

CULBERTSON SCHOOL DISTRICT #17 J/R/C
RICHLAND/ROOSEVELT COUNTIES
CULBERTSON, MONTANA

NOTICE OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday—December 16, 2024, 6:30 PM

PREVIEW BILLS.....6:20 PM
CALL TO ORDER.....6:30 PM

ROLL CALL

01. Action, establish quorum

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- 02.

APPROVE AGENDA

03. Action, approve agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

- 04.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

05. Action, approve minutes from the following meeting(s)
a. November 18, 2024 (Negotiation Committee Meeting)
b. November 19, 2024 (Regular Board Meeting)
c. December 3, 2024 (Negotiation Committee Meeting)
d. December 12, 2024 (Negotiations Committee Meeting)

FINANCE REPORT

06. Action, pay bills, approve investments, and note cash & extra-curricular balances

REPORTS

07. Information, Student Representative Report—Sophomore Class
08. Information, Teacher Report
09. Information, Activities Director Report
10. Information, Technology Systems Administrator Report
11. Information, JH/HS Principal Report
12. Information, Elementary Principal Report
13. Information, District Clerk Report
14. Information, Superintendent Report

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

* Items listed on the agenda do not necessarily indicate the order in which they will be addressed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

15. Action, Board Policy—2nd reading:
-7221 Financial Management

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

16. Action, Resignations
17. Action, Addition to Guest Teacher List
18. Action, JH Assistant FB Coach Contract 2025
19. Action, Application for Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant
20. Action, Classified Paraeducator Contract
21. Action, OPI Budget Resolution
22. Action, Superintendent Evaluation (possible closed session)

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- 23.

REPORTS (Continued)

24. Information, Trustees Reports/Requests

DATE/TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

25. Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Time: 6:30 mtg.
Potential Conflicts:
Suggested Changes:

ADJOURNMENT

26. Time of adjournment: _____

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
November 18, 2024
Monday – 6:00 p.m.

The Negotiations Committee met for master agreement negotiations on November 18, 2024 at 6:01 p.m. Trustees present were: Ian Walker, Wendy Becker, Amber Fox, Chris Petersen, and Lisa Steppler, and Lora Finnicum, Clerk. Teacher representatives were: Janelle Ator, Theresa McDonald, Jimie Lou Morris, Tiffany Nielsen, and Chris Olson.

Visitors were recognized. Notice for public comment given. Board asked union if there were any budget questions. Last board scale was the variable rate scale starting at \$40,218 costing \$93,000 in new money. Union felt the scale was too front heavy and left current staff with non-existent raises, addressing recruitment but not retention.

Teachers requested assistance from their union rep. in conducting a budget analysis to find the budget for their proposed scale. Last union proposal on the table was the 2/4 scale starting at \$40,218. Union felt the Board was not willing to budget for increased salaries. Budgets normally increase by three percent and things could be moved around. Union rep. told teachers not to counter and wait for the complete budget analysis. A scale with a different starting wage could be offered that costs \$93,000 new money. Meeting recessed at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

Board offered two options: Option #1 base of \$38,464 costing \$93,001 or Option #2 base of 37,898 costing \$68,187. The first option maxes out the available budget while the second leaves more room for discussion on other negotiation items. Meeting recessed at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

Board presented the two options but opposed to using flex funds for salaries. Physicals still listed in the 24-25 budget, even though they have been discontinued as a district expense, was an oversight. That money could be used to fund additional salaries. Union countered with a 2/4 scale and base of \$38,656, two bumps from current scale. Teachers Pay Teachers school access was offered up in exchange for salary increases. Option costs \$101,425 in new money. Union could tentatively agree with newly presented scale. Union also requested a re-opening clause if state legislative session offers more than the normal three percent growth. Sample wording could be provided by the union rep.

Board would review new scale. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 a.m. Wendy Becker made motion to adjourn. Chris Petersen seconded motion. Chair adjourned meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Board Chair



Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2024
Tuesday – 6:30 p.m.

The Board met for board training from 4:40 p.m. until 6:25 p.m. and for regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:48 p.m. Trustees present were: Ian Walker, Chair, Wendy Becker, Amber Fox, Chris Petersen, and Lisa Stepler. Representatives were Nicole Simonsen, Mike Olson, and Lora Finnicum. Visitors were recognized.

Chris Petersen made motion to approve the agenda. Wendy Becker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Notice for public comment was given.

Lisa Stepler made motion to approve the minutes of October 21st (regular board), November 6th (negotiations committee), November 12th (negotiations committee), and November 14, 2024 (negotiations committee) meeting(s). Chris Petersen seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Petersen made motion to pay the November bills, approve investments, note cash and extra-curricular balances. Wendy Becker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Payroll warrants #2952 to #2995 and claims warrants #12296 to #12356 were written.

Reports were presented. Teachers reported on FAFSA training coming up, successful Veteran's Day Program, finishing MAST testing, and upcoming Education Week.

Wendy Becker made motion to approve Policy 7330F. Amber Fox seconded motion. JH and EL track stipends combined, and Speech & Drama returns to same price as head basketball coach. No comments received. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Petersen made motion to approve 2025-26 coaches: Brian Manning for Head HS FB, George Nickoloff and Cassidy Obergfell as Assistant HS FB, Dirk Reiland as Head JH FB, Todd Gabriel as Assistant JH FB, Tiffany Nielsen as Head HS VB, Tessa Rumsey as Assistant HS VB, Jenna Bowker as Head JH VB, Janelle Ator as Assistant JH VB, Chance Hyatt as Head HS CC, and Terri Sansaver as JH Head CC. Lisa Stepler seconded motion. Wendy Becker made amendment to motion to approve 25-26 coaches as presented with the exception of Todd Gabriel. Chris Petersen seconded amendment. Nepotism would be advertised for hiring Gabriel. For amendment: Becker, Petersen, Stepler. Recuse: Fox. Amendment carried. For amended motion: Becker, Petersen, Stepler. Recuse: Fox. Amended motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Becker made motion to hire Ava Smith and Amy Jones as Guest Teachers, pending background checks. Chris Petersen seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Becker made motion to approve resignation of David Anderson for Head EL GBB. Chris Petersen seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Petersen made motion to hire Jenna Bowker as Head EL GBB Coach. Wendy Becker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Becker made motion to post Policy 7221 Financial Management. Lisa Stepler seconded motion. Policy was recommended as a result of the SRSA audit. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2024
Tuesday – 6:30 p.m.

Notice for public comment for non-agenda items was given. Morgan Thiel, newly elected Montana Representative, introduced herself and presented contact information. Board was encouraged to contact her with educational questions or concerns. Trustees reported on earlier board training and Chris Petersen reported on meeting with Andy Ellerkamp on facilities and upcoming needs. Next meeting scheduled for December 16th at 6:30 p.m. Wendy Becker made motion to adjourn. Chris Petersen seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Board Chair



Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
December 3, 2024
Tuesday – 7:00 a.m.

The Negotiations Committee met for master agreement negotiations on December 3, 2024 at 7:01 a.m. Trustees present were: Ian Walker, Wendy Becker, Amber Fox, and Lisa Steppler, and Lora Finnicum, Clerk. Teacher representatives were: Janelle Ator, Amy Berwick, Theresa McDonald, Jimie Lou Morris, Tiffany Nielsen, and Chris Olson.

No visitors were present. Notice for public comment not read. Board restated and consented to the salary scale at \$38,656 with 2/4 percent and 25 years. Union's acceptance would be contingent on approval of the re-opener clause as presented. Committee in agreement with scale and clause.

Next item for negotiations was requested. Union presented the grievance procedure, Article XV, with language discrepancies in working versus calendar days. Union proposed language to reflect teacher working days. Board would review language and requested other items up for negotiations. Union presented language for a contract renewal payment of \$1,000 per teacher if contract is signed within five working days, payable on August 5th. Potential cost would be \$30,000 and union suggested payment from oil money.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 a.m. Wendy Becker made motion to adjourn. Lisa Steppler seconded motion. Chair adjourned meeting at 7:22 a.m.

Board Chair


Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
December 12, 2024
Thursday – 7:00 a.m.

The Negotiations Committee met for master agreement negotiations on December 12, 2024 at 7:01 a.m. Trustees present were: Ian Walker, Wendy Becker, Amber Fox, Chris Petersen, and Lisa Steppler, and Lora Finnicum, Clerk. Teacher representatives were: Janelle Ator, Amy Berwick, Theresa McDonald, Jimie Lou Morris, Tiffany Nielsen, and Chris Olson.

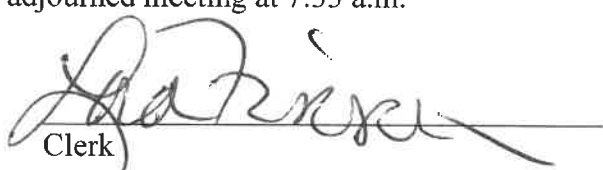
No visitors were present. Notice for public comment not read. Chris Petersen made motion to approve the agenda. Lisa Steppler seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Board presented revised language defining grievance and days, wording his to their, and 10 days for initial step in the grievance procedure. Union agreed with presented language.

Board stated that all the money available went to the salary scale and no additional funds were available to provide bonuses. Union contends there is additional funds to be had in impact aid and oil revenues and Years 2 and 3 left monies on the table. Board stated that bonuses from oil could still be an option depending on the amount received but not as proposed. Committee recessed at 7:12 and reconvened at 7:19 a.m. Union stated that the bonuses were intended as a recruitment and retention tool and not providing them may hurt chances to attract and retain staff and maintained monies are available.

Union presented Policy 2100 stating the School Fiscal Year and the minimum hours to be in school versus the contract and master agreement requirement of 180 days. Union requested year to be changed to hours to match policy. Board would review request.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Wendy Becker made motion to adjourn. Chris Petersen seconded motion. Chair adjourned meeting at 7:33 a.m.

