

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
JANUARY 13, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, January 13, 2025, 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
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Amanda Pacheco Trustee
Casey Heupel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

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 8-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the consent agenda as follows:
Approve December bills.
Approve the investment report.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately five (5) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.
Approximately seventeen (17) people attended the meeting in person.

Freshman Class Representatives, Chloe Kinsella, Ava Anderson, and Ella Branstetter, updated the Board on activities in the High School. Winter sports are keeping students busy, first semester finals are the week of January 21-24, 2025, and Bleed Blue Week is scheduled for the last week in February.

High School Teacher, Jeanette Price, wanted to address the Board regarding "how we treat one another within the District". As the information was personal, Chair Rocksund requested restraint to protect the privacy rights of the individual.

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REPORTS:

Written Reports:

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports.

High School Principal, Joshua Gibbs, 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 on the District's Website.

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). The winter board meeting has been completed. Trustee Riley recommended the District remain engaged through MTSBA updates and watch the bill tracking website. The state senate did not meet last week because of complications on the floor and hopefully it gets going this week. The coalition has five bills in draft form. A bill to address the inflation cap issue is being heard in committee. The governor's budget includes many items pertaining to public schools. The state insurance commissioner denied the first proposal from the statewide health insurance trust with approximately seven pages of questions to be answered. All of the state representatives that drafted the law regarding the formation of the insurance plan conducted a meeting with the Insurance Commissioner and the plan now appears to be in good standings. The alliance is still on track to present proposals and receive decisions from Districts to participate prior to June 2025. January 29, 2025, is public education advocacy day at the state capital. Reviews will happen in the morning and then public education committees meet in the afternoon. These meetings will also be available on Zoom. There may be another day scheduled in the month of March to focus on education.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato added to his report some future planning. The annual school election is scheduled for May 6, 2025. Trustees whose terms are expiring are Casey Heupel, Justin Cheff, and Heath Mumby. The Board of Trustees will consider a resolution to call for elections during the February Board meeting and then start working through the process. There are a lot of financial implications contingent on the state legislature. The operating levy election can be moved from May to another date as the annual school election is scheduled during a legislative session. The High School roof replacement and HVAC projects are getting close to being finalized; the HVAC project was able to release \$75,000 of contingency funds, and there are a few items on the punch list that require warmer weather and thus are scheduled to be completed in the spring and summer. Retainage will be withheld until these final punch list items are completed. Swank agreed to replace the 2nd floor tile in the hallway, which will require retainage funds to be withheld from the roof project. Finally, the restoration project will see some floors and lockers being taken care of this summer.

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Superintendent Cory Dziowgo recommended the District formally consider a remodel bond for the High School. This is a good time to see what we need for students as a learning space. This will not be on the May ballot, but something down the road. The District has made great improvements on the classroom wing, but now the rest of the building will need attention. The annual Montana High School Association (MHSA) is next week and the Board took the opportunity to provide Troy Bowman, High School Activities Director, for guidance on how to vote on the six upcoming proposals. The first proposal does not impact Columbia Falls and is for smaller Class B and Class A district. The transfer proposal is hard to evaluate with the open enrollment policy and does not allow the eligibility in activities for students. The third proposal is moving to the NIL rule that is a mirrored policy to many surrounding states. The last proposal is about the two-year physical and Mr. Bowman is a member of that committee. The hope is that it will push students to see their primary care physicians to get a more extensive exam and not get rushed through mass physicals that can see up to one hundred students in a short time. The Board agreed to let Mr. Bowman use his conscience and vote how he thinks would be best for the District.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing to report at this time.

Action/Discussed Items:

Superintendent Dziowgo presented year to date details concerning the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. The program provides free breakfasts and lunches to all students with no applications or burden on families to provide financial information. The lunch department is making strides to provide more high quality foods, and to give food choices to students to allow for better participation. In the month of December, an average of 230 lunches per day were served at the High School, compared to 155 last year and 193 at the beginning of the current year. An option of grab-and-go meals are available in the lobby, allowing students to not have to stand in line and can still take advantage of the open campus policy. The average increase for breakfast over all of the schools is at 37% and lunch is up 38%. If the increase holds until the end of the school year, the federal revenue should increase to a point that covers the lost of paid meal revenue. One major challenge is the cost of food continuing to rise which causes the program expenses to increase.

