

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 10, 2023

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met in regular session, January 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Activities Room. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Rob Brownell, Mike Swan, Matt White, Bryan Petersen, Brand Robinson, and Ethan Severson.

Superintendent Brian Ayers, High School Principal Miranda Howells, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, Athletic Director Brad Ballantyne, Clerk Ann Heisler, and Executive Assistant Jamie Heaps were present throughout the entire proceedings. Guests attending the meeting are on the list attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brownell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Brownell recognized the visitors in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items. No comments were made.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS #1

Four-day school week information item was moved up on the agenda to allow community members to attend both the Superintendent Advisory Council meeting and the Board Meeting that followed. Teachers from each school wrote a letter to address the question of whether or not they felt they needed another year to prepare for a four-day school week if adopted by Manhattan Public Schools. The Board also heard comments from the public in attendance and had extensive conversation to address questions and concerns. It is the priority of the Board to make a knowledge-based decision regarding this topic. Following the discussion, Chairman Brownell called for a Special Board meeting on January 31, 2023, to decide whether or not to move forward with the process. Prior to the Special Board meeting, Ethan Severson requested that Superintendent Ayers administer another survey to help create one more opportunity for the stakeholders to contribute their feedback regarding the four-day school week. The new survey will be sent to parents/guardians and staff on January 18, 2023. The letters presented to the Board from teachers at each school are attached to these minutes and made a part hereof. The Board called a recess at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Brand Robinson made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes – Regular December 6, 2022; December 2022 Payroll Warrants 3140498-3140532, \$565,293.20; December 2022 Claims Warrants 3080881-3080935, \$131,529.44; December 2022 Student Activities Checks 27157-27208, 27267, voids 27258, 27159, 27173, 27200, 27203, \$20,182.56; Write-off outstanding district warrants and activities fund checks over one year old – 40028, 79767, 79771, 26409, 26669, 26681; the current Substitute, Volunteer, and Student Worker Lists for the 2022-2023 school year; HS Coaching Renewals for the 2022-2023 school year: Dillon Hoppe – HS Assistant Wrestling, Adriana Norris – HS Head Track; Resignation from Tom Bracha as Head of Maintenance effective 1/17/2023; HS Fall Season Coaching Renewals for the 2023-2024 school year: Wes Kragt – HS Head Football, Ty Heaps – HS Assistant Football, Dinah Sime – HS Head Volleyball, Aimee Jones – HS Assistant Volleyball, Sarah (Keller) Jambor – HS Head Cross Country.

The motion was seconded by Matt White and it carried with no dissenting votes. The approved warrant and check listings, the list of outstanding checks over one year old approved for write-off, and the approved substitute, volunteer, and student worker lists are attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

2022-2023 EMPLOYMENT

Mike Swan made a motion to approve an employment contract with Jason Schmidt as 5th/6th grade Boys Intramural Basketball Coach for the 2022-23 school year. Brand Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve an employment contract with Michelle Mayo as 5th/6th grade Girls Intramural Basketball Coach for the 2022-23 school year. Mike Swan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mike Swan made a motion to approve an employment contract with Bria Coder as 5th/6th grade Girls Intramural Basketball Coach for the 2022-23 school year. Matt White seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

Brand Robinson made a motion to approve an employment contract with Ty Heaps as JH Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2022-23 school year. Matt White seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Matt White made a motion to approve an employment contract with Bailey Partain as 5-8 Paraprofessional for the 2022-23 school year. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT 2022-2023

Ethan Severson made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the one High School FP-14 Student Attendance Agreement for the 2022-2023 school year received and approved by Bozeman School District. Brand Robinson seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes. The FP-14 Student Attendance Agreement from Bozeman School District is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS PROPOSAL

After discussion, Mike Swan made a motion to approve the proposal from High Tech Solutions (HTS) to upgrade the intercom system. It was recommended that our school district upgrade our intercom system by the Incident Commander following a recent swatting incident and lockdown. Ethan Severson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The HTS proposal is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS #2

FOLLOW-UP ON LOCKDOWN

On December 9, 2022, Manhattan Public Schools was the target of a coordinated swatting incident that affected several schools across Montana. A swatting incident is a fake emergency call with the intent of garnering an emergency response. Superintendent Ayers shared feedback that was gathered following the event. Manhattan Public Schools will continue to put student and staff safety at the forefront and will work closely with our First Responders to review and adjust, if needed, our Safety Plan.

MHSA ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

High School Principal Miranda Howells and Athletic Director Brad Ballantyne reviewed the MHSA Proposals that will be voted on at the 2023 MHSA Annual Meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023.

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION – MAY 2, 2023

District Clerk Ann Heisler reviewed the annual school election calendar and key dates with the Board. The Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The two Trustees who are up for re-election are Mike Swan and HS Trustee Ethan Severson.

Nominating Petitions for the open positions must be filed with the District Clerk by March 23, 2023, in order for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, and High School Principal Miranda Howells shared information regarding the general culture, past and upcoming events, and student achievement in their buildings. Upcoming events are the State Speech and Drama Meet hosted at our school district, and ski days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ayers discussed the work that is being done by standing committees and he updated the Board on where we are at in the process of our two district owned activity buses and whether we want to upgrade them in the future.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – Executive Session

Chairman Brownell determined that the matter of the Superintendent's Evaluation involves individual privacy and public disclosure would not be in the best interest of the Superintendent. He called an Executive Session at 10:50 p.m.

Following Executive Session, Chairman Brownell reconvened the meeting at 1:06 a.m.

Mike Swan made a motion to approve an additional one year to Superintendent Brian Ayers' current employment contract. Brand Robinson seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

CLAIMS

Vouchered claims for the month of January 2023, were examined and approved for payment.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 1:07 a.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

Board Approved 2/14/2023