

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
AUGUST 9, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, August 9, 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
Amanda Pacheco Trustee
Casey Heupel..... 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 Upton, second by Heupel, 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 board meeting minutes.
Approve July bills.
Approve the investment report.
Approve the 2024-2025 Out-of-District Student Recommendations.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately twelve (12) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.
Approximately twelve (12) people attended the meeting in person.

Verbal Reports:

REPORTS:

Trustee Barbara Riley informed the Board with the recent proceedings of the Consortium of State School Board Associations (COSSBA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA). MTSBA started to work on bill drafts for the upcoming Montana legislature session. They would like to see a different look on how schools are funded by

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2024
PAGE 2

the state.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. The District is looking to partner up with a group to take over the youth rec program. There will be an agreement proposed at the next meeting. Over three hundred kids participate each year in boys' basketball, girls' basketball, and volleyball.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo stated that administrators and secretaries arrive back on Wednesday. In the Future Planning there will be discussions regarding the agenda for the morning of the breakfast. Photos of the High School project were presented. There were a total of five rain events, one being the fire with the water needed to extinguish it. A third-party vendor and industrial hygienist are going through the classroom wing to determine all that needs to be done to make the area usable. Belfor is onsite for the restoration work. Zipper doors were added to the interior so that Swank can continue on the roof while containing dust to the work area. Tiles on the second floor are curling and contain asbestos that needs to be abated. MSGIA will work with the contractor to determine who is responsible for the extra costs from the rain damage. Jackola Engineering is working with Swank to devise a solution to fix the north wall but nothing has been done as of yet. Options are to either screw the wall back to the building or to remove and rebuild. The District's application to the Community Eligibility Provision Program (CEP) has been approved for four years and all students will have free meals during that time.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund reported that she and Justin Cheff attended the last owner-architect-contractor meeting conducted August 7th and presented the circumstances discussed and the remedy proposed by Swank.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Action/Discussed Items:

District Clerk, Dustin Zuffelato, shared the ending fund balances as of fiscal year end 2024. The ending fund balances were higher in several funds, which will be used to reduce the tax levies for FY 2025. The District is trying to protect tax payers moneys. The tuition fund serves students at Crossroads and Special Education students at our District with one-on-one paraeducators. Michelle Swank provides a report with students with those needs and this gives us the authority to build that fund. This fund is critical to provide special education, mitigating the burden on the general fund to support special education. The Tech Fund was approved for a ten-year levy at 16 mills (in 2018). The District utilizes the Tech Fund for curriculum materials because a lot of curriculum is now digital. The District has no other funding mechanism to replace curriculum material in our general fund. The Debt service fund is used to pay bond principal and interest for the elementary District facilities. The K-8 Facility Bond Project proceeds remaining are approximately \$15,000, which will be used for the PreK playground at Ruder Elementary. The Health insurance fund had less claims than expected and fund balance reserves increased.

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2024
PAGE 3

High school funds were pretty consistent. The building reserve fund decreased and the food service fund has grown over the years. The Food Service Program Reserves will allow the District to implement the CEP Program withstanding the unknown financial impact that is largely dependent on the number of meals served. The central kitchen was able to buy some equipment last year. Fund Balance reserves in the food service account are limited to three months of expenditures.

Mr. Zuffelato presented the FY 2025 Budget. All budget numbers are driven on the number of students. There was a slight decrease in the number of students. The ANB is an enrollment formula used for budget authority and we lost two students in Elementary and three students in High school that (all else being equal) would make this year's budget less than last year. The state did provide a 3% increase to most funding components within the General Fund.

Looked at numbers proposing to adopt. General fund \$21 million in the elementary fund. Based on the number of students in the funding formula. The 3% increase to state funding goes down to 2.2% because of enrollment numbers. The proposed transportation budget is decreasing based on less routes due to not enough drivers. We are starting to see the cost savings from having a propane fleet. The Bus Depreciation fund budget is the same as last year. There is a slight increase to the Tuition fund as the result of increased cost of the Special Education program because of staffing needs. Tuition for the Crossroads Program student also changes from year to year. The Retirement Fund Budget increased as salaries go up, so do the associated benefits. The Technology fund has a bigger fund balance reserve. The proposed budget will not cost taxpayers anymore than the 16 mill levy and is the same year after year.

