

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February 10, 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      Via Google Meets  
Keri Hill..... Trustee  
Heather Mumby ..... Trustee  
Amanda Pacheco..... Trustee  
Casey Heupel ..... 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 Upton, second by Mumby, to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
Approve Board Meeting Minutes.  
Approve January Bills.  
Approve the Investment Report.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0

APPROVE CONSENT  
AGENDA

Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately nine (9) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.  
Approximately sixteen (16) people attended the meeting in person.

High School Student Body was represented by Junior officers, Greyson Pfieffe and Alston Olson, updating the Board with the activities at the High School. The speech and debate team took second place at the state meet, losing to Whitefish by five points. Teachers' name doorplates are almost done and there was an example shared. Each nameplate is in the shape of a cat paw with the teacher's name. Upcoming events are the swim team and wrestling team traveling to their state competitions the weekend of February 13-15, 2025. Valentine's Day will be observed on Thursday, February 13, with the La Cuisine

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class making cookies to sell and the Sonifers will be performing singing valentines. A winter formal is scheduled for February 28 in the cafeteria. Bleed Blue week is February 24 through 28.

REPORTS:

Written Reports:

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports.

High School Principal, Josh Gibbs, 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.

District Committees' reports provided for the Board are located 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). Trustee Riley participated in the public education day of advocacy in Helena on January 29th. Testimony was heard on the new STARS Act and has come out of committee with a positive vibe. Superintendent Dziowgo is posting legislative updates on the District website regarding public school bills. The statewide health insurance board is approximately 90% finished with the process of getting approval from the commissioner's office. The group will be presenting to school districts, but there is no timeline as of yet. School districts will be going through the renewal process this spring with their current plans, and will have information on the new state plan at the same time. If schools are considering switching to the state fund they will need to make sure their current insurance plans have the appropriate information to cover claims after the plan year ends.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato discussed the upcoming election in May and presented details concerning the county election department. He has been working on the budget for next school year, including potential impacts from legislature. Members of the Insurance Committee met with Logan Health to determine the circumstances regarding the Billings Clinic merger. In the meeting there was an opportunity to discuss discounts for the District. The annual audit is taking place and the report is due March 31, 2025. There could possibly be a delay with issuing this 2024 audit report as a result of workload constraints. Mr. Zuffelato and the auditors have discussed the appropriate accounting treatment for the repairs associated with the roof project as well as the restoration project. The auditors feel that the roof project expenses should be capitalized. Work is being done on the property and liabil-

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ity insurance renewal. There will likely be an increase in premiums because of the High School building roof claim, but premiums can also be affected by the fires in California. Lastly, Mr. Zuffelato introduced Michelle Bates as the District's new payroll person.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo reminded the Board that committee meeting notes can be found on the District's website. The Transportation Committee meets in two days and needs to look at what to do with the shortage of drivers; need to start planning now for next year's field trips versus activity trips versus daily routes; and looking at the contract for the West Glacier route. Policy Committee talked about fund raising requests. The Long Range Planning Committee will talk about the bond for High School renovations. The State Legislature session is "moving and shaking". It was nice to get to Helena last week to talk about impact of legislative proposals.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing new to report.

Action/Discussed Items:

Board Chair Rocksund provided an update concerning a community member complaint. The uniform complaint procedure has been followed with the next step being consideration by the school board. The District's attorney has recommended dismissal of the complaint due to untimely filing.

Presentation of the Climate Survey results which closed Friday, February 7. Results of the survey are posted on the District's website and the administration team will talk about the results at the next Admin meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Superintendent Dziowgo presented details of the survey results.

Curriculum Director Mark McCord presented the District's Portrait of a Learner. Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to adopt the Portrait of a Learner program's mantra "Wildcats are: Engaged, Prepared and Empowered". Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 7-0.

The Board considered the Policy Committee recommendations. Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve changes to Policy #3141 – Out of District Enrollment – first of two readings. The policy committee discussed how the new out of district student admittance process worked and the recommended revision regarding establishing specific date(s) that out of district students would be formally considered for enrollment by the Board of Trustees. The proposed change establishes two dates, one in the spring and one at the semester break.

Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 7-0.

ACTION /  
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

COMMUNITY  
COMPLAINT UPDATE

CLIMATE SURVEY  
RESULTS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE ADOPTION OF  
THE PORTRAIT OF A  
LEARNER MANTRA

MOTION TO APPROVE  
CHANGES TO POLICY  
#3141

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MOTION TO APPROVE  
TERMS OF  
SUPERINTENDENT  
CONTRACT EFFECTIVE  
JULY 1, 2025

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the extension of the terms of the superintendent contract effective July 1, 2025.

