

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
MARCH 11, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, March 11, 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
Justin Cheff..... Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee
Casey Huepel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/ Clerk

ABSENT

Keri Hill Trustee

Call to order at: 6:02 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 Cheff, to approve the consent agenda as follows:
Approve February board meeting and work session minutes.
Approve February bills.
Approve the investment report.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately seventeen (17) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.
Approximately twenty-four (24) people attended the meeting in person.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo introduced Allison Hawes as the new Ruder Principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

Amy Caudill, Ruder Second Grade Teacher, read the book Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold with her class. The book is about quilting, bridges, and the class compared growing up in Montana versus a big city. The children made construction paper "quilt squares" to go with the book that are displayed in the District Board Room.

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Paula Koch, Junior High Teacher, was a recipient of the Fulbright Award. The program is a global classroom for teachers starting with a ten-week course teaching students about living in the global world. The second component was traveling to Washington D.C. and the next stage is spending time in Brazil and Argentina. Ms. Koch is working with a Minnesota school once a week.

Leslie Dimaio, Junior High Teacher, addressed the Board regarding the budget shortages and the possibility of facing program cuts. Ms. Dimaio wanted ideas on how to help get the community to show up to vote for the levies. She was looking for guidance on what the teachers can say and do to lead the charge. Ms. Dimaio thanked the Board on making the tough decisions on a volunteer basis.

Paula Koch read a statement as the Columbia Falls Teacher Union President on how the state leaders and legislative representatives have failed school districts. She has heard only about cutting teachers and salaries. The majority of the budget is used on personnel, and where else should the money go but to the people? Moving teachers could mean bigger classroom sizes and dropping the quality of education to the students.

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). MTSBA's annual booklets will be ready for submission in June. The agenda for meeting on March 20-22, 2024, is for working on the legislative platform for next year, working on a school funding formula, and a potential overhaul may be in the future. The traditional setting for education is no longer working.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with recent updates. The exit conference for the annual audit and deadline is March 31, 2024. The final report will be available in April. The District is working to relocate the internet and fiber optics that currently pass through the roof of the high school to be relocated to the basement. This needs to be complete by the last day of school so that construction to replace the roof can begin. The District is working to obtain financing for the High School Roof Project from the Board of Investments Intercap Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will give the funds needed up front so that the bulk of the work can be completed this summer

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while the levy to fund the debt service will be collected in FY25 and FY26. Mr. Zuffelato noted that the District is working to insulate the pipes that froze in the remodeled Ruder Elementary. The playground equipment has been ordered for the Ruder Elementary pre-K program. The Business Office is working on getting the election materials ordered. Ballots go out April 19, 2024.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo indicated that communication for the levies will be available, once mill amounts are set and the District can calculate the impact. This information will help in telling our story. Details will be on the district website to provide accurate information to stakeholders. Signs, postcards, and flyers are being made. There will be meetings at the high school to show the roof project and the impact. Marie is contacting radio stations. There are currently three that would like to do live call-ins. The Fishtank podcast, out of Whitefish, would be a great spot to share the message.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund mentioned that the District needs to look at why school districts across Montana are struggling financially. It all starts at the state level. The cost-of-living increase that the state has given schools is not matching the actual cost of providing a quality education. For the District, itemizing a list of what will have to be cut is difficult.

Action/Discussed Items:

Review of the STAR Assessment winter data has information on the website under the heading "About Us". Approximately 40% of the students are at or above proficient. The District implemented CBM one-on-one testing with the teacher and child in grades K-1st. Reading proficiency is better comparing last fall to the current fall. The District is seeing kindergarteners coming in knowing less than before. The District as a whole is looking to adopt a new math curriculum and that will take about three years to see positive results. The junior high is currently in year two of the new curriculum and the elementaries are at year one. The age groups are K-1 and 3-11.