Board Chair



Clerk

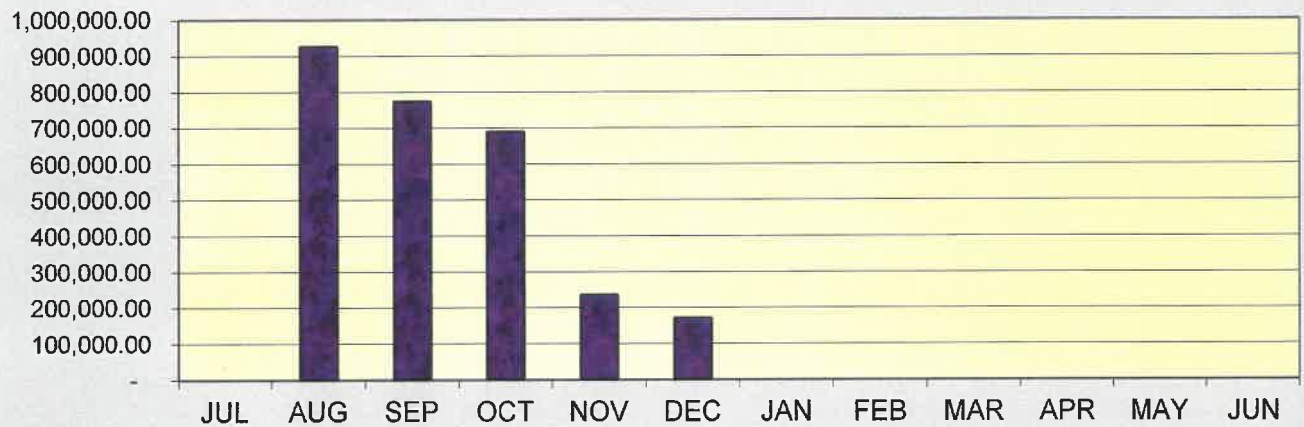
CULBERTSON SCHOOL DISTRICT CASH FLOW REPORT
for the month of NOVEMBER 30, 2024

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	INVESTMENTS IN	INVESTMENTS OUT	DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	TREASURER BALANCE	VARIANCE
GENERAL	(67,427.89)	281,376.04	229,898.00	-	162,263.59	281,582.56	281,582.56	-
TRANSF	5,114.62	101,030.33	75,842.00	40,326.00	27,318.02	114,342.93	114,342.93	-
RETIRED	31,756.67	35,024.91	86,292.00	60,820.00	24,078.03	68,175.55	68,175.55	-
MISC	381,706.49	54,308.00	-	-	22,400.27	413,614.22	413,614.22	-
Misc	392,006.43	48,518.00				440,524.43		
Title	(16,264.68)				19,286.98	(35,551.66)		
ESSER II	-					-		
ESSER III	-					-		
Ind Ed	(2,675.76)	5,790.00			3,113.29	0.95		
JMG	-					-		
SRS	-					-		
JOM	8,640.50					8,640.50		
AD ED	(304.49)	4,017.34	2,653.00	996.00	655.56	4,714.29	4,714.29	-
COMPA	29.13	15.80	3,897.00	3,897.00		44.93	44.93	0.00
IMPACT	35,487.63	1,018.20	-	-	23,143.07	13,362.76	12,344.56	1,018.20
TECH	(1,247.36)	5.08	1,253.00	-		10.72	10.72	0.00
FLEX	(252,469.05)	124,097.91	-	-	56,817.66	(185,188.80)	(185,188.80)	-
PR	3,888.39	342,953.58	-	-	331,859.04	14,982.93	14,982.93	-
CL	96,314.98	184,976.90	-	-	238,648.11	42,643.77	43,661.97	(1,018.20)
ELEM	232,849.12	1,128,824.09	399,835.00	106,039.00	887,183.35	768,285.86	768,285.86	(0.00)
GENERAL	(58,749.34)	216,054.94	60,931.00	-	116,165.23	102,071.37	102,071.37	-
TRANSF	6,792.13	80,289.45	29,950.00	9,617.00	16,945.16	90,469.42	90,469.42	-
LUNCH	7,148.97	14,733.86	-	-	10,709.87	11,172.96	11,172.96	-
RETIRED	22,661.30	12,109.26	77,260.00	70,017.00	15,698.69	26,314.87	26,314.87	-
MISC	13,801.00	11,932.00	-	-	-	25,733.00	25,733.00	-
Misc	13,801.00	5,625.00	-			19,426.00		
AG	-	4,068.00				4,068.00		
BUS	-	1,606.00				1,606.00		
FCS	-	633.00				633.00		
JMG	-					-		
Perkins	-					-		
AD ED	(10,078.14)	4,749.92	12,518.00	1,034.00	655.56	5,500.22	5,500.22	-
DR ED	12.32	21.48	5,300.00	5,300.00		33.80	33.80	(0.00)
COMPA	27.92	15.34	3,782.00	3,793.00		32.26	32.26	0.00
IMPAC	(12,530.45)		-	-	3,944.38	(16,474.83)	(16,474.83)	-
TECH	4.02		-	-		4.02	4.02	0.00
FLEX	0.09	0.01	3.00	3.00		0.10	0.10	(0.00)
ENDOW	177,306.42	406.77	100,304.00	40,358.00	5,000.00	232,659.19	232,659.19	-
HS	146,396.24	340,313.03	290,048.00	130,122.00	169,118.89	477,516.38	477,516.38	(0.00)
TOTAL	379,245.36	1,469,137.12	689,883.00	236,161.00	1,056,302.24	1,245,802.24	1,245,802.24	(0.00)

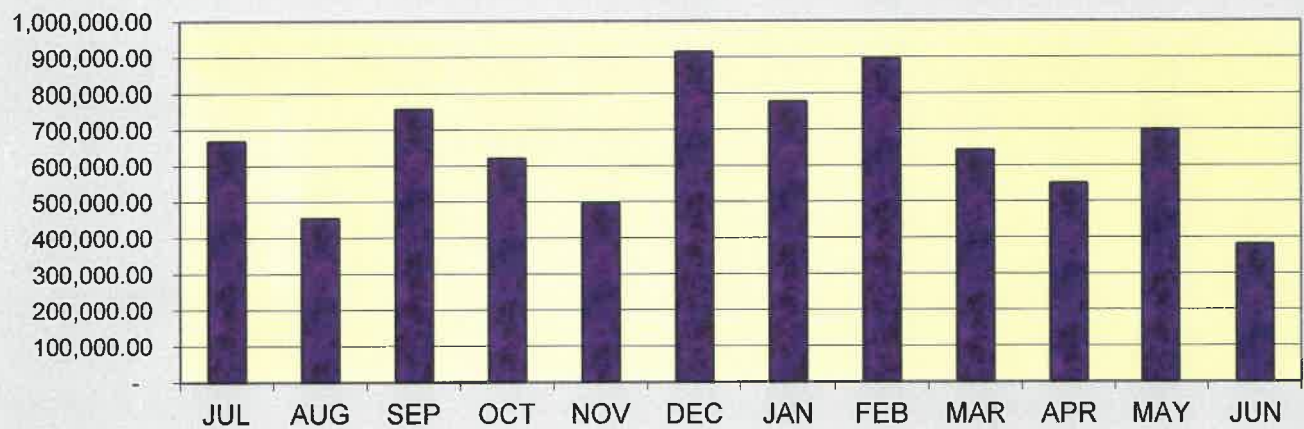
*

INV-R11

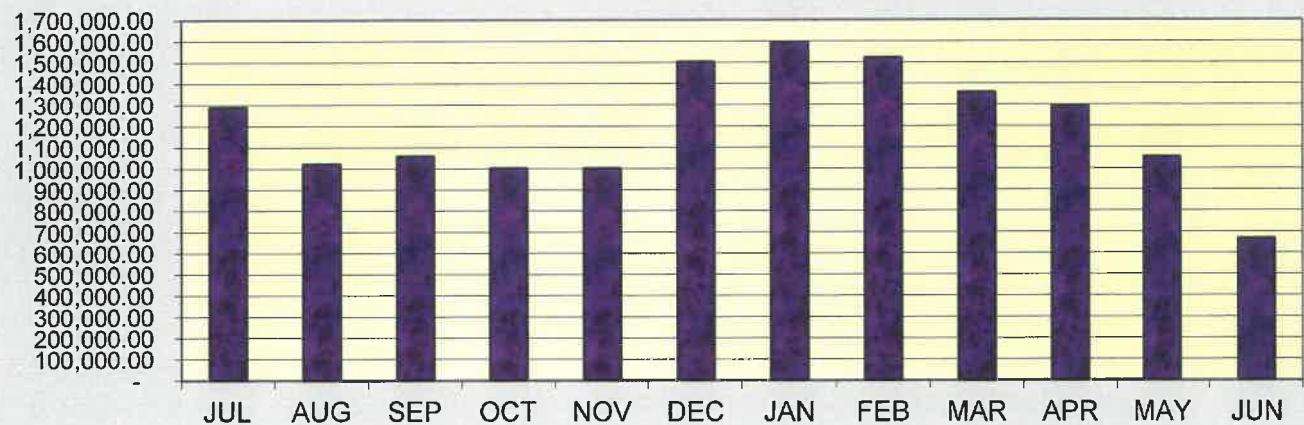
2024-25 INVESTMENTS



2023-24 INVESTMENTS



2022-23 INVESTMENTS



Culbertson Public School

Totals Report for November 2024
2024-2025

12/10/2024
12:52:55 PM

Checking
Savings
Investments

Account	Beginning +	Receipts -	Expenditures +	Transfers =	Ending
1 - ANNUAL	-1,233.41	0.00	33.99	0.00	-1,267.40
2 - ATHLETICS	4,309.63	5,099.44	4,172.69	-11.50	5,224.88
3 - 8TH GRADE CLASS	1,028.00	431.00	103.16	0.00	1,355.84
4 - Used for Future - Was Graduated Class of 2024 -	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 - SENIOR CLASS 2025	1,554.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,554.59
6 - JUNIOR CLASS 2026	1,161.87	1,375.00	0.00	0.00	2,536.87
7 - FRESHMAN CLASS 2028	2,706.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,706.54
8 - CHEERLEADER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9 - FFA	4,721.10	2,336.12	1,050.07	-1,567.50	4,439.65
10 - BAND/CHOIR	5,828.45	0.00	313.00	0.00	5,515.45
11 - STUDENT COUNCIL	5,289.65	0.00	0.00	1,579.00	6,868.65
12 - SPEECH AND DRAMA	1,492.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,492.03
13 - VO-AG REVOLVING	1,895.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,895.49
14 - SOPHOMORE CLASS 2027	2,868.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,868.89
15 - PLAY	5,477.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,477.35
16 - JMG	10.57	0.00	10.57	0.00	0.00
17 - BPA	4,818.61	612.00	507.19	0.00	4,923.42
18 - EXPLORE AMERICA	31,680.63	16,180.50	4,282.80	0.00	43,578.33
19 - MUSIC PARENTS	5,347.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,347.02
20 - ART	2,119.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,119.68
21 - LIBRARY	1,882.05	0.00	562.41	0.00	1,319.64
22 - 6TH GRADE CLASS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23 - 7TH GRADE CLASS	0.00	301.00	0.00	0.00	301.00
24 - SCIENCE OLYMPIAD	5,487.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,487.56
<hr/>					
	88,446.30 +	26,335.06 -	11,035.88 +	0.00 =	103,745.48



Dear Culbertson Board of Trustees,

This year our class elected the following people for class officers:

President = Cal Steppler
Vice President = Bella Petersen
Secretary = Payton Labatte
Treasurer = Stella Fox

Fundraisers:

We did 1 meals at Football games and 1 meal at a VB game this fall. We also have 1 BB meal planned.

Other important news from the sophomore class includes:

-We took 3rd place overall in homecoming this year. We are most proud of second place in dodgeball! This year we have 21 kids in our class. Most of us are active in sports and extracurricular activities:

-FFA = 4
-BPA = 3
-GBB = 5 & BBB = 5
-VB = 4 & FB = 6
-Student Council = 3
-Speech and Drama = 4
-Band = 13
-Choir = 4

Student Rep. Report Submitted by,

-Sophomore Class President, Calvin Steppler *Calvin Steppler*

-Sophomore Class Vice President, Bella Petersen *Bella Petersen*

-Sophomore Class Secretary, Payton Labatte *Payton Labatte*

-Sophomore Class Treasurer, Stella Fox *Stella Fox*

December 2024 AD report

Culbertson Board of Trustees,

Junior high basketball finished this weekend at the South Tournaments held in Lambert and Savage. Varsity basketball has commenced with a total of 11 girls and 16 boys participating. The cheer team also has 5 members out. The first day of elementary basketball practice will be on January 2.

Sincerely,

David Solem

Eastern Divison	19 Teams Basketball	19 Teams Volleyball
-----------------	---------------------	---------------------

Option 1 - Leave the 2C & 3C intact as is and add the 4C for 3 districts (may have to realign if Plentywood or Fairview come back down)

District - 2 / 7 teams	District - 3 / 6 teams	District - 4 / 6 teams
Bainville	Circle	Broadus
Brockton	Frazer	Ekalaka
Culbertson	Lustre Christian	Jordan
Medicine Lake/Froid	Nashua	Plevna
Richey/Lambert	North Country	Terry
Savage	Scobey/Opeim	Wibaux
Westby/Grenora		

Option 4 - 2 Districts

District - 2 / 10 teams	District - 3 / 9 teams
Bainville	Broadus (Powder River)
Culbertson	Circle
Brockton	Ekalaka (Carter County)
Frazer	Jordan (Garfield County)
Lustre Christian	Plevna
Medicine Lake/Froid	Richey/Lambert
Nashua	Terry
North Country	Savage
Scobey/Opeim	Wibaux
Westby/Grenora	

District alignment of sports -

Option 1 - Align all 3 sports VB, BB & Track in the same 3 Distrcticts
Option 2 - Align BB & VB into 3 Districts and Track into 2 Distrctits
Option 3 - Align BB into 3 Districts and VB and Track into 2 Districts
Option 4 - Align VB, BB & Track in the same 2 Districts

Mr. Olson
Technology Report
School Board Meeting
December 16, 2024

Schoolhouse IT was here on Dec 4th. Worked on Wi-Fi and on computer upgrades.

I am still working on the Wi-Fi elementary section of the school which includes a couple of JH rooms. This is an ongoing problem that Schoolhouse It and I are working on.

Will begin moving computers to Win 11 at a faster pace as Win10 support ends in Oct of 2025.

Mr. Olson
 6-12 Principal Report
 School Board Meeting
 December 16, 2024

Mrs. Forbregd will be holding a Financial Aid night on December 16th for Seniors.

I attended the MASSP regional meeting on Dec 11th in Wolf Point.

6-12 Winter Concert is Tuesday Dec 17th and K-5 Christmas Concert is Thursday December 19th. The parade of lights will be right after the K-5 concert.

Noon dismissal on December 20th.

As of December 11, 2024

	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
Aug	16	23	18	21	27	24	22	25	25	15	22	29	15	282
Sept	18	23	18	21	28	24	22	25	25	15	21	29	15	284
Oct	17	21	16	20	28	24	22	25	25	15	20	29	13	275
Nov	17	21	16	19	28	24	22	25	25	15	20	29	13	274
Dec	17	21	17	19	28	24	22	25	25	15	20	29	13	275
Jan														0
Feb														0
March														0
April														0
May														0

Enrolled	6	1	2	2	2	3	0	4	1	1	0	1	2	25
Transferred	2	3	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	16
Total In/Out	8	4	4	4	2	3	1	4	2	1	1	3	4	41

Ended the 2023-2024 year with 275

December 2024 Elementary Principal Report

- Working on evaluations
- Continued math curriculum reviews
- Title 1 Progress Monitoring and dyslexia screeners
- Behavior interventions
- Christmas concert December 19

Culbertson School Board Meeting

Superintendent's Report

December 16, 2024

Staff shoutout this month goes to Mr. Olson and Andy Ellerkamp for their constant efforts to keep our sidewalks and parking lots cleaned out after we get snow! Also, Heidi and Ryan for rocking in the kitchen while we are short-handed all the way through December!

A. Events that I plan to attend for December & January:

December 16	Regular December Meeting for the Culbertson Board of Trustees
December 17	Winter Concert for JH/HS
December 18	OPI ELA virtual meeting 4-6PM
December 18	Indian Education Committee Meeting @ 5:30PM
December 19	Winter Concert for Elementary
December 20	Noon Out & HS BB vs. R/L 3PM
December 21	HS BB @ Plentywood 1PM
January 3	HS BB @ Medicine Lake 3PM
January 6-8	Virtual Meetings with OPI for ELA rule making
January 8	NEMASS in Wolf Point @ 10AM
January 9	SAM webinar @ 9AM
January 10	HS BB @ Savage 3PM
January 11	HS BB vs. Brockton 1PM
January 17	OPI Monitor Training in Wolf Point 10AM-2PM
January 17	HS BB vs. Bainville 3PM
January 18	HS BB @ Westby 1PM
January 20	MHSA Annual Meeting in Billings
January 21	Regular January Meeting for the Culbertson Board of Trustees
January 22	1PM Out with 3 hours of PIR for staff
January 23-24	OPI ELA Rulemaking Virtual Meetings
January 24	HS BB @ Richey 3PM
January 25	HS BB vs. Plentywood 1PM
January 28	HS BB @ Poplar
January 29	Indian Education Committee Meeting @ 5:30PM
January 31	2PM Out & HS BB vs. Froid/Lake 3PM

B. Other updates and items for your review:

1. January 22nd 1PM Out PIR—On Wednesday, January 22nd we will have our first 1PM release for the year. This was put in place to have 3 hours of PIR time with staff. Our 3 hours will for this PIR day will include 1 hour of MAPS training on reading reports and then 1.5 hours of threat assessment training for the whole staff. The remaining 30 minutes will be used for staff meetings to discuss the intervention program.
2. Impact Aid Application---The Impact Aid application for FY2026 has been opened. It will be one of my projects over Christmas break when I am in the office and carry into January.

3. Civil Rights Data Collection---The Civil Rights Data Collection has also opened. This report can be very time consuming. I will begin this process during Christmas break as well and hope to finish it in January. The deadline is March 7th.
4. Mondak Stockgrowers Association \$2,000---We accepted price per pound bids from local producers for beef during the week of December 9-13. We had 4 producers respond from the following areas: Westby, Glendive, Froid, and Culbertson. We chose the bid from Luke Anderson, the only Culbertson producer that submitted. They have generously offered to give us an entire beef, donating anything above the \$2,000 grant we received! In addition, Kayla and Verlin Stepler would like to donate a beef to the school in March! We are incredibly grateful! The Anderson beef will be processed at the USDA facility in Williston and the Stepler beef will be processed at the USDA facility in Jordan.
5. Annual Accreditation---The portal for year 2 of the accreditation process has officially opened! The deadline is February 28th. I am experiencing issues getting into the portal, but hope to work out the issue with OPI next week so I can begin work in the portal over Christmas break.
6. Kitchen—I am requesting your permission to open a full-time kitchen position. This does not require formal board action. Jeremy's resignation leaves us down a staff member and Heidi would appreciate us filling that position.
7. New Cruiser—Our new cruiser bus is experiencing issues with the climate control in the passenger cab area as well as the driver's area. We have taken the bus back to iState in Williston where they have the software to troubleshoot the issue. They hope to return it to us the week of December 16th and we will have it back in time for HS BB to go to Plentywood on Saturday, December 21st. I have connected the iState mechanic in Williston with the previous owner/mechanic of our bus, the mechanic in Missoula at iState that has worked on the Lincoln School bus that is also a Sentra, and checked for any recalls on the climate control software/heating/cooling (there were none). Other than the inside of the bus getting too hot, it is running very smoothly. I believe we are close to zeroing in on the problem and solution soon once the mechanic connects all the dots.
8. MOU for Art—There are very almost zero changes to our class schedule for the second semester. The one change being made is the movement of Mrs. Welch's prep period. This will no longer us to pay the price stated in the MOU for her to teach Kindergarten art because her prep period will now be during 3rd period. This was cleared with the CEA and Jeff Weldon, as well as Ms. Welch.
9. 2025-2026 Calendar—The calendar committee will begin meeting in January to start drafting a 2025-2026 school year calendar. This will be on the February board agenda.
10. Attendance---We have recently seen an uptick in student absences. Letters have been sent per our handbook to give notice of 10 days. The handbook notes that at 15 days students can be brought before the Board of Trustees. Students and their parents who are finishing the first semester with chronic absenteeism (20%) are being addressed. If the poor attendance persists into the second semester, we will begin to bring them in front of you. I will share more information in the future if this becomes a reality. In the meantime, if you have any questions please ask.

11. Here are a few items that will be part of the next regular Board meeting agenda:

- Virtual Meeting with MTSBA for Strategic Plan Maintenance

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about any item in this report or on the agenda, please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached at 787-6246 (school), 787-5211 (home), 404-774-4088 (cell), or by email at simonsenna@culbertson.k12.mt.us at any time. I believe in an open door, so please feel free to drop in my office anytime to visit.

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 15

AGENDA TITLE: Board Policy 2nd reading: 7221 Financial Management

SUMMARY: Attached is a proposed policy that is a result of our SRSA audit. They suggested we put our current practice into policy. This is the second reading, there were no comments during the 4-week time period for comments.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

Use of Federal SRSA (Small Rural School Achievement) Funds

The School District will ensure that federal SRSA (Small Rural School Achievement) funds, are used only to supplement, and not supplant, state and local funds that would, in the absence of federal funds, be spent on SRSA programs or services supported by federal funds. Additionally, the School District will adhere to cost allowability requirements, including the requirement that costs be reasonable and necessary for the accomplishment of program objectives under the provisions of Elementary and Secondary Education Act, §5212, §5232.

Period of Availability

The School District will ensure compliance with 34 C.F.R. §75.703 to obligate grant funds during the period of availability specific to each award. Deadlines for the obligation and liquidation of SRSA grant funds will be adhered to the guidelines as set by the Department of Education (e.g. for fiscal year (FY) 2022, July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024) and not later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of availability (e.g. for FY 2022, January 31, 2025). The School District will assign a unique three-digit code (Project Reporter Code) to each award to ensure funds are tracked and accounted for separately.

2nd reading will be
@ normal December 16th mtg.

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 16

AGENDA TITLE: Resignations

SUMMARY: Action is necessary to formally accept the resignation of Jeremy LongTree effective November 25, 2024, and Larry Birch at the end of this school year.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

11-25-24

I resign effective immediately.


Jeremy Longtree

12/11/24

Dear Board of Trustees:

I wish to resign my from my route contract effective at the completion of the 2024-2025 school year — tentatively May 23, 2025.

I would be willing to transfer my contract to another provider sooner, with board approval, if there is a provider interested.

Larry Bush

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 17

AGENDA TITLE: Addition to Guest Teacher List

SUMMARY: Destiny Thompson is being recommended for the guest teacher list. She is willing to sub in the younger grades while she is home for break.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 18

AGENDA TITLE: JH Assistant Football Coach Contract for 2025

SUMMARY: Nepotism has been properly posted so action can now be taken.
Trustee Amber Fox needs to abstain from the vote.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 19

AGENDA TITLE: Application for Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant

SUMMARY: I have completed an application for a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation which would allow our school \$50,000 over 2 years if awarded. This grant is in partnership with Roosevelt Medical Center who would receive their own grant money. The ultimate end goal for this grant is to bring behavioral health into our school building through working with RMC, specifically Amy Harling.

Our goal would be to have Amy in our building for 1 or 2 days a week to provide counseling to students in need with parent permission. We essentially just have to provide a space for her. We believe that the office previously occupied by Karli Brekke will meet her needs for a space.

If our district was awarded the \$50,000, there are obviously stipulations for that money over 2 years. Our intent would be to bring in high-quality mental/behavioral health training for staff and send staff out to high-quality mental/behavioral health training.

