

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, September 11 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  
Heather Mumby ..... Trustee  
Wayne Jacobsmeyer ..... Trustee  
Casey Huepel ..... Trustee  
Cory Dziowgo ..... Superintendent of Schools

ABSENT:

Justin Cheff..... Trustee  
Keri Hill ..... Trustee  
Dustin Zuffelato ..... Business Manager/ Clerk

Call to order at: 6:01 P.M.

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
Approve July board meeting minutes.  
Approve August bills.  
Approve the investment report.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0

Public Participation:

Approximately three (3) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.  
Approximately twenty-one (21) people attended the meeting in person.

Student Body Co-Presidents, Kai Golan and McKenzie West, and Secretary Evan Fisher presented a written report to the Board. Fundraising for Student Council is underway, selling blue flags for businesses to fly during Homecoming and other "big game weeks". They are also working on the idea of anyone to buy a flag to fly at a private residence.

Community Member, Chuck Territo, wanted to address the low proficiency test scores the District has experienced since 2018.  
Junior High Teacher, Leslie Dimaio, would like to acknowledge the teachers and administrators who presented at the literacy conference. Many sessions were hosted by professionals and teachers from the Flathead Valley. Mrs. Dimaio was proud to serve on the board overseeing the conference and seeing the great turn out from Columbia Falls School District.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT  
AGENDA

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023  
PAGE 2

Community member, Nick Rosenbaum, father of two daughters attending Ruder, had concerns with student pickup and lunches. Water bottles are put in a tote together and germs are being shared. Pickup at the end of the day is chaotic, parents have addressed this issue and it seems like nothing is being done. Mr. Rosenbaum would like to see if there is something that can be done to improve the situation. He was asked to route concerns to the building leadership and then the Superintendent.

REPORTS:

Reports:

The District's Owners Representative Dave Jolly provided an update on the K-8 Facility Bond Project. Overall, the recent rain did not generate any leaks at Glacier Gateway. There are some minor problems that will be fixed by the roofing supplier. The landscaping has been completed and Swank is working with the city on some draining and storm water issues. The HVAC system lost VPN connection two weeks ago and Pine Cove is working to resolve. The doors upstairs were delivered incorrectly and should be replaced soon. At Ruder everything is getting wrapped up. The sewer easements to the old Glacier Gateway's elementary building needs reviewed with the City Public Works Department. The High School HVAC system for fresh air for students and teachers is underway. Swank discovered a compromise in the roof membrane, likely the result of water trapped for the past numerous years. Jackola Engineering is developing a solution. However, the project is on hold on the east side of the classroom wing and work is concentrating on the west side of the roof. Swank will open holes to get a good look at the extent of the roofing structure issues. The relocatable buildings that were moved to the sports fields have not been renovated as the District is exploring options. The soccer building overhead door came in the incorrect size and will be put up as soon as a new one comes in.

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports. Ruder Elementary is working on different approaches to make sure the school is more in line with BPI practices. This year's theme is "The Wildcat Way" and what that means. There are seven new teachers and paraeducators to join the staff. Ruder will be looking to improve the new pickup system. PLC meetings will start getting back together. Glacier Gateway is grateful for having five months in the new building. The school hosted the District breakfast and held a two hour training for reading and math. The staff was working on MTSS and pushing kids to have "Wildcat Pride". Glacier Gateway is focusing on two goals for the new school year, bringing out best practices and using STAR data in identifying issues. The Junior High's open house was held on the Monday before kids came back. Theme this year is "Find Your Way" by making good choices and providing guidance to students from staff. Students are looking to start different school clubs and have approximately one hundred seventy-five (175) students out of fall sports.

High School Principal, Jon Konen, provided the Board with a written report. The school year started with student athletes reporting on August 10 and 11. There are over two hundred (200) athletes for fall sports and activities. It's been a hurdle with the construction while school started and kudos to Swank. The duct work came in late and Swank is still working on getting the project completed. Swank sent a cleaning crew to help our own custodial staff prepare for the school year. The High School will be working on student attendance and trying to identify those students that miss multiple days. A third of the incoming freshman missed twenty plus (20+) days last year due to various issues. The plan for next school year is to conduct a freshman orientation day prior to the first day of school. The focus this year is in increasing positive school culture, which will correlate to better scores. The High School is experiencing

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023  
PAGE 3

an increase in the homeless population as a result of housing issues in the area.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report.

Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, provided the Board with a written report. Mr. McCord attended the literacy conference. The Board would be proud to know the great leadership the District's teachers provide. New staff orientation had 15 new energized teachers. Mr. McCord is currently working on the consolidated title grant applications for the current school year. Chapter 55 work needs to be completed this year, and a new math curriculum adoption is being introduced.

Special Education Director, Michelle Swank, provided the Board with a written report. Classified orientation and training will be a focus this year during early release days. The department was able to fill some positions in high school and elementary schools, but there are still some openings to fill. Shout-out to the mentors and mentees and the program the District provides to support new teachers.

