

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
MAY 12, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, May 12, 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
Justin Cheff Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee Via Google Meets 6:02 P.M.
Amanda Pacheco Trustee
Casey Heupel..... Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Megan Upton..... Trustee
Keri Hill..... Trustee

Call to order at 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve the agenda as presented.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Pacheco, second by Cheff, to approve the consent agenda as follows:
Approve Board Meeting Minutes
Approve April bills.
Approve the investment report.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0

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.

Written Reports:

REPORTS:

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports.

High School Principal, Josh Gibbs, provided the Board with a written report.

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Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, 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). Mrs. Riley distributed a document detailing property tax adjustment information as result of HB254 and HB231. Overall reduction to property tax assessments will be approximately 24%. The MTSBA annual meeting is June 4th in Helena and new leadership training is on June 5th with a Zoom option.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato noted the impact to the School District regarding property tax assessment reductions. When property tax values rise, the District does not receive any more money and on the opposite, as values decrease the District does not loose money. Local taxpayers may experience a reduction as a result of other taxing governmental entities required to set their budget based on fixed number of mills. The District is working to implement an early literacy program to serve four year old's at Glacier Gateway. This is allowing four-year-olds to attend (roughly 36 students) to get a jump start to learning skills that is needed before entering kindergarten. These students will help with the ANB count funding. Kristi Orem, current teacher at Glacier Gateway, will be transitioning to serve this program.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo noted that it is a good time for the District to add the early literacy program; taking advantage of services that are needed and the additional funding. The Facility Enhancement Project is moving forward with a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce later in the week. This is an opportunity to present the needs of the High School to local business owners. The third and last meeting for the public on 21st Century Learning will be at the High School theater. Afterwards, the District will start putting pen to paper on a design. Still in an active listening mode with the public to see which direction to head with the project. The District is getting to the end of the year with Graduation coming up.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund no additional items to report.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action/Discussed Items:

TESOL CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS
PRESENTATION

District Teachers, Paula Koch, Hilary Ypma, Jeannette Price and Zulma Fernandez presented on the TESOL Conference they recently attended. Each of the teachers work with English as second language learners and the struggles of being a student that does not understand the ongongs around them each day. The average learner takes five to seven years to comprehend a new language. Jeannette Price took a technology focus to

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the training and wanted to learn how to inform and teach these students without letting Artificial Intelligence (AI) do the work for the student. Ms. Price wants to use AI to make the learners want to learn, especially with visuals. Zulma Fernandez learned how to get involved and prepare educators to engage with the families and students. Ms. Fernandez learned the importance of educating the whole family. Hilary Ypma shared the stages of learning a second language and uses poetry to become fluent.

Curriculum Director Mark McCord described the extensive process to select a new reading curriculum program. Reading is a part of all learning and teachers are excited to get this new program in place. The current program is Journeys and was adopted in 2017-2018. The publisher is discontinuing Journeys at the end of the school year. The timing is good to change programs due to new ELA standards in Montana. Amplify CKLA is less expensive than other programs looked at, shows highest rating for effectiveness, and writing is integrated into the program.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Riley, to approve the adoption of Amplify CKLA as the District reading resource starting in 2025-2026.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the MTSBA membership for SY25-26. Trustee Cheff commented on how the updates from MTSBA on the state legislature proceedings helped him to understand what was happening. Membership gives the District access to participate in the MSGIA insurance programs for property liability and workers compensation. Board Chair Rocksund believes MTSBA is a great resource and helps the Board think through recommendations before decisions are made.

Public comment was requested and Community Member Joe O'Rourke discussed his research on the MTSBA employees' wages and the top two combined make more than \$600,000. Trustee Riley commented on how sources of revenue are 20% from district through dues and the remaining 80% is from other sources. MTSBA cannot get involved with campaigning and will work with both sides of the aisle at the state level. There is no political lobbying and Mrs. Riley feels that MTSBA serves the membership of the group and not in the political issues.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the MQEC membership for SY25-26. Trustee Pacheco did some research on her own and was able to get questions answered from Mr. Dziowgo and Mrs. Riley. There are some things that Ms. Pacheco does not agree with and she will be voting no. Trustee Mumby noted the membership is important as a result of recent trends with the State legislature passing various laws that do not follow the state constitution. MQEC can hold the state accountable from a legal perspective. Trustee Riley shared the history of MQEC including it being established by the grassroots efforts of the Columbia Falls School Board. The District lead the way to file and win a law suit alleging the legislature was not conforming to the State Constitution; to provide a quality education to every child in Montana.

Public comment was requested and Community Member Joe O'Rourke mentioned that

MOTION TO APPROVE
ADOPTION OF AMPLIFY
CKLA AS DISTRICT
READING RESOURCE
STARTING IN 25-26 SY

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE MTSBA MEMBER-
SHIP FOR SY25-26

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the membership fees are small change in comparison to the overall budget. However, there are other groups that support schools with legal processes that are free. MTSBA is contributing to MQEC, and it is not necessary to fund both associations, separately. The School Board is to support the public and the public has the responsibility to ask questions. Mr. O'Rourke feels that this membership is not a good use of funds and is requesting the Board to say no to the agreement. Community Member Rosey Applestein reiterated what Mr. O'Rourke was saying. The community as a whole are not lobbyists and not putting lawsuits out; the public wants the Board to put options out there. Community Member Ruth Clausen agrees what Mr. O'Rourke and Ms. Applestein have said. Ms. Clausen graduated from the High School sixty-one years ago and states that the District should not be filing lawsuits that opposes laws that our elected representatives have passed. This is not the best use of our tax dollars. Also, mentioned something that does not relate to the topic, but feels that throughout the past, schools are lowering academic standards.

Passed 5-1, no-Pacheco.

MOTION TO APPROVE
MQEC MEMBERSHIP
FOR SY25-26

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the Independent Contract Agreement with Leslie Hayden for Physical Therapy Services for SY 25-26.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
INDEPENDENT CON-
TRACT WITH LESLIE
HAYDEN

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the FY26 Interlocal Agreement between Evergreen School District - Crossroads Program and School District Six.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
INTERLOCAL AGREE-
MENT WITH
EVERGREEN SD

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the Facility Use Agreement with Flathead Rapids for 2026-2027.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE FACILITY USE
AGREEMENT WITH
FLATHEAD RAPIDS

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the agreement to provide school lunch meals to Deer Park Elementary District for SY 25-26.

Chair Rocksund stated this cooperation has been conducted for eleven years and has proved to benefit both Deer Park and the Columbia Falls School District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
AGREEMENT TO PRO-
VIDE SCHOOL LUNCH
MEALS TO DEER PARK
ELEMENTARY

Motion by Cheff, second by Riley, to approve Resolution #441 - Disposition of Abandoned, Obsolete, and Undesirable Property.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #441

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Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve revisions to Policy #2165 – Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Program on first and final reading.

Chair Rocksund mentioned that this policy did not go through committee due to time constraints as well as the nature of the revision intended to benefit students. The revision adds language allowing home-based program. Superintendent Dziowgo noted that adding the home-based learners will not require additional financial resources.

Public comment was requested and Teacher Kristi Orem described how times have changed and kindergarten now is training with self-regulations like tying shoes, zipping coats, etc. The early learning program will give kids the opportunity to be school ready before kindergarten. The program coordinates with Head Start to provide children with skills that are not taught at home.

Passed 5-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the following Health Insurance Committee Recommendations.

Administration Services Agreement – EBMS \$42.98

Stop Loss Contract – HCC w/TLO

Funding from reserves \$185 PEPM

Plan benefit changes: Imaging/Mammograms

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Cheff, to approve the following Transportation Committee recommendations.

Route changes including terminating Route 25

Wayfinder Software

West Glacier route

Trustee Heupel mentioned how routes are changing due to the lack of bus drivers. The District needs people to step forward and help. There is a new software to help drivers not familiar with the route to find stops, tracks students, and gives a head count. The District analyzed the home addresses of the students currently being served by the West Glacier route and it will be most efficient and cost effective to serve these students using existing SD6 routes.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve Resolution #439 – Elementary District Trustee Election by Acclamation.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Riley, to approve Resolution #440 – High School District Trustee Election by Acclamation.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #2165-EARLY
LITERACY TARGETED
INTERVENTION
PROGRAM

MOTION TO APPROVE
HEALTH INSURANCE
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #439

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #440

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MOTION TO APPROVE
THE RECOMMEN-
DATION TO CANCEL THE
JUNE 17, 2025
ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT LEVY
ELECTION

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve the recommendation to cancel the June 17, 2025, Elementary District Levy Election.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Rachel Archuleta – Junior High Volleyball Coach and Glacier Gateway .50 Kindergarten/1st Grade Health Teacher; Jennifer Hylton-Lewis – Glacier Gateway Title I Paraeducator; Samantha Jones – Junior High Volleyball Coach; Mary Wirtalla – Junior High School Library Paraeducator; RayLee LaRocque – Bus Monitor; Casey O’Neil – Glacier Gateway School Nurse; Kylie Rocker – High School Head Cheerleading Coach; Rheanna Blasius – High School Special Education Paraeducator

MOTION TO APPROVE
CUSTODIAN
TERMINATION

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the termination of David Brothwell, District Custodian, effective 4/23/2025.
Public comment was requested and David Brothwell asked the Board to oppose the motion of termination and felt he was bullied by the District on April 23, 2025.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE NON-RENEWAL
OF NON-TENURED
TEACHER

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the non-renewal of non-tenured teacher, Susan McCombs.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Cheff, second by Pacheco, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Kylie Rocker – Glacier Gateway Fourth Grade Teacher.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Tamara Sundberg – Non CDL Activity Driver; Madison Wheeler – High School Business Teacher.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
TEMPORARY SUMMER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the following Elementary temporary summer hiring recommendations: Alicia Hakes – Elementary Summer School Teacher; Alyssa Drew – Elementary Summer School Teacher.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

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Motion by Pacheco, second by Riley, to approve the following District temporary summer hiring recommendations: Angel McCarley – Summer Food Service; Shannon Freiheit – Summer Food Service; Teresa Hughes – Summer Custodian; Brooklynn Keibler – Summer Custodian; Amanda Treat – Summer Custodian; Kelly Houle – Summer Lawn Care; Joshua Preiss – Summer Painter; Kristi Hoerner – Summer Business Office; Beverly Dewell – High School Summer School Teacher.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
DISTRICT-WIDE
TEMPORARY SUMMER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the Administrative and Director hires for SY25-26.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ADMINISTRATIVE
AND DIRECTOR HIRES
FOR SY 25-26
ADDENDUM #1

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the elementary non-tenure teacher hires for SY25-26.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

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

Motion by Huepel, second by Riley, to approve the high school non-tenure teacher hires for SY25-26.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HIGH SCHOOL NON-
TENURE TEACHER
HIRES FOR SY 25-26
ADDENDUM #3

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the revised District Clerk job description.
MTSBA provided a sample and the District revised to align to the operating structure of Columbia Falls Business Office and it meets the requirements of the STARS Act.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
DISTRICT CLERK JOB
DESCRIPTION

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the substitute hires.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE HIRES

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING:

Negotiations Committee Meeting (Certified) – May 19, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
Negotiations Committee Meeting (Classified) – May 28, 2025 – 4:45 P.M.
Long Range Planning Committee – May 21, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.
District Retirement Party – June 2, 2025 – 5:00 P.M. – Board Room
Graduation – June 7, 2025 – 11:00 A.M. – Board Members meet at High School Office at 10:30 A.M.

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MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk

LName	FName	Building
Anello	Penni	GG
Cooper	John	JH
Gibbs	Josh	HS
Hawes	Allison	RU
McCord	Ralph Mark	Admin
Miller	Theodore	JH
Swank	Michelle	Admin

Last Name	First Name	Check Location	Tenure Date
ANDREWS	DEREK	JUNIOR HIGH	8/18/2022
BROCKIE	KERSTIN	JUNIOR HIGH	8/18/2022
FISHER	CRYSTAL	RUDER	8/18/2022
FRISSELL	PEREGRINE	JUNIOR HIGH	8/18/2022
GREEN	ELLIE	JUNIOR HIGH	8/18/2022
GREENBERG	JENNIFER	RUDER	8/18/2022
HON	DAVID	JUNIOR HIGH	8/18/2022
ROBERTS	MACKENZIE	RUDER	8/18/2022
SUNDBERG	CRYSTAL	RUDER	8/18/2022
CAUDILL	AMY	RUDER	8/24/2023
COGLAN	CAITLIN	JUNIOR HIGH	8/24/2023
DOUGLAS	AMANDA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/24/2023
DZIWGO	AMIE	RUDER	8/24/2023
KAVANAGH	SAMUEL	JUNIOR HIGH	8/24/2023
LENZNER	LAUREN	RUDER	8/24/2023
MORALES	ALYSSA	RUDER	8/24/2023
SHANKS	LEA	JUNIOR HIGH	8/24/2023
SHELDON	SARAH	RUDER	8/24/2023
VUKONICH	BAILEY	RUDER	8/24/2023
SZALAY	ELLEN	RUDER	8/21/2024
BRIGGS	SARAH	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/26/2024
DREW	ALYSSA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/26/2024
GARCIA	MAYA	RUDER	8/26/2024
GREGORASH	STEPHANIE	RUDER	8/26/2024
HAGREEN	EMILY	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/26/2024
PICKARD	ANNA	GLACIER GATEWAY	8/26/2024
ROSENBAUM	SARAH	RUDER	8/26/2024

Last Name	First Name	Check Location	Tenure Date
BELL	JAIME	HIGH SCHOOL	8/18/2022
FINBERG-ROBERTS	CYDNEY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/18/2022
VICTOR	JESSICA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/24/2023
VICTOR	MANOLO	HIGH SCHOOL	8/24/2023
WEBER	CARLY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/24/2023
CHRISTIAENS	RORY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/21/2024
MACK	CHERIE	HIGH SCHOOL	8/21/2024
COPELAND	CASEY	HIGH SCHOOL	8/26/2024
HENDRICKS	ANDRIA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/26/2024
HOLDERBAUM	HANNAH	HIGH SCHOOL	8/26/2024
MOULTRAY	JESSICA	HIGH SCHOOL	8/26/2024