The evaluation was conducted in January 2025. The Board acknowledges that they are currently in the second year of a three-year contract and needs approval for a new three contract effective July 1.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

Mr. Zuffelato presented projections for the FY 2026 General Fund budget in an effort to help the Board understand the scenario regarding the upcoming annual election. The Board must consider resolutions calling for an election no less than seventy days before the election and then have until the end of March to set an amount or cancel a levy election. General Fund budget authority is driven by the number of students in a snapshot occurring in October and February defined as annual number belonging (ANB). Enrollment is down eighty-nine students in the two elementary schools, the Junior High and High School remain consistent. The Elementary District will use the ANB driven by a three year average to mitigate the impact of the enrollment drop in the current school year. The High School ANB will increase slightly for next year. Current law caps inflation at 3%. Mr. Zuffelato presented budget projections based on 3% increase and the updated ANB. Furthermore, Mr. Zuffelato presented budget projections with the proposed funding within House Bill 252, the STARS ACT. If the STARS ACT does not pass in its current form, the Elementary District may propose a general fund levy to eliminate a projected budget deficit of \$450,000. The High School budget is in much better shape since enrollment is not going down. Last year's levy election was successful and so the District is close to the maximum and thus there is not much voted levy authority remaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 434 -  
CALLING FOR AN  
ELEMENTARY  
ELECTION

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve Resolution 434 - Calling for an Elementary District Election.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 435-  
CALLING FOR HS  
ELECTION

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve Resolution 435 - Calling for a High School District Election.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

Business Manager Dustin Zuffelato informed the Board that the County Election office has a new director who is willing to provide more support to the county school districts in terms of conducting our elections. The County has provided support in the recent past but this year will be almost entirely conducted by the County. The additional support for our District (this year as compared to prior) will be managing the ballots including ordering, mailing, and issuing replacements. As part of this arrangement, the election must continue to be conducted by mail ballot using the electronic ballots that can be tabulated by ESS.

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Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the mail ballot plans for the Elementary District Election.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE MAIL BALLOT  
PLANS FOR ELEM  
DISTRICT ELECTION

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve the mail ballot plans for the High School District Election.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE MAIL BALLOT  
PLANS FOR HS  
DISTRICT ELECTION

Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve Memorandum of Understanding – 2025 Election Procedures – Flathead County.

This change will increase the county's responsibility with the change in personnel.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
MOA - 2025 ELECTION  
PROCEDURES -  
FLATHEAD COUNTY

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve the Multi District Participation Agreement with Montana School Unemployment Insurance Program 2024-2027.

There were no changes from the past, this is strictly a renewal process.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE MULTI DISTRICT  
PARTICIPATION  
AGREEMENT WITH  
MONTANA SCHOOL  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
INSURANCE  
PROGRAM

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the addition of two AP courses that will be added to the High School course offerings: AP Seminar and AP Research.

High School teachers Nia Vestal and Willow Moran want more AP options for students that may not want to take AP Literature type course but a more skills-based course.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE ADDITION OF  
TWO AP COURSES

Personnel:

PERSONNEL:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Jarrod Calabrese – Glacier Gateway Special Education Teacher, effective end of SY 24-25; Paula Koch – Junior High Track Coach, effective end of SY 23-24; John Thompson – High School Assistant Principal, retirement end of SY 24-25.

Motion by Upton, second by Riley, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Jessica Burns – Glacier Gateway Special Education Paraeducator.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ELEMENTARY HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Teresa Hughes – Hot Lunch Site Building Lead; Karen Taylor – Hot Lunch Site Building Lead; Amanda King – Hot Lunch Site Building Lead; Angel McCarley – Hot Lunch Site Building Lead; Brad Parker – Bus Driver; Tary Middlesworth

MOTION TO APPROVE  
HS AND DISTRICT-  
WIDE HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

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– Non-CDL Activity Bus Driver; Keegan Mackenstadt – High School Maintenance; David Brett Crump – High School Assistant Wrestling Coach; Alia Hanson – High School Mentor; Wendy Bruce – High School Part-time Special Education Paraeducator. Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
TERMINATION  
WITHOUT CAUSE

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the termination of Kayla Davis-Nelson without cause, Hot Lunch Helper/Floater effective January 23, 2025.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

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

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING:

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Chamber of Commerce Food Bank Donation Drive – February 25 through March 11, 2025. This aligns to Bleed Blue week.


Transportation Committee Meeting – February 12, 2025 – 5:30 P.M. – Canyon Elementary

Long Range Planning Committee Meeting – February 19, 2025 – 5:00 P.M. – Dinner will be provided.

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager/Clerk