Trustee Barbara Riley updated the Board about the recent proceedings of the Consortium of State School Board Associations (COSSBA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA). There was not a meeting and wanted to remind others that MCEL is coming up in October.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo mentioned Chris Grau leading the District through the changing of passwords and his help for the District to remain secure with technology. There has been a change to the application process for some classified positions, hoping to help with the recruiting process. The removal of having three letters of recommendation is now being focused on more reference checks. Administration meetings will now be twice a month instead of every week to have supervisors in their buildings more. The District is offering a substitute training of half day of shadowing with a teacher, with new and current substitutes.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing to report. Dr. Rocksund felt the District had a great start to school year and it's good to get kids back in classes and routines.

Action/Discussed Items:

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the recommended changes to Policy 1110 – Taking Office on first and final reading.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the recommended changes to Policy 1111 – School Board Elections on first and final reading.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the recommended changes to Policy 2120 – Curriculum Development, Content, Assessment on first and final reading.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

ACTION /  
DISCUSSION ITEMS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #1110

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #1111

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2120

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023  
PAGE 4

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2140

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve recommended changes to Policy 2140 – Guidance and Counseling on first and final reading.  
Public comment was requested and High School Principal, Jon Konen mentioned that this change is already in place. .  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
POLICY #2332

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the recommended changes to Policy 2332 – Religion and Religious Activities on first and final reading.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
TRANSPORTATION  
MOA

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the Transportation MOA between SD #6 and Helena Flats SD for SY23-24.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE RATIFICATION OF  
THE CLASSIFIED CBA

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Columbia Falls Classified Union effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE RATIFICATION OF  
THE POLICY STATE-  
MENT

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the ratification of the Policy Statement effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
MOU WITH FLATHEAD  
RAPIDS

Motion by Riley to approve with ratified changes, second by Mumby, to approve the MOU with Flathead Rapids – Junior High Soccer Program.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
FACILITY USE  
AGREEMENT WITH  
FLATHEAD RAPIDS

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the Facility Use Agreement with Flathead Rapids for use of the JH multi-use fields.  
Public comment was requested and will also include use of the Canyon Elementary.  
Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE PRELIMINARY  
GAP ANALYSIS  
RESOLUTION FOR  
2025 LEGISLATURE

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the Preliminary Gap Analysis Resolution for the 2025 Legislature.  
Public comment was requested and Chair Rocksund mentioned working with Lance Melton, from MTSBA, since the last meeting to get Board concerns in front of the state legislature in next session. Some of the items, but not all are: asking the legislature to reexam the inflation and mileage reimbursement for busses, request the state examine their share of special education costs, asking to investigate alternative tax sources, safety audit of facilities, etc. Community Member, Joe O'Rourke, mentioned that the Board tends to differentiate between district and state taxes, but it eventually comes out of same pocket. Mr. O'Rourke is impressed with the start of the school year and is pleased that numbers are solid. He is angry with paragraph 4, stating that legislature is opposed to the mission of the schools. Community Member, Judy Territo, does not see anything about schools taking responsibility for their own budgets. Chair Rocksund asks that Mrs. Territo meet with Superintendent Cory Dziowgo and District Clerk

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023  
PAGE 5

Dustin Zuffelato.  
Passed 5-1, No Vote - Jacobsmeyer

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent:  
Amy Spangler – Ruder Title I Para, Niels Getts – JH Soccer Coach, Heidi Wolf – Hot Lunch Helper, Kraig Moore – HS Assistant Soccer Coach, Rebecca Linton – HS Special Education Para, Ellen Szalay – HS Special Education Para

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Justin Lovitt – JH Football Coach, Tysen Rovig – JH Football Coach, Catherine Schmidt – JH Special Education Para, Amy Caudill – Ruder Grade 2 Teacher, Emily Houston – Ruder Special Education Para, Elisha Jacobs – GG Building Secretary Substitute, Sandra Aalderks – GG Speech/Language Pathologist.

Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 5-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Blake Rosenbaum – District Custodian, Heidi Wolf – HS Special Education Para

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

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve the Out-of-State Travel Requests for Becky Bates to attend the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference in Chandler, AZ, November 4-6, 2023.



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

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Work Session – September 25, 2023 – 5:00 P.M. – District Board Room
- Insurance Committee Meeting – September 27, 2023 – 4:00 P.M. – Admin Conference Room

Insurance committee on September 27

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager/Clerk

PERSONNEL:

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE ELEMENTARY  
DISTRICT HIRES

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE HIGH SCHOOL  
AND DISTRICT-WIDE  
HIRES

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE SUBSTITUTE  
HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE OUT OF STATE  
TRAVEL REQUESTS

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING

MEETING  
ADJOURNED