There was a discussion regarding the current food service program and Policy #8205. The recommendation from the Policy Committee is for no changes to the current policy. The District is considering applying for community wide eligibility whereas every meal served will be free to students. The food service program has made progress in recouping meal charges that are in the negative and has gone from \$60,000 at the end of last school year to currently \$12,000.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve recommended changes to Policy #3141 – Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance – First of three readings. Public comment was requested and there was a discussion about how this would apply to students who move out of the District, but want to remain enrolled in the current school? There will be more thought into the procedures that are not in the policy. Passed 7-0.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:
REVIEW OF THE STAR
ASSESSMENT WINTER
DATA

POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDED NO
CHANGES TO POLICY
#8205

MOTION TO APPROVE
RECOMMENDED
CHANGES TO POLICY
#3141

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MOTION TO APPROVE
RECOMMENDED
CHANGES TO POLICY
#8210

Motion by Huepel, second by Mumby, to approve recommended changes to Policy #8210 – Procurement of School Food – First of one reading.
Public comment was requested and there were none.
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE SY 24-25
CALENDAR

Mark McCord, facilitator of the calendar committee, discussed the survey taken in February by staff members regarding next year's school calendar. The majority of employees wanted a calendar with later start and ending dates, with a full two week off for the Christmas break and days off such as Presidents Day and Good Friday.
Motion by Cheff, second by Upton, to approve the recommended School Year 2024-2025 District Calendar as presented.
Public comment was requested and Trustee Riley does not like the late date in June with high school sports starting in mid-August. Families like their summers in the area and she cannot support this calendar.
Passed 6-1, no - Riley.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE PROPOSED ADDI-
TIONS TO THE MTSBA
GAP ANALYSIS
RESOLUTION FOR THE
2025 LEGISLATURE

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the Columbia Falls proposed additions to the MTSBA gap analysis resolution for the 2025 legislature.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

District Clerk, Dustin Zuffelato, presented year-to-date budget numbers. Federal programs that supply the District with money above the general fund, for example Medicaid reimbursements are providing services for students with approximately \$150,000 used for staff and the rest is for supplies and materials. In Title I, 14 staff members will be paid and one staff member will need to shift to the general fund as the annual federal appropriation has not changed while the cost of salary and benefits increased. Some costs from ESSER money will be shifted to the general fund and used for the HVAC system at the High School. The District is looking to cover 6.1% increase next year and the state is only giving 2.12%. The elementary district general fund budget authority – additional overbase levy authority will be \$430,666 to get to 100% of the allowed budget. The last general fund levy was in 2014. The High School deficit is projected at \$157,463, but up to \$170,310 can be voted. For the building reserve fund, the District is asking for \$2.75 million. If all levies are voted “yes”, the impact on a homeowners taxes would be \$244.97 a year for a \$600,000 home. Mr. Zuffelato presented the FY 2025 permissive levy resolutions required to obtain the school major maintenance account permissive levy. The school major maintenance account is projected to generate \$193,420 next year in the elementary district and \$92,880 in the high school. Funds in this account can be carried over from year to year. At the end of the current year the District will have \$261,000 remaining within the Elementary District Building Reserve Fund and \$14,000 within the High School District Building Reserve Fund.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 421 - ELEM
DISTRICT GENERAL
FUND OVER BASE LEVY
ELECTION

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve Resolution 421 – Elementary District General Fund Over Base Levy Election.
Public comment was requested and there was none.

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Passed 6-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve Resolution 422 – High School District General Fund Over Base Levy Election for the amount of \$157,463.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 422- HS
DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
OVERBASE LEVY
ELECTION

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve Resolution 423 – Non-Voted Levy Increase – Elementary District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 423 -
NON-VOTED LEVY
INCREASE - ELEM
DISTRICT

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve Resolution 424 – Non-Voted Levy Increase – High School District

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 424 -
NON-VOTED LEVY
INCREASE HS
DISTRICT

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve establishing a Private Purpose Trust Account – Robin Crouch Memorial Scholarship – Fund 285, Project Reporter Code 062.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ESTABLISHING A PRI-
VATE PURPOSE
TRUST-ACCOUNT -
ROBIN CROUCH
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Sherri Nissen – Ruder Fourth Grade Teacher – Retirement at the end of SY 23-24, Diane McDonald – Ruder Special Education Teacher – Resignation at the end of SY 23-24, Tyson Hubbard – High School Math Teacher – Resignation at the end of SY 23-24, Brian Crandell – High School Counselor – Retirement at the end of SY 23-24

PERSONNEL:

Motion by Cheff, second by Upton, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Allison Hawes – Ruder Principal

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Jessica Moultray – High School Business Education Teacher, Koahl DeShazerr – High School Assistant Tennis Coach (full stipend), Samantha Steiner – High School Assistant Tennis Coach (split stipend), Neils Getts – High School Assistant Tennis Coach (split stipend).