Superintendent Dziowgo reviewed the Flathead County Schools 2025 Statistical Report. The Board reviewed the annual report compiled by the County Superintendent. Total county-wide enrollment is down from last school year, but over the last ten years the Cfalls School District is up almost 7%. At this time it is unknown how the open enrollment policy will change the numbers.

The Board considered the policy changes recommended by the Policy Committee. Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve changes to Policy #2320 – Field Trips, Excursions and Outdoor Education. The changes require field trips out of state or country to be approved by the Board in advance.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:
COMMUNITY
ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM
UPDATE

REVIEW OF THE 2025
FLATHEAD COUNTY
STATISTICAL REPORT

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MOTION TO APPROVE
RECOMMENDED
CHANGES TO POLICY
#2320

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS ROOF
RESTORATION
PROJECT AGREEMENT
WITH DIAMOND
PLUMBING

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the High School Roof Restoration Project HVAC Agreement with Diamond Plumbing as presented. The agreement requires the contractor to install all of the univents prior to March 14, 2025.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS ROOF
RESTORATION
PROJECT AGREEMENT
WITH ELECTRO
CONTROLS

Motion by Upton, second by Cheff, to approve the High School Roof Restoration Project HVAC Agreement with Electro Controls. Business Manager Zuffelato noted that recent discussions with Electro late last week indicated they would like to amend the terms of the completion date to provide flexibility concerning the timeline that is controlled by Diamond Plumbing. Specifically, the univents must be installed by Diamond Plumbing prior to electro controlling the schedule to complete the control installations.
The Board consensus was to allow the contract to be amended to facilitate a different completion date negotiated by the District administration team.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
FACILITY USE AGREE-
MENT WITH U OF M
TO HOLD MOTOR-
CYCLE RIDER SAFETY
PROGRAM

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the facility use request for U of M to hold their Motorcycle Rider Safety Program – 2025 in the Junior High parking lot.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:
The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Brian Domphe – District Mechanic; Tanya DeShaw – District Custodian; Caitlin Bloom – District Food Service.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Alisa McMunn – Ruder Elementary Special Education Paraeducator; Ashley Thomas-Meager – Junior High Special Education Paraeducator; David Brothwell – Junior High Custodian.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Amanda Bjornrud – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater; Emily Hackethorn – Non CDL Activity Bus Driver; Troy Bowman – Non CDL Activity Bus Driver; Teresa Hughes – Part-time Dispatcher; Dawn Boutwell – Part-time Dispatcher; Raylee LaRocque – Bus Monitor; Ron LaTray – High School Assistant Wrestling Coach; Nicolas Edlund – High School Assistant Football Coach; Michelle Woodard – High

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School Assistant Softball Coach; Connor Werdel – High School Social Studies Teacher
Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

Motion by Cheff, second by Hill, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.
Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the following out-of-state travel requests.
Alia Hanson – Northwest Council for Computer Education Annual Conference – February 14-16, 2025 – Seattle WA.

Derek Andrews – Montana State Family Consumer Science Conference – April 23-25, 2025 – Helena, MT.

Paula Koch – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Convention – March 18-21, 2025 – Long Beach, CA.

Hilary Ypma – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Convention – March 18-21, 2025 – Long Beach, CA.

Jeanette Price – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Convention – March 18-21, 2025 – Long Beach, CA.

Zulma Fernandez – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) International Convention – March 18-21, 2025 – Long Beach, CA.

All travel will be through the Professional Development Grant process.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT-OF STATE
TRAVEL REQUESTS

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Meeting with Logan Health – January 21, 2025 – 12:30 P.M. – Administration Conference Room.

Transportation Committee Meeting – January 21, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

Health Insurance Committee – January 22, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.

Superintendent Dziowgo updated the Board regarding an issue that is working its way through the uniform complaint procedure. The complaint may result in a Board hearing sometime in February.

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING:

Executive Session – Superintendent Evaluation:

As the individual's right to privacy exceeds the public's right to know, Chair Rocksund called the meeting into executive session at 7:15 P.M. to conduct the annual Superintendent Evaluation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Open meeting resumed at 8:54 P.M.

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the minutes from the executive session.

MOTION TO APPROVE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

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Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:54 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk