

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
AUGUST 11, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, August 11, 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  
Justin Cheff..... Trustee Via Google Meets  
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. by Vice Chair Riley.

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the agenda with a correction to page 2, Katie Robinson has been hired as a Special Education Teacher, not a paraeducator.  
Passed 7-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
Approve July bills.  
Approve the investment report.  
Out-of-District Approval – SY25-26  
26-180  
26-181  
Passed 7-0.

Public Participation:

Approximately three (3) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.  
Approximately two (2) people attended the meeting in person.

Written Reports:

Board Standing Committees' reports are located on the District's Website.

Verbal Reports:

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE CONSENT  
AGENDA

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

REPORTS:

REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2025  
PAGE 2

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 shared that the MTSBA board has not met since July. Bridged Health Allegiance has hired a third party administrator and now is interviewing two pharmacy benefit management companies. One will be hired in the coming week. The details of the plan have been given to the state insurance commissioner for approval.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report that was emailed to the trustees earlier today. Mr. Zuffelato has received the tax impact statement and some of the financial information will be presented on Thursday. The Special Meeting on August 25 will be for the resolution to call the election on November 4th. Belfor has sent the final invoice for the flood restoration project. There is still work to be done on the flooring, lockers, and blinds; these should be ready to go by the start of school. The elevator may not be finished in time for the start of school on September 2, 2025. The Business Office has begun compiling information for the 2025 financial audit to be conducted by Nexus CPA Group. The new electronic time management program has been implemented and was used for the August payroll.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo presented a short video to illustrate his idea for the District to provide free fitness courts within the communities. The project could be sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana. Student/Parent Handbooks are available online, trying to save paper instead of printing. The High School facility enhancement meeting on Thursday, August 14th, will start to look at the financial aspects of the project. The superintendent evaluation is still open online. The start of the school year is September 2 with students coming to the buildings. There will not be a faculty breakfast this year.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing additional to add.

ACTION /  
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action/Discussed Items:

MOTION TO APPROVE  
SY 25-26 BELL SCHEDULES

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the bell schedules for School Year 2025-2026.

Discussion was had by Trustees. Chair Rocksund is not in support of the change at this time. The first Wednesday of each month will be shortened by an hour more than any other Wednesday on the calendar. As a member of the Professional Development Committee Chair Rocksund feels there are other ways to get staff together; possibly to have a half day on a Friday so that families could do something special. Vice Chair Riley is concerned that the one day of month change will make it hard for families to juggle and could create logistical problems for parents. Mrs. Riley would like to see something else done for the next school year so that the calendar stays consistent for families. Superintendent Dziowgo is looking at what paraeducators could do for the students that cannot

REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2025  
PAGE 3

be picked up early enough, maybe organize an after-school program for those Wednesdays. Mr. Dziowgo also feels that it is too close to the start of the school year to make changes. Mark McCord, Curriculum Director, shared that the District needs a strong connection with the standards set on teachers. Historically the District had substitutes cover teachers for half or full day to get an effective professional development opportunity. The questions of "how do we do the work without subs?" has come up. Public comment was requested and Junior High Teacher Leslie DiMaio voiced her opinion on how much teachers are required to do outside of the classroom and that they feel this extra time is a gift from the District. Some of the most valuable time as a teacher is the meetings with coworkers and learning from each other. Ms. Dimaio believes this schedule change is a move in the right direction. Community Member Katie Reed shared via Google Meets that as a parent she recognizes the need for Professional Development, but not to take away the instructional time from the students.  
Passed 5-2, no – Heupel and Rocksund.

Motion by Rocksund second by Upton, to approve all policies together under section B on the first and final reading.

- #1111 – School Board Elections
  - #2100 – School Year Calendar and Day
  - #2132 – Student and Family Privacy Rights
  - #2165 – Early Targeted Intervention Program
  - #2450 – Recognition of Native American Cultural Heritage
  - #3110 – Entrance, Placement and Transfer
  - #3210 – Equal Educational Opportunity
  - #3235 – Video Surveillance
  - #3310 – Student Discipline
  - #4520 – Cooperative Programs with Other Districts and Public Agencies
  - #5120 – Hiring Process and Criteria
  - #5250 – Non-Renewal of Employment/Dismissal from Employment
  - #5321 – Leaves of Absence
  - #8450 – Automated External Defibrillators (AED)
- Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve policy #2150 (New) Suicide Awareness and Prevention on the first of three readings.

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

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve policy #2335 (2135 Kaleva) Human Sexuality Instruction and Identity Instruction on the first of three readings.

