

REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 8, 2022

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met in regular session, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Activities Room. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

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

Superintendent Brian Ayers, High School Principal Jason Slater, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, and Clerk Ann Heisler 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.

Heather Nehring and her 4th grade students Cole Albertson, James Womack, Colton Peterson, Mason Steinle, Mya Opheim, Scarlet Rice, and Bristol Grabowska presented their Cardboard Arcade Games. They were recognized and congratulated by the Board for the creativity and execution of the STEM project.

Tigers of the Month 5-8 students Heidi Hutchison, Maggie Poelman, Riley Kane, and Preslee Hendrickson were recognized and congratulated by the Board.

Rotary Student of the Month, Corban Johnson was recognized and congratulated by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items.

Several parents shared concerns regarding ongoing bullying situations that have occurred within our schools. The parents are very upset and want the administration to come up with a better plan to stop these situations and put stricter consequences in place for any offenders.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mike Swan made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes – Regular February 8, 2022; February 2022 Payroll Warrants 40078-40121, \$597,239.02; February 2022 Claims Warrants 3080236-3080298, void 3080293, \$155,790.07; February 2022 Student Activities Checks 26814-26866, 26873, \$24,132.71; the current Substitute Teacher and Volunteer list for the 2021-2022 school year; Discretionary leave request from Amanda E. Swenson for January 6-11, 2022 (4 days); Unpaid leave request from Lori Toner for March 3-7, 2022 (3 days). The motion was seconded by Matt White and it carried with no dissenting votes. The approved warrant and check listings, the approved substitute teacher and volunteer list, are attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

2021-2022 EMPLOYMENT

Mike Swan made a motion to approve an employment contract with Lolita Morgan as the Long-Term Substitute for JH Social Studies. Matt White seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ethan Severson made a motion to approve an employment contract with J. Chris Render as the temporary HS Counselor for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Brand Robinson seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

Bryan Peterson made a motion to approve an employment contract with Levi Moon as evening Custodian for the 2021-2022 school year, pending the successful completion of a six-month probationary period. Ethan Severson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Brand Robinson made a motion to approve an employment contract with Wade Jambor as HS Assistant Track Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Mike Swan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

GALLATIN VALLEY SHARP SHOOTERS

Mike Swan made a motion to approve the facility use request from the Gallatin Valley Sharp Shooters to use our facilities for their State BB Gun Match on April 23-24, 2022. This event needed board approval as outlined in board policy 4332. Ethan Severson seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

FY21 AUDIT REPORT

Mike Swan moved to approve the audit report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year as completed by Strom & Associates, P.C. The motion was seconded by Brand Robinson, which carried unanimously.

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION – MAY 3, 2022

The Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The two Trustees who are up for re-election are Rob Brownell and Brand Robinson. Nominating Petitions for the open positions must be filed with the District Clerk by March 24, 2022, in order for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot.

The 2022-2023 General Fund Preliminary Budget Data information was reviewed.

After discussion, Mike Swan moved to cancel the Manhattan Elementary District No. 3 General Fund operating levy and Technology Fund additional levy election. Matt White seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

Brand Robinson moved to cancel the Manhattan High School District No. 3 Technology Fund additional levy election. Ethan Severson seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

Matt White made a motion to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees for Manhattan High School District No. 3, Gallatin County, State of Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2022. Approval of additional levies in the amount of \$158,412.35, which is approximately 9.28 mills for the purpose of properly operating and maintaining the Manhattan High School District for the 2022-2023 school year will be requested.

Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$12.53/year and on a home with an assessed market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$25.06/year. The durational limit of the levy is permanent once approved by the voters, assuming the district levies that amount at least once in the next five years. Bryan Peterson seconded the motion, which carried with no dissenting votes.

A summary of the 2022-2023 General Fund Preliminary Budget Data is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

Mike Swan made a motion to adopt a resolution per 20-9-116, MCA, estimating changes in tax revenue and mills for the ensuing fiscal year for the Manhattan Elementary School District No. 3 as noted in the proposed Notice of Intent to Increase Nonvoted Levies, which will be published in the Belgrade News prior to March 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Matt White, which carried unanimously. The approved Notice of Intent to Increase Nonvoted Levies resolution is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

Ethan Severson made a motion to adopt a resolution per 20-9-116, MCA, estimating changes in tax revenue and mills for the ensuing fiscal year for the Manhattan High School District No. 3 as noted in the proposed Notice of Intent to Increase Nonvoted Levies, which will be published in the Belgrade News prior to March 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Brand Robinson, which carried unanimously. The approved Notice of Intent to Increase Nonvoted Levies resolution is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

Superintendent Ayers reviewed the 2/25/2022 change to the CDC recommendation regarding face coverings on school buses no longer required. The school district's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan has been changed to reflect the updated CDC recommendation that face coverings on school buses are optional. School Nurse Maggie Secrest is keeping Superintendent Ayers informed on the COVID cases at the school district, which is being monitored closely. The change to our Safe Return Plan is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD POLICY UPDATES – FIRST READING

The Board held a first reading on the following policies: 7400 – Credit Card Use and 8460 – Naming School District Facilities.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

K-4 Principal Neil Harvey gave a shout out to Mrs. Heather Nehring for her great work and presentation of the 4th grade STEM projects and reported that Reading Week in the elementary school was a success. Mr. Harvey also informed the Board that the elementary students have spring assessments coming up.

5-8 Principal Eric Fisher shared that the top three Spelling Bee placers this year were Heidi Hutchison, Connor Mayo, Ethan Bryson, and Sophia Boyd as the alternate. They competed in the County Bee and Ethan Bryson finished 5th at the County Bee and is the Gallatin County alternate for the State Spelling Bee. Mr. Fisher also shared that Manhattan's MCTM Math Team Test competitors, Teddy Simser, Ethan Sullivan, Chris Zacher and Mason Reynolds finished 1st place in the Team Test competition.

High School Principal Jason Slater gave a quick overview of the last month including attendance rates, upcoming ACT testing schedules and the need to continue to fundraise in student activities. Activities Director Pat Lynch updated the Trustees on the athletic and activities programs in the high school. Congratulations to Girls Basketball for qualifying for the divisional play-in game. Congratulations to Boys Basketball for winning the district tournament for the second year in a row, qualifying for the divisional and for state tournaments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The school facility use report was given to the Trustees highlighting the upcoming Little Tiger Wrestling tournament and the Horseshoe Hills Volleyball tournament.

Superintendent Ayers informed the trustees of the need to get the correct messaging out to our community that our school facility is open but there is board policy 4330 and procedures in place that need to be followed in order to use our facilities.

Mr. Ayers also shared the latest issue of the main sewage line that runs under the proposed softball field. He will be meeting with the Facilities and Building Committee to sort it out.

CLAIMS

Vouchered claims for the month of March 2022, were examined and approved for payment.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

Approved April 12, 2022