

SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 6  
MARCH 31, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, March 31, 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  
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 6:00 P.M.

Motion by Upton, second by Heupel, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0

Public Participation:

Approximately two (2) people participated in person.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Action/Discussion Items:

Business Manager/Clerk, Dustin Zuffelato discussed the upcoming elections. No other candidates, except the three incumbents, have signed up to run for the School Board. The election can not formally be cancelled until Friday, April 4, in case there are write-in candidates. Incumbents will be elected by acclamation during the May board meeting.

Mr. Zuffelato then presented data regarding budget projections for School Year 2025-2026. The budget projection information changed slightly than what was presented on March 10, 2025. HB 15 has passed and will provide an additional 3% to the various funding components. Elementary enrollment numbers (ANB) are down by 71 students for the current year. However, the District can set the fiscal year 2026 budget based on a three-year average which mitigates the decline to only 22 less than the current year. Enrollment numbers in the High School are staying consistent, down by one student, but again the District will be using the three-year average bumping the number to positive one. HB 15 provides an additional \$136,050 representing a 1.12% increase in the

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

ACTION /DISCUSSION  
ITEMS:

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Elementary District. If the STARS Act is passed it could add an additional \$470,303. Base teachers' wages must meet 62% of the average pay, in which the District already meets the minimum threshold for teacher base pay to qualify for the additional funds. The High School District is looking to cancel the over-base levy election as the budget authority is limited to only \$48,000. Operating costs in the High School District are projected to increase \$138,190 or about 2%. With the additional funds from the STARS Act, the High School District should have additional funds for technology and other non-personnel budgets.

The Elementary District has three options for next year. If the STARS Act fails, there could be a deficit of \$405,149. If STARS Act passed, it would cover the deficit; if the legislature does their job then the District will not have to ask voters for an over-base levy increase. If a levy is passed as well as the STARS Act, then the Board will need to decide what to do with an additional budget authority of roughly \$530,177. The District could elect to defer levying the amount authorized by the voters for up to five years per MCA 20-9-353.

After much discussion, the Board decided to call for an election to be conducted after the end of the legislative session in an effort to be able to fully understand the financial impacts of all proposed legislation.

MOTION TO CANCEL  
RESOLUTION #438 -  
MAY 6 ELECTION -  
ELEMENTARY  
DISTRICT

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to cancel Resolution #438 election for May 6 in the Elementary District.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE CANCELLATION  
OF HS GENERAL FUND  
OVER-BASE MILL-LEVY  
ELECTION

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve the cancellation of the High School General Fund Over-Base Mill Levy Election.

Public comment requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

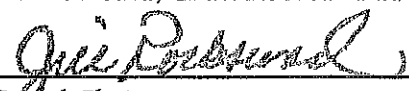
Special Board Meeting – Friday, April 4, 2025 – 12:00 P.M. – District Board Room with a Google Meets option.

Regular Board Meeting – Monday, April 14, 2025 – 6:00 P.M. – District Board Room

Health Insurance Committee – Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 4:00 P.M. – Admin Conference Room

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:08 P.M.

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

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