

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
AUGUST 14, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, August 14, 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 6:00 P.M.

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

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

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

- Approve June bills
- Approve the investment report.
- Approve Student Activity Account Transfers

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Public Participation:

Approximately nine (9) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Approximately twenty-two (22) people attended the meeting in person.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

High School Principal, Jon Konen, wanted to thank Swank Construction and Monte Moultray for the work that was completed on the first phase of HVAC system and bringing a crew to deep clean before the school year started.

Reports:

K-8 Facility Bond Project – Finishing up with the PreK playground and fall protection. The grant from Round Up for Safety was used. Everything else is getting wrapped up and the entire budget spent down.

REPORTS:

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. There was no change to premiums for employees because of the use of reserves. The Health Insurance Program experience higher than expected claims last year and the committee will continue to work hard to ensure that the District can keep costs low. The District is working with VezaHealth to make sure employees are going to appropriate places to save money. The Committee is planning for less claims this next year.

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Trustee Barbara Riley updated the Board about the recent proceedings of the National School Board Association (NSBA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA). Regional meetings are occurring around the state. Region 1 was hosted locally last Wednesday afternoon with six different school districts attending. The discussion was about what occurred in the legislature as well as how to positively impact the 2025 legislature. The next meeting will happen at the MCEL conference located in Billings.

The Canyon Building Use Committee conducted a meeting on July 24, 2023. Trustee Cheff mentioned a conversation regarding tutoring sessions at the school. Students could ride the bus and staff living in the Canyon could be there to help kids in need of academic help. He then asked principals to please ask staff members that may want to help with tutoring in the community. Trustee Heupel discussed that the monthly community dinner had over 200 people attend for a pig roast. Food and cash were donated and the dinner was put on by the three churches in the canyon area. The building is also currently used as a medical clinic as well as a probation office on Fridays. The library is still full of books and classrooms are still set up for use. Trustee Upton mentioned that the community would like the District to promote their monthly meals at the schools, wanting to serve more students and would like the district to be a little more engaged with the community in the Canyon.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo mentioned the possibility for a strategic planning meeting. Superintendent Dziowgo would like more communication with the community as well as obtain information from trustees. He asked for trustees to help serve the beginning of the year breakfast, located at Glacier Gateway Elementary.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing to report at this time.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Action/Discussed Items:

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the renewal of the Canyon Building Use Agreement with All Saints Episcopal Church effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE E-RATE CONSUL-
TANT SERVICES PRO-
VIDER AGREEMENT

Motion by Mumby, second by Jacobsmeyer to approve the E-rate Consultant Services Provider Agreement effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 8-0.

There was a discussion regarding potential MTSBA legislative resolutions. The Trustees will need to think if there are any resolutions to craft to benefit the District. Some examples could be: A cost of living and/or tax structure to make funds more accessible for school districts. To see a review on how schools are funded and provide a more simple funding formula as opposed to relying on permissive levies. Possible alternate funding for schools for example the marijuana tax or other resources that could be used for schools. Removing some of the special education requirements that the private and charter schools don't have to comply with. Chair Rocksund will look at what resolutions that other schools have around the state.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE RATIFICATION OF
THE TEACHERS' CBA

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Columbia Falls Teachers Union for SY23-24. Public comment was requested and there were no comments from public.

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Passed 8-0

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the Agreement to Furnish Food Service for the National School Lunch Program with Deer Park Elementary District for SY23-24.

Public comment was requested and it was discussed that Deer Park's use of the program is increasing. Our District has concerns with staffing this school year. The District will ensure serving our students takes priority, which could change the arrangement. There was no public comment.

Passed 8-0

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to maintain the current status with 8th graders not being able to participate in high school athletics at this time. Superintendent Dziowgo was asked to do further research and put together a committee. The suggestions from the Committee are in the Board Packet, but there are still many questions to the policy. Current Administration would like to stay at status quo at this time.

Motion by Upton, second by Jacobsmeyer, to table for further review and vote again in a year. There was then a retraction for tabling the subject because the first motion was to maintain status quo.

Public Committee was asked and there were several individuals wanting to speak: High School Principal, Jon Konen, is not in favor of 8th graders participating in high school activities. The High School is required to include homeschool students in extracurricular activities and the District only receives partial ANB funding. The District would not receive funding for the 8th graders from Deer Park School District. Another concern would be insurance and coverage for athletes not enrolled within our District. Continued research to see how this is working in other states should be done to move forward. Teacher and Volleyball Coach, Gretchen Miller, is in favor for an adjustment to allow 8th graders that are emotionally and physically capable to participate in high school sports. The District can create a policy that promotes creativity and could offer an innovative solution. Teacher and Golf Coach, Josiah Osborne, supports 8th grade participation in High School athletics. There are three 8th graders who love golf and they don't have an opportunity to play or participate in the Junior High. It could be life changing for them and he is speaking in favor for those kids. Freshman Student Loisa Miller would welcome the challenge for 8th graders to participate and want them on her team. Teacher and Volleyball Coach, Anna Danley, is in favor of 8th grade participation. Head Volleyball Coach, Jolandie Brooks, wants the Board to trust the coaches that were hired to make the right decision for 8th grade athletes. It is a new MSHA regulations and there is a solution to every issue that the community has brought to the Board. Coach Brooks gave her promise that the coaches will continue to work with the principals. Club sports have changed sports in our nation and there are 16-year-olds playing in the World Cup. Parent Allyson Dorr supports 8th grade participation. Her 8th grade daughter is a student at Deer Park which is a small school and does not offer all of the sports the Junior High offers. These Deer Park students reside within the Columbia Falls School District and there are reasons the kids go to Deer Park instead of the Junior High. The Deer Park Principal has already drafted a letter in support of 8th grade students participating in high school athletics. Online, Community Member Kristi Hoerner, is against 8th grade participation and would like to see the District's Junior High programs meet the needs of the junior high students. These kids need another year to grow and coaches can help the lower grades. It is difficult to decide who is mature and capable to participate with high school students. There is more potential for serious injury if kids are starting high school level of athletics too early.

Board Members had continued discussions regarding 8th graders being moved up to participate

MOTION TO APPROVE
AGREEMENT TO
FURNISH FOOD
SERVICE FOR DEER
PARK ELEMENTARY
FOR SY 23-24

MOTION TO MAINTAIN
THE CURRENT STATUS
OF 8TH GRADE
PARTICIPATING IN HS
ATHLETICS

MOTION TO TABLE,
THEN RETRACT THE
MOTION FOR 8TH
GRADE HS ATHLETIC
PARTICIPATION FOR
FURTHER REVIEW
AND TO RE-VOTE IN
A YEAR

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in high school sports. Trustee Hill is in favor and feels the District should also support 8th graders, who take high school courses, to get high school credits. Trustee Riley felt that Mr. Konen had brought up several thoughts that have not been considered and need to be looked at closer. There are too many unanswered questions. Trustee Mumby feels the Board does not have the answers to make a decision.

MOTION TO AMEND
THE MOTION TO
MAINTAIN THE STATUS
QUO AND TO RECON-
SIDER 8TH GRADE HS
ATHLETIC PARTICIPA-
TION LATER ON THIS
SCHOOL YEAR

Chair Rocksund offered an amendment to the motion to maintain the status quo and get answers to make a decision by the end of the current school year to reconsider 8th graders participating in high school activities, second by Mumby.

Passed 7-1, to approve the motion amendment. No – Hill.

Vote to maintain status quo and review before next year.

Passed 7-1, no - Hill.

BUSINESS MANAGER,
DUSTIN ZUFFELATO
DISCUSSED THE PRO-
POSED FY 24 BUDGET

Business Manager/Clerk, Dustin Zuffelato presented details concerning the proposed FY 2024 Budget. In summary: ANB/Enrollment increased 24. Spring enrollment 2,247. High School experienced the largest uptick. Legislature provided 2.70% increase to the funding formula. Although state employees received a 4% increase, the District worked very hard to settle for a 3% increase, which the staff compensation cost still exceeded the general fund budget authority increase by \$148,248. Increased the *permissive* Tuition Fund Levy by \$475,000 to fund the budget deficit as well as add back some ESSER funded staff. Looking forward, the District still has over \$525,000 of staff to move from federal funds carryover and ESSER. It will be essential to propose an overbase operating levy to take advantage of the \$515K general fund levy authority in an effort to maintain current programs in FY25. Total tax levy increased \$1,123,689 – General Fund, Technology Fund, and Tuition Funds. Total mill levy decreased 56.08 mills as a result of 42% increase to tax value. Net impact to taxpayers as a result of School District levy is 9% increase.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 415

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve Resolution 415 – Elementary District – Apportionment of Ending Fund Balances.

Public comment was requested and there were none.

Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 416

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve Resolution 416 – High School District – Apportionment of Ending Fund Balances.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT FY 2024
BUDGET

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the adoption of the Elementary District FY 2024 budget.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT FY 2024
BUDGET

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the adoption of the High School District FY 2024 budget.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Demi Sullivan – Teacher Ruder Elementary, Morgan Hargin – Paraeducator

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Glacier Gateway, Thomas James – JH Football Coach, Allyson Reamy Butts – HS Assistant Speech and Debate Coach

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Caitlin Bloom – Hot Lunch Helper, Warren Law – Bus Driver, Tonia Little – HS Business Education Teacher

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Health Insurance Committee – August 23, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.
- Breakfast on August 29 - 8:00 A.M. - Glacier Gateway

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

MEETING
ADJOURNED



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk