

REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February 12, 2024, 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  
Keri Hill ..... Trustee  
Heather Mumby ..... Trustee  
Wayne Jacobsmeyer ..... Trustee  
Casey Huepel ..... Trustee  
Cory Dziowgo ..... Superintendent of Schools  
Dustin Zuffelato ..... Business Manager/ Clerk

ABSENT

Justin Cheff..... Trustee

Call to order at: 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
Approve January board meeting minutes.  
Approve January bills.  
Approve the investment report.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Public Participation:

Approximately seven (7) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Approximately thirteen (13) people attended the meeting in person.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

High School Student Body Co-President McKenzie West presented the Board with a written report on the student led events occurring at the High School.

Gretchen Boyer and Whitney Williams from Land to Hand presented the annual update to the Board. This year's focus is on engaging kids with their food and where it comes from. There was a record numbers of students attending the garden with the help from the Flathead Conservation Grant funding transportation from each building. There is an after-school garden club with approximately 25 students regularly through the winter months. Land to Hand loves working with the Columbia Falls School District and greatly

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appreciates the financial support. The program is feeding more kids than ever through the Weekend Backpack Program. There is also a pantry in the High School, created by Tamara Sundberg, where homeless students may shop for food and/or cook food using the microwaves or toasters. The number of donors for the program has been incredible, and they are working with the local food bank network.

REPORTS:

Written Reports:

The Elementary School Principals 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 provided the Board with the recent proceedings of the Consortium of State School Board Associations (COSSBA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA). The MTSBA Membership Survey will be summarized and presented during the next meeting in Whitefish. Trustee Riley attended the state wide health insurance conference with 79 other representatives from throughout the state. Mrs. Riley has been contacted to serve on the Implementation Committee. There has not been any decisions made if the state trust will be a smorgasbord of plans or one plan.

District Business Manager/Clerk Dustin Zuffelato provided the Board with a written report. It has been five years since (2019) the general obligation bond election for K-8 facilities. The projects have been completed with the exception of the Ruder PreK Playground. Now the District is turning its attention to the High School facility. The HVAC phase one was started last year and is planned to be completed this summer along with the roof replacement. Ballots for the May annual election will go out April 19. There will be a finance committee meeting at end of month to go over enrollment numbers that were submitted today and will be able to set levy amounts. The annual audit should be done at end of the month. There is continued work on federal programs, more money is coming in on Carl Perkins Grant and the homeless grant. The District is working on spending these funds before the current school year is over.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo reported communications will be coming out of the district office regarding the levies. Once the process unfolds the District will have information to send out to stakeholders. He is still learning what we can and cannot do regarding the elections. The District is also working on end-of-year communications to parents and handbooks for preregistration.

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Board Chair Jill Rocksund received emails about alternative hot lunches being served to students with negative balances and Superintendent Dziowgo will be looking into the situation for more information to be discussed in the next few weeks.

Action/Discussed Items:

Superintendent Dziowgo reviewed the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) data that the District obtained in November 2023. The survey was designed by OPI. Superintendent Dziowgo used the mean (average) to share the information. Results of the survey will be posted on the webpage. The information from the survey will be used to figure out is how to increase student test scores, communication with the public, etc. The next step is to design an integrated strategic action plan.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the kindergarten age waiver for student EJJ – DOB: 3/9/2019.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MTSBA is looking for participants to conduct the 2024 Annual Membership Survey. It was decided that members of the Board, who wish to participate, will submit their own survey; not to submit one for the entire Board. The information collected will be used in strategic future planning.

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve the Speech Language Pathologist Independent Contractor Agreement with Clarity Speech Therapy LLC effective 1/16/24 to 6/9/24.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

Motion by Upton, second by Riley, to approve Resolution 418 – Calling for an Election – Elementary District Trustee and General Fund Over-Base Levy election on May 7, 2024.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve Resolution 419 – Calling for an Election – High School District – General Fund Over-Base Levy election to be conducted on May 7, 2024.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve Resolution 420 – High School District Building Reserve Levy election.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

ACTION /  
DISCUSSION ITEMS

COMPREHENSIVE  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
DATA REVIEW

MOTION TO APPROVE  
KINDERGARTEN AGE  
WAIVER

2024 ANNUAL MTSBA  
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY  
TO BE SUBMITTED  
INDIVIDUALLY

MOTION TO APPROVE  
INDEPENDENT CON-  
TRACTOR AGREEMENT  
WITH CLARITY SPEECH  
THERAPY LLC

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 418 -  
CALLING FOR AN  
ELECTION - ELEM  
DISTRICT

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 419 -  
CALLING FOR AN  
ELECTION -  
HS DISTRICT

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 420 -  
HS DISTRICT BUILDING  
RESERVE LEVY

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MOTION TO APPROVE  
MAIL BALLOT PLAN  
FOR THE ELEMENTARY  
DISTRICT TRUSTEE  
AND GENERAL  
FUND OVER-BASE  
LEVY

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the May 7, 2024, Mail Ballot Plans for the Elementary District Annual Trustee Election and the Elementary District General Fund Over-Based Levy.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
MAIL BALLOT PLAN  
FOR THE HS DISTRICT  
OVER-BASE LEVY AND  
BUILDING RESERVE  
LEVY ELECTION

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the May 7, 2024, Mail Ballot Plans for the High School District General Fund Over-Based Levy and High School District Building Reserve Levy Election.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
MOU BETWEEN SD#6  
AND THE U OF M FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF  
HOLDING  
MOTORCYCLE  
CLASSES

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the MOU between School District Six and the University of Montana for the purpose of holding Motorcycle Rider Safety classes at the JH this spring/summer 2024.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Jessica Cleveland – Ruder Special Education Para, effective 2/16/2024; Emily Eisenschenk – Glacier Gateway Special Education Para, effective 1/26/2024; Anne Barker – Special Olympics Assistant Coach, effective 1/21/2024; Denise MacDonald – High School Special Education Para, effective 11/17/2023; Emily Hackethorn – High School Student Council Advisor, end of SY 23-24; Cary Finberg – High School Head Girls' Basketball Coach, end 2023-2024 season; Jon Konen – High School Principal, end of SY 23-24

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ELEMENTARY HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Koahl DeShazer – Junior High Study Hall Para  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

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: Kristine Zika – District Health Aide Para, Tammy Graham – Food Service Helper/Floater, Trina Crowe – MTSS District Coordinator  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
SUBSTITUTE HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

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Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the leave of absence request for Alyssa Drew.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve out-of-state travel request for Ted Miller to attend the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Nashville, TN, July 15-17, 2024. This is funded through Professional Development.

Public comment was requested and Superintendent Dziowgo stated he would like to get a rotation going so that all district's principals have the opportunity to attend national conferences.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL  
REQUEST

Adjourn to Executive Session as each individual's right to privacy exceeds the public's right to know, Chair Rocksund called the meeting into executive session at 7:15 P.M.

Superintendent Evaluation

EXECUTIVE SESSION  
SUPERINTENDENT  
EVALUATION

Open meeting resumed at 8:26 P.M.

OPEN MEETING  
RESUMED

Motion by Jacobsmeyer, second by Heupel, to approve minutes from the executive session.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
MINUTES OF  
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Jacobsmeyer, second by Heupel, to approve a three-year renewal of the superintendent contract.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
3-YR RENEWAL OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
CONTRACT

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the authorization of the Negotiation Committee to determine terms.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE NEGOTIATION  
COMMITTEE TO  
DETERMINE TERMS

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING

Finance Committee Meeting – February 26, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.

Work Session – CFHS Roof Proposal and Strategic Planning – February 26, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Health Insurance Committee Meeting – February 28, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.

Regular Board Meeting – moved to April 15, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Motion by Riley, second by Jacobsmeyer, for Trustee Upton to sit in on principal inter-

MOTION TO APPROVE  
TRUSTEE UPTON TO  
SIT IN ON PRINCIPAL  
INTERVIEWS

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views on March 26 and 27, 2024.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:43 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk