

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
JANUARY 15, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, January 15, 2024, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund..... Board Chair
Justin Cheff..... Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Casey Huepel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/ Clerk

ABSENT:

Barbara Riley Vice Chair
Megan Upton..... Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee

Call to order at: 6:02 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the agenda as presented.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the consent agenda as follows:
Approve December regular board meeting minutes.
Approve December bills.
Approve the investment report.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately two (2) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Approximately twenty-two (22) people attended the meeting in person.

High School Student Body Co-President Kai Golan, with Senior Class Representatives Quinn Clark, Lexi Oberholtzer, Logan Peters, and Evan Fisher read from a written statement presented to the trustees.

Land to Hand was not present for their annual update, and will attend the next meeting in February.

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REPORTS:

Written Reports:

The Elementary School Principals, Penni Anello, Brenda Krueger, and Ted Miller provided the Board with written reports.

High School Principal, Jon Konen, provided the Board with a written report.

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

Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, provided the Board with a written report.

Committees provided the Board with written reports.

Verbal Reports:

Trustee Barbara Riley was not available to make the meeting to provide the Board with the recent proceedings of the Consortium of State School Board Associations (COSS-BA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA). Board Chair Rocksund read an email from Trustee Riley stating that there has not been a meeting since the last report. Lance Melton was appointed to the Governors Tax Task Force. Trustee Riley was selected to attend the State Health Insurance Task Force and Summit. The summit is January 30 and 31 in Helena, Montana.

The District Business Manager/Clerk, Dustin Zuffelato, provided the Board with a written report. In the upcoming annual elections in May there are two trustees with terms expiring, Trustee Jacobsmeyer and Board Chair Rocksund. The deadline to submit declaration of candidacy is March 28, 2024. District clerks are scheduled to meet with the County Election Office on January 23rd. The District would like to track the election results by geographical areas. This will be more work for the District, but be nice to know results to strategize for the upcoming High School bond election. Ballots will be sorted by precincts and separated by four categories (1) Rural (2) City (3) Canyon (4) West Glacier.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo mentioned that on July 1, 2024, the District will have to start recording the board meetings. He is looking for a new layout of the Board Room with new desks and TVs on the walls. There have been discussions with the administration team about closing the spending window in May. A survey has been sent to shareholders regarding cost saving ideas for next year's budget. Each open position in the District is being reevaluated to make sure there is a need to fill the position. Things may look different in the future, but the District is still committed to making a positive learning environment for students. The District is working on the communication piece for the upcoming levies, and there will be more meetings regarding a portrait of a learner. OPI's CNA survey results are in and is presently being sifted through. There was a school closure last week as a result of inclement weather and a make-up date has not been determined.

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Board Chair Jill Rocksund mentioned the Superintendent's upcoming evaluation. The new evaluation process is taking longer than in the past, but is providing more comprehensive information for feedback.

Action/Discussed Items:

Curriculum Director Mark McCord provided a recap of the January 2nd PIR. The day was divided into two sessions – Portrait of a Learner and Indian Education for All. Portrait of a Learner training used the placemat protocol to create and discuss skills and workforce readiness needed for students. The deadline for accreditation is March of 2024. Mark McCord discussed the professional development training for Indian Education for All, which is required by the State constitution. Mock lessons with specific standards were created that showed the seven essential understandings every student needs to know by graduation. Glacier Gateway Teacher Mary Ellen Getts shared what she does in her classroom and the books that are available by Native American authors. High School Art Teacher Kate Daniels has taken her advanced ceramics to learn about the Bison Bead Project.

Penni Anello, Courtney McCord, and Sam Steiner presented information by Guest Speaker Stacy York. The topic was on how to support students who are really struggling. There was talk about the development of the brain, what can happen to children's brains who have experienced trauma in the first three years of life, and the aftermath growing up. Using "brain break spots" and other ideas for brain breaks are additional tools for the EMOTE portal.

Discussion regarding the High School Building Reserve/Bond Project.

DA Davidson – Underwriting Engagement Agreement is related to the issuance of general obligation bonds and associated fees. The District is utilizing the services of DA Davidson to obtain the tax impact figures and debt service expenses to use for the building reserve levy in addition to the comprehensive bond project that will commence in a few months. Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve DA Davidson's underwriting engagement agreement.

Public comment was requested and Community Judy Territo wanted to know what the bond would be for? Clerk Zuffelato noted the bonds are issued in the public offerings market place.

Passed 5-0

Jackola Engineering – Architecture/Engineer Design Services – HS roof/HVAC phase 2 and building reserve levy election community outreach. Clerk Zuffelato mentioned that the District initiated the HVAC project a year ago and now the District needs to expand the scope of the contract to address the roofing structure issues. Jackola Engineering is preparing project specifications so that the project can be bid.

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve Jackola Engineering architecture/engineer design services.

Public comment was requested and Teacher Paula Koch asked if there were any discus-

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS

MARK MCCORD
PROVIDED A RECAP
OF THE JANUARY 2
PIR - PORTRAIT OF A
LEARNER AND
INDIAN ED FOR ALL

RECAP OF THE STACY
YORK TRAUMA
SUPPORT
PRESENTATION

DISCUSSION
REGARDING THE HS
BUILDING RESERVE
BOND PROJECT

MOTION TO APPROVE
DA DAVIDSON'S
UNDERWRITING
ENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT

MOTION TO APPROVE
JACKOLA
ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURE/
ENGINEER DESIGN
SERVICES

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sion about waiting on the HVAC portion of the roof project. The answer is that the District is indeed deferring the HVAC upgrades and will include this project under the comprehensive bond project.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
DORSEY WHITNEY
ATTORNEYS BOND
COUNCIL
ENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT

Dorsey Whitney Attorneys – Bond Council Engagement Agreement.

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve Dorsey Whitney Attorneys' bond council engagement agreement.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0

Building Reserve Levy Election Resolution preparation – define project scope.

A resolution calling for the election and setting the levy amount will be considered in February 2024. Superintendent Dziowgo led a discussion on the High School roof. The consideration is whether the District just replaces the roof or should we add the completion of the HVAC project infrastructure while the roof is exposed and being replaced? Adding the HVAC portion increased the cost from \$2.75 million up to \$6 million. Superintendent Dziowgo recommended simply maintaining the roof replacement project to mitigate tax impact even if completing the HVAC while the roof was exposed will be less expensive than completing it in the future as part of the comprehensive bond project. Board consensus was that completion of the HVAC should be added later and the Building Reserve Levy should be set based simply on replacing the roof. Clerk Zuffelato noted that another consideration necessary for the Resolution is the duration of the building reserve levy. If the District stays on track with a bond election in the spring of 2025, a duration of the building reserve levy for more than two years will have the levy and bond debt service being assessed at the same time. Board consensus was to limit the duration to two years and limit the project scope to replacing the roof.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE INDEPENDENT
CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT
WITH HEIDI
FLETCHER

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreements with Occupational Therapists Heidi Fletcher, February 12 to May 3, 2024, and Wendi Wanner, January 4 to May 3, 2024.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ESTABLISHING A
STUDENT ACTIVITY
ACCOUNT #107

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to establish the Student Activity Account #107 – Believe Blue Suicide Prevention.

Public comment was requested and Community Member Judy Territo asked if the funds will be taken from elsewhere in the budget? Clerk Zuffelato stated that student accounts are student lead. Like club activities, the funds are raised before money is spent. Principal Konen mentioned that this particular group would like to fundraise to bring in speakers and activities for suicide preventions.

Passed 5-0

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Brenda Krueger – Ruder Principal, effective end of SY 23-24; Brooklynn Keibler

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- Food Service Helper, effective December 21, 2023; Winford Collins - Custodian, effective January 3, 2024; Tracy Toavs - Bus Driver, effective December 4, 2023; Tonia Little - High School Business Education Teacher, effective January 12, 2024; Jarrod Joy - High School Special Ed Para, effective December 18, 2023; Cody Ramage - High School Assistant Tennis Coach, effective SY 22-23

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the termination of Food Service Helper, Raylee LaRocque.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE TERMINATION OF
RAYLEE LAROCQUE

Motion by Cheff, second by Hill, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Paige Hall - Ruder Elementary Technology Integration Specialist, Dana Shields - Ruder Elementary Technology Integration Specialist, Dana Shields - Ruder MTSS Campus Coordinator, Deidra Enos - Glacier Gateway Elementary Technology Integration Specialist, Charles Lilienthal - Junior High Campus Lead Mentor, Ally Reamy-Butts - Junior High MTSS Campus Coordinator, Courtney McCord - Glacier Gateway MTSS Campus Coordinator, Kristy Orem - Glacier Gateway Campus Lead Mentor, David Wick - Junior High Girls Basketball Coach, Brooklynn Keibler - Glacier Gateway Kindergarten Paraeducator.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 4-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE ELEMENTARY
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Tiffany Hale - Food Service Helper/Floater, Gina Crouch - Custodian, Sarah Fuller - Custodian, Tanya DeShaw - Custodian, Trey Buckallew - Assistant Mechanic, Courtney Pham - Food Service Receiving/Shipping; Kitchen Helper/Backup Driver, Julia Whitman - High School MTSS Campus Coordinator, Allie Schulz - High School Track Coach

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE SUBSTITUTE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve out-of-state travel requests for the following:

Derek Andrews - Montana State FCS Conference, Lewistown, MT - April 24-26, 2024.

Leslie Pendergast and Anna Danley - USA Weightlifting Level 1 Conference, Santa Cruz, CA - April 20-21, 2024.

Nia Vestal - College Composition and Communication Conference, Spokane, WA - April 3-6, 2024.

Kate Daniels - National Art Education Convention, Minneapolis, MN - April 4-6, 2024.

Heather Gilchrist - SHAPE America National Convention 2024, Cleveland, OH - March

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12-14, 2024.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE OUT OF STATE
TRAVEL FOR JODEE
PERKINS -
TRANSFINDER
TRAINING

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve out of state travel for Jodee Perkins - ACS, Transfinder's Annual Client Summit 2024, San Antonia, TX - April 28 to May 1, 2024; funded through transportation budget.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Health Insurance Committee Meeting - January 17, 2024 - 4:00 P.M.

Work Session - Superintendent Evaluation - January 22, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.

Negotiations with Classified Union - January 25, 2024

Calendar Committee - February 22, 2024

Finance Committee Meeting - February 28, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.

Set levy amounts

Early retirement incentive program

Earlier today, the Advisory Staff would like to thank the District for the January 2 PIR.

Superintendent Dziogwo will look into other district's that may also have Students-on-Board.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:54 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk