

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT 6
MARCH 10, 2025

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

ABSENT:

Heather Mumby..... Trustee

Call to order at 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Upton, second by Cheff, to approve the agenda as presented.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

APPROVE AGENDA

Passed 7-0.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Heupel, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve February 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Approve February Bills.

Approve the Investment Reports.

Approve the 24-25 Out-of-District Student Recommendations:

25-208

25-209

25-210

25-211

Public comment was requested and there was none.

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

Passed 7-0

Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately six (6) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.

Approximately twelve (12) people attended the meeting in person.

Student Body Representatives, Sophomores Emma Wilcox and Rebel Crump, updated

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the Board with the activities at the High School. Bleed Blue week was the week prior to the meeting, and on Friday local band Comatose Posse preformed for the students in an assembly. Twenty-seven students donated blood during the Student Council Blood Drive. The girls' basketball team is heading to the state tournament in Billings March 13-15, and spring sports start practice today. There is a Job Fair on March 18 and there will be a Financial Fair after the ACT tests on April 4.

Ruder Elementary's PTO and Ms. Morales are bringing back the Missoula Children's Theater group. Practice will begin April 7 with performances on Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12.

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.

Board Standing Committees' reports 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). The next state board meeting is March 24-26. A member survey was sent to all schools in the state. Trustee Riley will be leaving on March 20 for the National Conference in Atlanta, GA. The State Health Insurance's plan was approved by the state commissioner and now are working on a last review before formal proposals are presented to school districts. The group applied for a grant to run operations until the funding from the state comes through.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. The annual Trustee Election will have three positions open. The deadline to file declarations is March 27, 2025. The County Election Office will be providing additional support including preparing the ballots for mailing. The Business Office is working on implementing a new electronic time reporting program. Employees will start using the program in phases. The first phase will start April 1 with Policy Employees (Secretaries/Nurses/IT). Custodians and other year-round employees will start July 1. All other employees will start using the electronic timecards at the beginning of school year 2025/26. Mr. Zuffelato received a note from the auditors indicating the 2024 audit report will be completed by March 31. The High School Restoration Project will see the last of the asbestos flooring removed soon. The plumbers have commenced work on the univent replacement project and the fresh air should be helping keep the classrooms cooler this spring. Funding from the insurance company is only paying 42% of this project as they consider a portion to be an upgrade although the District has illustrated that the uninvents are failing (after prolonged use throughout the winter) as predicted. Lockers will

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be replaced over the upcoming summer. Contents damaged, such as golf bags and books, may not be replaced, but the District may receive insurance proceeds based on their value. Teacher personal items damaged have been replaced and all technology equipment has been purchased and replaced.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo presented a legislative update. The District is anticipating a 3% funding increase with HB 15. HB 252, the STARS Act, could provide additional funds of approximately \$680,000. This bill is sitting in the Senate as of now. HB 339 is one that the Northwest Superintendents are also watching closely as it provides grade 6 students with the same entitlement funding as grade 7-12 students, recognizing grade 6 is typically operated within the same programs/schedule/building as grade 7 and 8. HB 483 would double transportation reimbursement for each mile driven and reduce local taxes. There are numerous proposals to address the 95 school equalization mills. These mills have generated more revenue in the past few years as a result of tax valuations increasing substantially. HB 483 proposes that if the 95 mills generate more money than needed, it is currently banked and, in the future, will be used as a reduction of tax levies. HB 156 could create havoc on Superintendents and the County Treasurer with countywide levies. It is a two year wait on implementing. HB 567 provides incentives for multi-district agreements and could create an opportunity for additional funds. The District has created a separate website for the High School Bond project, and looking for insight to go live soon. Student, staff and family surveys are now open and will close by the end of the month.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing additional to discuss at this time.

Action/Discussed Items:

Presentation on MAST testing overview showed how the two-year pilot program is progressing. Results will be available this summer. The State picks the testing windows and the District picks what to test. YouTube videos were sent today to help guide how to use the information and teach in the classrooms. Teachers can look at individual students and see what he/she needs to work on. There is parent reporting and 66 out of 2200 were downloaded by the parents. Hurdles continue to be time, data, and reporting that is not there yet.

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar recommendation.

Trustee Upton commented on how smooth the committee works and how well Mr. McCord facilitates the meetings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-1, no Riley.

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve changes to Policy #3141 – Out of District Enrollment on second of two readings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MOTION TO APPROVE
SY 25-26 CALENDAR
RECOMMENDATION

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #3141 ON 2 ND
AND FINAL READING

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Business Manager/Clerk, Dustin Zuffelato, presented fiscal year 2026 budget projections. Trustees must adopt a resolution in the spring each year estimating the increase/decrease in revenue and mills from permissive (non-voted) levies. The school major maintenance account (SMMA) is a funding mechanism to address deferred maintenance of buildings. The Elementary District can raise \$193,000 while the High School District is \$92,000. There are specific guidelines on what the money can be used for, and it can be used on technology. Mr. Zuffelato presented how the funds have been used since the inception of the SMMA in 2018. Mr. Zuffelato presented the non-voted levy projections for fiscal year 2026. The Tuition fund budget is projected to increase as a result of House Bill 203 passed during the 2023 legislative session. The District will be required to pay (the District of attendance) for students who reside within the District taxing jurisdiction but attend school elsewhere. Average tuition rate is \$1,650 per student/year. Total tuition fees are projected to be \$187,006 in the Elementary District and \$49,505 in the High School District. This equates to approximately four (4) mills. Mr. Zuffelato reviewed the general fund budget projections for fiscal year 2026. The budget deficit is projected to be \$453,528 for the Elementary District and \$63,852 in the High School District. The additional funding from the STARS Act would cover this deficit. However, if this legislation does not pass, the District would need to request an over-base levy from the local taxpayers. The District is required to certify the levy amount/ballot on April 4 and a special Board meeting is scheduled on March 31 to determine the status of the proposed legislation. It has been decided by the Board to revisit this topic, Resolution #438 – Elementary general fund over-base mill levy election, at a Special Board Meeting on March 31, 2025. It has been decided by the Board to revisit the cancellation of the High School general fund over-base mill levy election at a Special Board Meeting on March 31, 2025.

The Board considered the non-voted permissive levy estimates for fiscal year 2026. The Elementary District non permissive levy is expected to increase \$212,765 or 3.64 mills primarily a result of the tuition fund (HB 203) and the transportation fund as a result of less funds expected to be reappropriated at fiscal year end 2025.

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve Resolution #436 – Calling for an Elementary District intent to impose an increase in permissive levies.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

The High School District non-voted levy projections estimate an increase of \$58,242 or .87 mills, also driven by tuition and transportation.

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve Resolution #437 – Calling for High School District intent to impose an increase in permissive levies.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

The Board considered an IT services agreement that will be funded through the federal E-Rate Program. The services replicate what are currently being provided to support the network infrastructure, with a few minor changes.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #436

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #437

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Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the managed IT services agreement with Pinecove Consulting LLC.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
MANAGED IT SER-
VICES AGREEMENT
WITH PINECOVE
CONSULTING LLC

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Isabella Calabrese – Ruder Elementary Kindergarten Teacher and ESL Campus Coordinator; Teri Hovde – Ruder Elementary Third Grade Teacher; Samantha Jones – Junior High ESL Campus Coordinator; Rachel Archuleta – Junior High Track Coach; Jewel Huntsman – Food Service Kitchen Helper/Floater; Catherine Martin – High School .5FTE Business Teacher; Amy Caudill – High School Swim Team Coach; Aven Middlesworth – High School Assistant Swim Team Coach.

PERSONNEL:

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Samantha Jones – Junior High Track Coach; Austin Barth – Junior High Track Coach.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the elementary tenure teacher hires for School Year 2025-2026.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
TENURE TEACHER
HIRES FOR SY 25-26
ADDENDUM #1

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve the high school tenure teacher hires for School Year 2025-2026.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS TENURE TEACHER
HIRES FOR SY 25-26
ADDENDUM #2

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the out-of-state travel for Troy Bowman to attend the NATA Clinical Syposia and AT Expo in Orlando, Florida, on June 24-27, 2025.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL
REQUEST

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATION

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

A Long Range Planning Committee meeting was considered to discuss the high school facility improvement project. It was determined to schedule it the same night along with the special meeting to consider the levy election.

Health Insurance Committee Meeting - March 12, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.


MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

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MEETING
ADJOURNED

Special Meeting/Long Range Planning Committee Meeting – March 31, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
Regular Board Meeting – April 14, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:40 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk

Addendum #1

Last Name	First Name	Check Location	Tenure Date
NICHOLS	SABRINA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/30/1991
KEHR	ROBYN	RUDER	8/28/1992
JENSEN	JODI	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/30/1995
GANGE	KIMBERLY	JUNIOR HIGH	8/25/1996
BLAIR	KENT	JUNIOR HIGH	8/25/1997
GANGE	KRISTINE	JUNIOR HIGH	8/25/1997
CHRISTENSEN	JANAE	RUDER	8/31/1998
HOERNER	JENNIFER	RUDER	8/31/1999
KOCH	PAULA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/31/1999
WETSCH	KATHY	JUNIOR HIGH	8/31/1999
BROWN	JOSIE	JUNIOR HIGH	8/28/2000
FEIST	HEATHER	JUNIOR HIGH	8/28/2000
ROBBINS	JENNIFER	JUNIOR HIGH	8/28/2000
DIMAIO	LESLIE	JUNIOR HIGH	8/27/2001
THOMPSON	JASON	GLACIER GATEWAY	9/3/2002
FREEMAN	HEIDI	RUDER	8/25/2003
CHILDERS	SARA	RUDER	8/30/2004
COLEMAN	TAMMY	JUNIOR HIGH	8/30/2004
WELCH	JOSEPH	JUNIOR HIGH	8/30/2004
BRANSTETTER	JACQUELINE	JUNIOR HIGH	8/29/2005
MASA	RUBIANNA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/29/2005
OREM	KRISTY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/29/2005
SCHAEFFER	RACHEL	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/29/2005
GNAUCK	CARRIE	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2006
ARCHULETA	RACHEL	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/27/2007
BOWLER	CAMI	JUNIOR HIGH	8/27/2007
EMERSON	LAURA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/27/2007
ERLER	EMILIE	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/27/2007
GILCHRIST	HEATHER	JUNIOR HIGH	8/27/2007
TRENERRY	NICOLETTE	RUDER	8/27/2007
VAN DER WEIDE	SIMON	JUNIOR HIGH	8/27/2007
BALTZ	MARNA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/25/2008
GETTS	MARY ELLEN	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/25/2008
LADENBURG	CASSIE	RUDER	8/25/2008
OSBORNE	DENISE	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/25/2008
SCHAEFFER	TRISTA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/25/2008
HEINZ	KAMI	JUNIOR HIGH	8/24/2009
LOBBESTAEL	HALEY	RUDER	11/19/2012
SCHWADERER	JESSICA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/26/2013
DEISTER	ZACHARIAH	JUNIOR HIGH	8/28/2014
MARTIN	JENNIFER	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2014
SHIELDS	DANA	RUDER	8/28/2014
BYRD-RINCK	CECILIA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/31/2015

Last Name	First Name	Check Location	Tenure Date
CAUDILL	BENJAMIN	JUNIOR HIGH	8/31/2015
HARRIES	EMILY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/31/2015
MILLER	TROY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/31/2015
PREISS	JOSHUA	RUDER	8/31/2015
QUIRAM	TRISHA	RUDER	8/31/2015
WEAVER	ANDREA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2016
FINBERG	CHRISTOPHER	HIGH SCHOOL	8/29/2016
JONES	SAMANTHA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/29/2016
QUEEN	KRISTY	RUDER	8/29/2016
BURNS	MARY	RUDER	8/28/2017
BUTLER	AERICKA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/28/2017
DEWS	JANE	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2017
GEORGE	ALEXANDRA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2017
HARWOOD	CAMBERIA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2017
JOHNSON	ASHLEY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/28/2017
LILIENTHAL	CHARLES	JUNIOR HIGH	8/28/2017
MANSFIELD	AUTUMN	RUDER	8/28/2017
NADEAU	ASHLEY	RUDER	8/28/2017
MATHESON	CAROL	RUDER	8/23/2018
REAMY BUTTS	ALLYSON	JUNIOR HIGH	8/23/2018
ENOS	DEIDRA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/22/2019
FOSTER	PAULA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/22/2019
HALL	PATRICIA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/22/2019
THURSTON	JENNIFER	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/22/2019
BARTH	AUSTIN	JUNIOR HIGH	8/20/2020
JENSEN	SUZANN	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/20/2020
KAVANAGH	SARA	RUDER	8/20/2020
MCCORD	COURTNEY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/20/2020
MILLER	EVAN	JUNIOR HIGH	8/20/2020
MILLER	JENNIFER	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/20/2020
RADABAH	SAMANTHA	RUDER	8/20/2020
ALLEN	MINDY	JUNIOR HIGH	8/19/2021
ANDREWS	SUZANNE	RUDER	8/19/2021
CHAPPELOW	MARY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/19/2021
CROWE	TRINA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/19/2021
FISHEL	LINDSEY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/19/2021
HAKES	ALICIA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/19/2021
HALL	PAIGE	RUDER	8/19/2021
HUBBARD	KYLE	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/19/2021
JOHNSTON	PATRICK	JUNIOR HIGH	8/19/2021
SCHULZ	ALLIE	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/19/2021
MOORE	CALLIE	GLACIER GATEWAY	10/26/2021

Last Name	First Name	Check Location	Tenure Date
BOWMAN	TROY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/27/1996
HEINZ	JAMES	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/1998
BROWNE	PETER	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/1999
LOVERING	JENNIFER	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/1999
BATES	REBECCA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/27/2001
FERNANDEZ	ZULMA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2002
SCHAEFFER	JESSIE	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2002
COLEMAN	WILLIAM	HIGH SCHOOL	8/30/2004
HOULE	KELLY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/30/2004
WHITMAN	JULIA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/29/2005
DEWELL	BEVERLY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2006
JOLLYMORE	ASHLEY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2006
ROE	DAWN	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2006
QUINTIA	ERIN	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2006
HANSON	ALIA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/25/2008
DANIELS	KATE	HIGH SCHOOL	8/24/2009
STAFFORD	JASNA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/29/2011
SCHWEIKERT	JACKSON	HIGH SCHOOL	8/27/2012
SCHAEFFER	BENJAMIN	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2014
FORKE	JOSHUA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/2015
GRESS	SHELLY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/2015
PEACOCK	JAMES	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/2015
PENDERGAST	LESLIE	HIGH SCHOOL	8/31/2015
FINBERG	CHRISTOPHER	HIGH SCHOOL	8/29/2016
VESTAL	NIA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/29/2016
CHIARITO	BRIDGET	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2017
FORKE	SHELBY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2017
HACKETHORN	EMILY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/28/2017
MORAN	WILLOW	HIGH SCHOOL	8/23/2018
PRICE	JEANETTE	HIGH SCHOOL	8/23/2018
RACIOPPI	LINDSEY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/23/2018
DANLEY	ANNA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/22/2019
OSBORNE	JOSIAH	HIGH SCHOOL	8/22/2019
WEBB	MARY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/22/2019
FINBERG	CIERA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/20/2020
YPMA	HILARY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/20/2020