

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
JULY 14, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, July 14, 2025, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund.....Board Chair Via Google Meets  
Barbara Riley .....Vice Chair  
Megan Upton .....Trustee  
Keri Hill.....Trustee  
Amanda Pacheco.....Trustee  
Casey Huepel .....Trustee  
Cory Dziowgo..... Superintendent of Schools  
Dustin Zuffelato .....Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Justin Cheff..... Trustee  
Heather Mumby..... Trustee

Call to order at 6:00 P.M. by Vice Chair Riley.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Upton, second by Heupel, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Passed 6-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Hill, second by Upton, to approve the consent agenda.  
Approval of June 2025 Board Meeting Minutes  
Approval of June Bills  
Approve of Investment Reports  
Activity Account Transfer  
Out of District Approvals  
26-158  
26-159  
26-178  
Passed 6-0.

APPROVE CONSENT  
AGENDA

Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

Approximately one (1) person participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.  
Approximately four (4) people attended the meeting in person.

Community Member, Carla Fisher living at 303 3rd Ave East, addressed the Board with her concerns on the extra hour early outs the first Wednesday of each month commencing school year 2025/26. Ms. Fisher feels that not enough details were conveyed to notify parents of the change. Furthermore the District did not provide the ability for parents

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to give feedback on how it would affect families. Finally, the District did not provide rationale or a clear reason as to why this move would be beneficial for the students in the district. This change is taking an hour of instructional time away from students. The second subject that Ms. Fisher spoke about was a rumor that some of the funds the District is receiving from the STARS Act are not going to the teachers to raise wages. Her understanding that the purpose of the act was to increase wages, particularly for new teachers. She understands that it is expensive to live in the area making it difficult to recruit good teachers. The STARS Act was presented to the public as funds that would go to teachers to attract and retain them.

REPORTS:

Written Reports:

Board Standing Committees minutes are posted on the District Website for review.

Verbal Reports:

Mrs. Riley shared that Montana School Board Association officer team and staff shared communications with the state's School Funding Interim Committee on behalf of Montana school boards across the state. This communication included what is believed should be the focus of the committee to shorten the gap analysis review between the funding formula for districts and what the state is actually providing. The committee meetings are open to the public through Zoom. The next project for MTSBA will be the COSSBA federal advocacy work to be presented in Washington D.C. MTSIA sent a letter to board members communicating the rebranding to Bridged Health Alliance (BHA). Request For Proposals have been sent out to get the third-party administrator in place, and Bridged Health Alliance addressed the inaccuracies made by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana regarding the new insurance plan. BHA will be transparent with all information and will be meeting again on July 23.

Mr. Zuffelato shared that the fiscal year ended with the July payroll for June hours. Numbers are coming in showing where all the budgets landed in the 2024-2025 school year. The Board will be provided a full summary during the August meeting, showing what was brought in and spent during the year. One focal to watch for regarding the upcoming FY2026 budget is the tuition numbers. The District will be required to budget for payments to other Districts for students residing in Columbia Falls but electing to attend other Districts. The food service program had a net operating income that was lower than anticipated, even though the student participation numbers were up. The Community Eligibility Program has different factors on meal reimbursement and there will need to be a financial analysis conducted on each school.

Superintendent Dziowgo shared that the Facility Enhancement Project is still in the "listening phase". Meetings on Thursdays have been for staff to share ideas for their specific areas of study. There have not been any cost figures discussed yet since the District is still in the design stage. An upcoming meeting with Logan Health will share their facility needs regarding the school based health clinic. Letters have been sent out to the auto

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dealers in the valley to garner support for automotive repair courses, programs, and facilities. Superintendent evaluation is in process of getting started. Board Chair Rocksund shared the new plan of the Superintendent's evaluation. The Board will consider a rotation of reviewing each section of the evaluation every two months, with a full recap once a year in January. This is a work in progress and there may be need for more frequent meetings as the process gets started.

Action/Discussed Items:

Whitney Pratt and Mara Schradle from Land to Hand shared updates on the Wildcat Garden located next to the Junior High. Some data was shared, for example 81% of students that visited the garden had tried a food they never had before. There were 100 lessons done in the garden, 60 classrooms, and approximately 1,200 students from the District. The Backpack Program services 300 students, with approximately 50 students using the pantry at the High School. The program is now housed in the "Old Glacier Gateway" building which should be easier to help families in need from Columbia Falls.

The Board discussed the addition of a Student Advisory Council standing committee, which is the next phase of the program Students-on-Board. Superintendent Dziowgo has put together a process/procedure to formalize the expectations of students involved, as well as Board Members. It has been decided that the Board Members will participate on a rotation so that all have the opportunity to meet with students in lieu of one standing committee with only a portion of the Board.

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve the Simbli Policy Services contract with MTSBA.

There will be a setup fee to upload all the District's policies and then an annual maintenance fee for approximately \$1,800 per year, with the potential of increases over the five year contract that were not specified.

Public comment was requested and Community Member Joe O'Rourke asked if the program is a rewrite of the policies? The answer is that nothing is being changed, but the policies will be put into a different format for easier reviews and searches. If the program sees a policy that may need some changes, then the Policy Committee would review the recommendations to determine if the policy would indeed need changing based on the District's needs. Mr. O'Rourke also added his concerns with the "open ended" increase that could be added over the five-year contract. Board Chair Rocksund would like to see a conversation with Debra Silk at MTSBA regarding historical data on annual increases before signing the contract.

No action at this time and Board Chair Rocksund tabled the motion until the contract terms can be defined.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the School District No. 6 Strategic Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

ACTION /  
DISCUSSION ITEMS

LAND TO HAND -  
WILDCAT GARDEN  
UPDATE

STUDENT ADVISORY  
COUNCIL STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
DISCUSSION

REVIEW OF SIMBLI  
SERVICES CONTRACT

NO ACTION TAKEN  
AT THIS TIME

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE SD#6 STRATEGIC  
PLAN FOR SY 25-26

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MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE BUS ROUTE  
CHANGES FOR SY  
25-26

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the bus route changes for Rt. #14 and Rt. #18 effective School Year 2025-2026.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE CFCEA CBA FOR  
FY 2026

Motion by Rocksund, second by Heupel, to approve the CFCEA Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year 2026.  
Discussion was had on how the Board Negotiations Committee and the Classified Union worked well together to come up with a CBA that will benefit both parties. Hiring is on the rise and positions are starting to get filled.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE POLICY STATE-  
MENT FOR FY 2026

Motion by Pacheco, second by Rocksund, to approve the Policy Statement for Fiscal Year 2026.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE CANYON ELEM.  
SCHOOL FACILITY  
USE AGREEMENTS  
FOR FY 2026

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the Canyon Elementary Facility Use Agreements for School Year 2026 with All Saints Episcopal Church and the State of Montana – Probation and Parole Department.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE COLLEGE AND  
CAREER PATHWAY  
CONTRACT AS  
PRESENTED

Motion by Rocksund, second by Upton, to approve the College and Career Pathway contract as presented.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
SERVICE AGREEMENT  
WITH INTERQUEST  
DETECTION CANINES  
FOR SY 25-26

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve the service agreement renewal with Interquest Detection Canines for School Year 2025-2026.  
There was discussion on if Interquest and their dogs were too "routine" and additional conversations were had with the Flathead County Sheriff's office as a backup.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
INDEPENDENT  
CONTRACT WITH  
BRANDI BOHN -  
SPEECH LANG/PATH

Motion by Upton, second by Heupel, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with Brandi Bohn for Speech/Language Pathology services for August 2025 to July 2026.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
MHSA MEMBERSHIP  
FOR SY 25-26

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the MHSA membership for School Year 2025-2026.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.

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Passed 6-0.

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: David Hon – Ruder Special Education Teacher; Elisha Jacobs – Glacier Gateway Kindergarten Paraeducator; Tessa Peters – Junior High Special Education Paraeducator; Peregrine Frissell – Junior High Social Studies Teacher, Junior High Boys' and Girls' Basketball Coach, and High School Traffic Education Instructor; Manolo Victor – High School Prom and Graduation Stipend

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: McKenna Rensel – Ruder Elementary Music Teacher; David Hon – Ruder Elementary Special Education Paraeducator; Shelby Stephens – Ruder Elementary Special Education Paraeducator; Angela Tamburelli – Glacier Gateway School Nurse.  
Passed 5-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the following High School District hiring recommendations: Jarrod Joy – Bus Monitor; Natalie Corcoran – District Cook/Baker; Chris Harvey – Full-time Bus Driver/Bus Washer; Rich Pedersen – Full-time Bus Driver/Bus Washer; Kendra Courtney – High School Head Cheer Coach; Abigail Holderbaum – High School Art Teacher Long Term Substitute; Heidi Nelson – High School Freshman Girls' Basketball Coach; Simeon Marton – High School Assistant Football Coach  
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the following temporary summer hiring recommendations: Tabitha Roth – Summer Food Services; Courtney Pham – Summer Food Services; Dan Hall – Summer Bus Detailer; Austin Barth – Summer Weight Room Supervisor; Bryan McGrath – Summer Weight Room Supervisor; Madison Wheeler – Summer Weight Room Supervisor  
Passed 6-0.

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Policy Committee Meeting – July 22, 2025 – 5:00 P.M. – Admin Conference Room

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Riley adjourned the meeting at 7:34 P.M.

  
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Board Chair

  
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Business Manager/Clerk

PERSONNEL:

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ELEMENTARY DIS-  
TRICT HIRES

MOTION TO APPROVE  
HS AND DISTRICT-  
WIDE HIRES

MOTION TO APPROVE  
TEMPORARY SUMMER  
HIRES

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING

MEETING  
ADJOURNED