The High School general fund had a successful overbase levy election to bump up the budget authority by a total of 4.59% and close to maximum budget level. The proposed budgets were reduced in transportation and tuition a little bit. The Technology fund is receiving approximately \$5,000 per year from the state; spending some fund balance last year. Used Flexible fund budget to purchase technology equipment last year, resulting in a lower proposed budget in FY 2025. The District also had a successful Building Reserve Levy Election in May 2024. The proposed Building Reserve Fund budget includes year one (half) of the \$ 2.7 million dollar roof project. There is also the school major maintenance account levy in the fund. Most of the levy increase associated with the proposed budget is to fund the facilities. Facilities are primarily funded by the local taxpayer and is not equitable because not all communities will support the levies. It is getting harder to pass the levies.

Mr. Zuffelato described the three ways the budget is funded: (1) state, (2) local tax, (3) reserves. The local levy in the Elementary District was decreased with the state increasing their share of the total to 51%. In the High School District, the State was funding over 60% of the total, but with the recent local levies to address facilities, the local share is now over 53% and the state share decreased to 41%. This one year change is a good example of how the tax burden of school facilities is not funded at the state level.

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 9, 2024

PAGE 4

Mr. Zuffelato presented the tax values recently certified by the Department of Revenue. These values did not change (.38%). Mill levy necessary to support the proposed budget based on these tax values increased 12.30 mills (District Wide) to 208.99 mills. The tax impact of a \$500,000 home's will increase approximately \$88.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ENDING FUND
BALANCE FOR
ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the apportionment of ending fund balance June 30, 2024 for the Elementary District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ENDING FUND
BALANCE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the apportionment of ending fund balance June 30, 2024 for the High School District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
24-25 SY BUDGET
FOR ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT

Motion by Upton, second by Mumby, to approve the adoption of the 2024-25 school year budget for the Elementary District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
24-25 SY BUDGET
FOR HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve the adoption of the 2024-25 school year budget for the High School District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Nancy Underdahl – Ruder Special Education Paraeducator; Tysen Rovig – Junior High Football Coach; Mary Garate – Junior High Building Secretary; Wendy Weaver – Business Office Payroll Administrator; Michael Hader – High School Assistant Wrestling Coach; Jessica Moultray – High School Learning Strategies Paraeducator

Motion by Heupel, second by Amanda, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Kayla Davis-Nelson – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater; Tabatha Roth – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater; Nancy Underdahl – Special Services Secretary; Mary Garate – Data Specialist/Registrar; Kirsten Condit – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
TEMPORARY
SUMMER HIRES

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the following Temporary Summer Hires: Bryan McGrath – Summer Weight Room Supervisor

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2024
PAGE 5

Motion by Riley, second by Hill, to approve the elementary curriculum stipends for SY 2024-2025.

Public comment was requested and it was discussed that this was previously hourly work completed beyond the scope and time of their teacher contracted day. The fixed stipends will make the amount more transparent and make the payroll processing more efficient. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve high school and district-wide curriculum stipends for SY 2024-2025.

Public comment was requested and stipends are paid monthly, funding primarily from the Title I grant and the Gifted/Talented grant. Passed 7-0.

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 7:16 P.M.

Consideration of Elementary District Student 25-164 out-of-district enrollment request.

Open meeting resumed at 8:24 P.M.

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the minutes from the executive session. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the out-of-district enrollment for student 25-164 for School Year 2024-2025. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 6-0.

The Board considered a grievance from the Certified Teacher Union. The individual waived their right to privacy and the hearing was conducted in open session. The teacher alleged violation of leave without pay-Article 23. Leave without pay related to a workplace injury was deducted at the daily rate based on the teacher contracted days of 187. Workers compensation benefits were calculated at a daily rate of pay based on 260 (annual) days. The claimant made three (3) specific requests: (1) Calculate the daily rate differently (2) improve communication related to the impact of electing wage benefits from the workers compensation act. (3) Revise/clarify how leave without pay is calculated within Article 23. Board deliberation included that communication is not a required provision within the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). No provisions within the CBA were violated. Trustee Mumby reiterated that the District calculated the daily rate correctly and it is calculated the same way by every other District.

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to deny the grievance because the articles in the Collective Bargaining Agreement were not violated. Passed 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
CURRICULUM
STIPENDS FOR SY
24-25

MOTION TO APPROVE
24-25 SY HS AND
DISTRICT-WIDE
CURRICULUM
STIPENDS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MEETING RESUMED

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT OF DISTRICT
ENROLLMENT

MOTION TO DENY
GRIEVANCE BECAUSE
ARTICLES IN CFEA
CBA WERE NOT
VIOLATED

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 9, 2024

PAGE 6

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:


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

Special Meeting was scheduled for August 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.


Staff Breakfast – August 28, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 9:29 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk