Policy #2423.

Failed 6-2, yes votes by Jacobsmeyer and Upton.

As there were no other comments, the original motion passed 6-2, no votes - Jacobsmeyer and Upton.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2450 -  
RECOGNITION OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
CULTURAL HERITAGE

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #2450 – Recognition of Native American Cultural Heritage.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY 3150 - PART-  
TIME ATTENDANCE

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #3150 Part-Time Attendance.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #3310 -  
STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Motion by Cheff, second by Hill, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #3310 – Student Discipline.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #4315 -  
CONDUCT ON SCHOOL  
PROPERTY

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #4315 – Conduct on School Property.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #8301 -  
DISTRICT SAFETY

Motion by Heupel, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the recommended changes to Policy #8301 – District Safety.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ELEMENTARY EXTRA  
DUTY CONTRACTS

Motion by Mumby, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the hiring recommendations of the Elementary District Coaches.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE  
HS AND DISTRICT-  
WIDE EXTRA DUTY  
CONTRACTS

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve the hiring recommendations of the High School District Coaches.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

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Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the hiring recommendations for the Administration Staff.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Certified Negotiations – Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.
- Classified Negotiations – Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:29 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager/Clerk

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
CONTRACTS

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING

MEETING  
ADJOURNED