I am seeking board approval to submit this application due to the financial implication.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 20

AGENDA TITLE: Classified Paraeducator Contract

SUMMARY: Jenna Bowker is being recommended for a full-time classified contract to be a paraeducator in Mrs. Ator's classroom beginning Thursday, January 2, 2025.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 21

AGENDA TITLE: OPI Budget Resolution

SUMMARY: We were notified on December 6, 2024, that our Elementary School 0777 qualifies for a Significant Enrollment Increase payment of \$19,380. In order to receive this payment, the board is required to do a budget resolution before March 1st. The letter from OPI is attached for your review.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.



December 6, 2024

Culbertson Public Schools
Attn: Lora Finnicum
PO Box 459
Culbertson, MT 59218

RE: Funding for Significant Enrollment Increases

Dear Clerk Finnicum,

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is providing notice of HB 36 (2023 Legislative session) which revises the funding for Significant Enrollment Increases. HB 36 modifies section 20-9-166, MCA, to allow Significant Enrollment Increase (SEI) payments as described below. It also repeals 20-9-314, MCA, which provided procedures for determining eligibility and the amount of increased average number belonging to (ANB) due to unusual enrollment increase.

Based upon the OPI calculations for FY2025, 0777 Culbertson Elementary School is eligible for a Significant Enrollment Increase payment of \$19,380.00. The SEI Calculation worksheet can be found on the School Finance website under [State School Payments>Entitlements](#).

In general, the SEI payment eligibility process is described in the bill as follows:

- School districts that experience an enrollment increase based on the October enrollment count in the current year converted to ANB must be greater than the budget limitation ANB for the fiscal year three years prior by 110%.
- The SEI payment is described in HB 36 as an amount that is the difference between 80% of the district's total per-ANB entitlement for that fiscal year using the most current October enrollment count minus the "absorption factor", and 80% of the district's initial per-ANB entitlement for that fiscal year.
- The absorption factor is defined as an ANB amount rounded to the nearest whole number equal to the sum of five ANB plus 3% of the district's budget limit ANB for that fiscal year.

The **timeline** for the SEI payment is as follows:

- By December 1st each year following the October enrollment count, the OPI must determine the school districts that qualify for an SEI payment.



- By December 15th of each year, the OPI must notify schools of their eligibility for a SEI payment.
- No later than March 1st, the trustees of an SEI payment qualifying district are to notice OPI of acceptance of all or partial amount of the allowable SEI payment. This is done by passing a general fund budget amendment.
- As soon as passed, the school district general fund budget amendment must be provided to the OPI.
- Upon successful completion of the budget amendment process, the OPI will begin distribution of the SEI payments using appropriation authority from the BASE aid appropriation in HB 2. This payment will be distributed to schools by the OPI in the following months along with the direct state aid payment.
- With the regularly scheduled June payment, all distributions of the SEI payment will be complete for the fiscal year.

The Budget Amendment Packet is located on our website to help you with your budget amendment timelines and requirements.

If you have question about this process or need assistance, please call Alivia Skeslien-Jenkins at 406-444-1964 or email at alivia.skeslien-jenkins@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Alivia Skeslien-Jenkins

Alivia Skeslien-Jenkins | Budget Analyst

406-444-1964

Cc: Audit file
Nicole Simonsen, District Superintendent
Mark Colvin, Board Chair

BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 24-1
CULBERTSON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 17
ROOSEVELT COUNTY

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Culbertson School District No 17, Roosevelt County, Montana, held June 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lunch Room, the following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Culbertson School District No 17, Roosevelt County, Montana, have made a determination that as a result of a Significant Enrollment Increase (SEI) as per 20-9-166, MCA and HB36 (2023), the district's budget for the Elementary General Fund does not provide sufficient financing to properly maintain and support the district for the entire current school year; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that an amendment to the Elementary General Fund in the amount of \$19,380.00 is necessary under the provision of Section 20-9-161(1), MCA; for the operations and maintenance caused by the unusual enrollment increase; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated source of financing the budget amendment expenditures shall be additional state assistance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Culbertson School District No 17, Roosevelt County, Montana, proclaims a need for an amendment to the Elementary General Fund Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$19,380.00 under Section 20-9-161(1), MCA, for the purpose identified above, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Culbertson School District No 17, Roosevelt County, Montana, will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Lunch Room on December 16, 2024, for the purpose of considering and adopting the budget amendment.

Chairperson
Board of Trustees

District Clerk
Board of Trustees

DATE BUDGET AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED: _____, 20____

**CULBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICTS 17 J/R/C
BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 12-16-2024

AGENDA ITEM #: 22

AGENDA TITLE: Superintendent Evaluation

SUMMARY: The board of trustees will conduct the superintendent's annual evaluation. I would respectfully request that my evaluation be done in executive session.

BOARD ACTION

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Walker					
Petersen					
Becker					
Steppler					
Fox					

Mission

Culbertson Public Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students in a safe and productive environment, to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.