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Jacobsmeyer, second by Mumby, to approve elementary tenure teacher hires.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY TENURE
TEACHER HIRES
ATTACHMENT A

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MOTION TO APPROVE
HS TENURE TEACHER
HIRES
ATTACHMENT B

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve high school tenure teacher hires.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

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

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST FOR TREY
BUCKALLEW

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve out-of-state travel request for Trey Buckallew to attend the ROUSH CleanTech Training in Idaho Falls, ID, the first week in June 2024. Room and travel is funded by the District's Transportation Department and training is funded by Blue Bird.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST FOR TREY
BUCKALLEW, KRISTIAN
JACKOLA AND BRIAN
DOMPH

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the out-of-state travel request for Kristian Jackola, Brian Domphe and Trey Buckallew to attend the Blue Bird Academy in Fort Valley, GA, on May 5-9, 2024. Airfare will be funded by the District's Transportation Department, while training, rental car and lodging will be funded by Blue Bird.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Health Insurance Committee Meeting – March 20, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.

Trustee candidate filing deadline – March 28, 2024

Policy Committee Meeting – April 8, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.

Finance Committee Meeting – April 8, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:46 P.M.



Board Chair

Business Manager/Clerk

Name	Description	Primary Worksite	Current FTE	Hire Date
HOVDE, TERI K	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/31/1990
NICHOLS, SABRINA K	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/30/1991
KEHR, ROBYN L	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/28/1992
KEHR, DAVID H	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/27/1993
JENSEN, JODI L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/30/1995
GANGE, KIMBERLY K	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	9/21/1995
BLAIR, KENT M	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/25/1997
GANGE, KRISTINE L	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/25/1997
CHRISTENSEN, JANA E C	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/31/1998
HOERNER, JENNIFER L	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/31/1999
KOCH, PAULA A	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/31/1999
WETSCH, KATHY M	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/31/1999
BROWN, JOSIE L	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/28/2000
FEIST, HEATHER S	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/28/2000
ROBBINS, JENNIFER M	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/28/2000
DIMAIO, LESLIE B	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/27/2001
THOMPSON, JASON L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	9/3/2002
FREEMAN, HEIDI J	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/25/2003
OREM, KRISTY M	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	1/5/2004
CHILDERS, SARA F	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/30/2004
COLEMAN, TAMMY A	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/30/2004
WELCH, JOSEPH A	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/30/2004
GNAUCK, CARRIE E	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	9/1/2004
BRANSTETTER, JACQUELINE	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/29/2005
MASA, RUBIANNA M	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/29/2005
SCHAEFFER, RACHEL L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/29/2005
COX, DEBRA M	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2006
ARCHULETA, RACHEL A	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/27/2007
BOWLER, CAMI J	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/27/2007
EMERSON, LAURA C	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/27/2007
ERLER, EMILIE E	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/27/2007
GILCHRIST, HEATHER M	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/27/2007
TRENERRY, NICOLETTE I	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/27/2007
VAN DER WEIDE, SIMON H	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/27/2007
GETTS, MARY ELLEN	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/25/2008
LADENBURG, CASSIE J	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/25/2008
OSBORNE, DENISE K	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/25/2008
PICKARD, MARNA L	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/25/2008
SCHAEFFER, TRISTA L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/25/2008
HEINZ, KAMI L	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/24/2009
LOBBESTAEL, HALEY D	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/26/2013
SCHWADERER, JESSICA B	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/26/2013
DEISTER, ZACHARIAH L	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/28/2014
MARTIN, JENNIFER L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2014
SHIELDS, DANA M	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/28/2014
BYRD-RINCK, CECILIA	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/31/2015
CAUDILL, BENJAMIN T	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/31/2015
HARRIES, EMILY R	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/31/2015

MILLER, TROY D	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/31/2015
PREISS, JOSHUA P	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/31/2015
QUIRAM, TRISHA J	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/31/2015
WEAVER, ANDREA D	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2016
JONES, SAMANTHA J	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/29/2016
QUEEN, KRISTY A	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/29/2016
BURNS, MARY C	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/28/2017
BUTLER, AERICKA S	Teacher	Junior High	0.80	8/28/2017
DEWS, JANE A	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2017
GEORGE, ALEXANDRA L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2017
HARWOOD, CAMBERIA L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2017
JOHNSON, ASHLEY M	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/28/2017
LILIENTHAL, CHARLES A	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/28/2017
MANSFIELD, AUTUMN R	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/28/2017
NADEAU, ASHLEY M	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/28/2017
MATHESON, CAROL J	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/23/2018
REAMY BUTTS, ALLYSON T	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/23/2018
CALABRESE, JARROD A	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/22/2019
DESCHAMPS, GABRIELLE M	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/22/2019
ENOS, DEIDRA A	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/22/2019
FOSTER, PAULA W	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/22/2019
HALL, PATRICIA A	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/22/2019
THURSTON, JENNIFER L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/22/2019
BARTH, AUSTIN L	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/20/2020
CALABRESE, ISABELLA P	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/20/2020
JENSEN, SUZANN G	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/20/2020
KAVANAGH, SARA C	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/20/2020
MCCORD, COURTNEY B	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/20/2020
MILLER, EVAN R	Teacher	Junior High	1.00	8/20/2020
MILLER, JENNIFER L	Teacher	Glacier Gateway	1.00	8/20/2020
RADABAH, SAMANTHA L	Teacher	Ruder	1.00	8/20/2020

High School
Attachment B

Name	Description	Primary Worksite	Current FTE	Hire Date
BOWMAN, TROY W	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/27/1996
DEWELL, BEVERLY	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/26/1997
HEINZ, JAMES W	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/1998
BROWNE, PETER D	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/1999
LOVERING, JENNIFER J	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/1999
BATES, REBECCA A	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/27/2001
FERNANDEZ, ZULMA	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2002
SCHAEFFER, JESSIE A	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2002
COLEMAN, WILLIAM F	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/30/2004
HOULE, KELLY J SR	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/30/2004
WHITMAN, JULIA I	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/29/2005
JOLLYMORE, ASHLEY E	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2006
QUINTIA, ERIN A	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2006
ROE, DAWN M	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2006
HANSON, ALIA A	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/25/2008
DANIELS, KATE L	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/24/2009
STAFFORD, JASNA	Teacher	High School	0.80	8/29/2011
SCHWEIKERT, JACKSON	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/27/2012
SCHAEFFER, BENJAMIN J	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2012
FORKE, JOSHUA R	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/2015
GRESS, SHELLY A.R.	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/2015
HALL, JAKE M	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/2015
PEACOCK, JAMES K	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/31/2015
PENDERGAST, LESLIE R	Teacher	High School	0.50	8/31/2015
FINBERG, CHRISTOPHER M	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/29/2016
VESTAL, NIA R	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/29/2016
CHIARITO, BRIDGET ML	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2017
FORKE, SHELBY E	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2017
HACKETHORN, EMILY T	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/28/2017
MORAN, WILLOW A	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/23/2018
PRICE, JEANETTE J	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/23/2018
RACIOPPI, LINDSEY A	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/23/2018
DANLEY, ANNA M	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/22/2019
OSBORNE, JOSIAH S	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/22/2019
WEBB, MARY K	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/22/2019
FINBERG, CIERA R	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/20/2020
MILLER, GRETCHEN A.S.	Teacher	High School	1.00	8/20/2020
YPMA, HILARY AD	Teacher	High School	0.86	8/20/2020