Discussion was started with Trustee Pacheco asking what was meant by "instruction has the goal or purpose of studying, exploring, or informing, students about any of the following human sexuality topics"? Vice Chair Riley mentioned the policy is government standards verbiage and the topics are those that parents have the right to opt in or out of

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RECOMMENDED  
POLICY CHANGES  
ON FIRST AND FINAL  
READING

MOTION TO APPROVE  
NEW POLICY #2150 ON  
FIRST OF 3 READINGS

MOTION TO APPROVE  
NEW POLICY #2335 ON  
FIRST OF 3 READINGS

REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2025  
PAGE 4

the instructions. Chair Rocksund added that the definitions were added for more clarification to cover a broader field.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
CHANGES TO POLICY  
3141 ON FIRST OF 3  
READINGS

Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve policy #3141 -- Out-of-District Student Enrollment on the first of three readings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
NEW POLICY #3655 ON  
FIRST OF 3 READINGS

Motion by Heupel, second by Rucksund, to approve policy #3655 (New) Student Protection on the first of three readings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
NEW POLICY #8560 ON  
FIRST OF 3 READINGS

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve policy #8560 (New) Display of Flags and Banners on District Property on the first of three readings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
CHANGES TO POLICY  
#5122 ON FIRST OF 3  
READINGS

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve policy #5122 -- Criminal Background Investigations on the first of three readings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
NEW POLICY #8111 ON  
FIRST OF 3 READINGS

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve policy #8111 (New) Transportation of Students with Disabilities on the first of three readings.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
TO BRING THE TOPIC  
OF SIMBLI POLICY SER-  
VICES OFF THE TABLE

Motion by Rocksund, second by Heupel, to bring the topic of the Simbli Policy Services off the table. This is a carry-over from last month's meeting.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE SIMBLI POLICY  
SERVICES CONTRACT

Motion by Rocksund, second by Upton, to approve the Simbli Policy Services contract with MTSBA.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE HOUSING ASSIST-  
ANCE AND STIPEND  
PAYMENT AGREEMENT  
WITH ASHLEY MYETT

Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve the Housing Assistance and Stipend Payment Agreement with Ashley Myett.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2025  
PAGE 5

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the request of Purpose Driven to continue running the Youth Recreation Program with School District Six students. Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
PURPOSE DRIVEN  
CONTRACT TO RUN  
THE YOUTH REC  
PROGRAM

Motion by Rocksund, second by Heupel, to approve the completion of the MTSBA electronic ballot. Chair Rocksund will complete the electronic ballot and submit on behalf of the Board. Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
COMPLETION OF THE  
MTSBA ELECTION  
BALLOT BY CHAIR  
ROCKSUND

Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve the consideration of Resolution 443 – Apportionment of Elementary District Ending Fund Balances as of 6/30/2025. Mr. Zuffelato added information regarding the balances of SY 2024-2025 budget. There are two options for consideration for remaining fund balances; one is to add the funds to the reserve balance, or the other option is to reappropriate the balance, which will reduce the levies for the next year. Montana state law sets the reserve maximum levels. The recommendation would be for the general fund to reserve the amount because it would not be over the 10% maximum. As the District's General Fund budget authority continues to increase, the reserve balance will trend downward. The transportation fund is over the 20% maximum and so some of those funds will be reappropriated to relieve those taxes. The entire fund balance in the tuition fund will be reappropriated. Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION #443

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the Consideration of Resolution 444 – Apportionment of High School District Ending Fund Balances as of 6/30/2025. Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION #444

Mr. Zuffelato presented the proposed budget for the upcoming school year (SY25-26) through a slide presentation. Added are the financial impacts of the latest state legislative session had on school districts. Goals set by the District's strategic plan were added to this year's budget. Facilities are one of the main objectives for students and received additional funds for the school major maintenance account. Budget authority for the general fund increased quite a bit, primarily from the Student and Teacher Advancement for Results and Success (STARS) Act. The transportation department is continuing to evolve and create innovative ways to recruit and maintain staff. There is a proposal to increase the budget funds to raise wages to a more competitive rate, as well as hire some full-time bus drivers for more scheduling flexibility. The District successfully obtained funding from the Advanced Opportunities Program, which will be budgeted in the flexibility funds. The District will receive funds from other Districts for students electing to attend Columbia Falls School District but reside within another District. These funds were budgeted in the General Fund to reduce the overbase tax levy. However, the District will need to increase

SY 25-26 BUDGET  
PRESENTATION

REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2025  
PAGE 6

the levy in the Tuition Fund for students residing in Cfalls but electing to attend other Districts. The net tuition exchange for the Elementary District is an expense of approximately \$119,000, sending more money to Deer Park, West Glacier and Whitefish then we are bringing in from those districts. The High School District has more students coming to us then other districts, except for Whitefish. Resulting in a bit of reduction to the levy in the General Fund.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE ADOPTION OF THE  
FY 2026 ELEMENTARY  
DISTRICT BUDGET

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the adoption of the FY 2026 Elementary District Budget.

Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
THE ADOPTION OF THE  
FY 2026 HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT BUDGET

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the adoption of the FY 2026 High School Budget.

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

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Stephanie Collis – Special Education Paraeducator; Glenn Morden – Junior High Boys' Basketball Coach; Dan Ellman – Bus Driver; Keegan Pendergast – High School Assistant Football Coach; Leslie Pendergast – High School .5 Health Enhancement Teacher.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
ELEMENTARY  
DISTRICT HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Camilla Emond – Ruder Elementary Kindergarten Paraeducator; Jenna Joy – Ruder Elementary Special Education Paraeducator; Katie Robinson – Ruder Elementary Special Education Paraeducator; Kevin Redfield – Junior High Grade 6 Teacher; Zachary Forman – Junior High School Special Education Teacher.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
HS AND DISTRICT-  
WIDE HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve the following High School/District-wide Hiring Recommendations: Juliane Jouanicot – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater, and Mentor Hires: Kent Blair, Janae Christensen, Trisha Quiram, Josie Brown, Laura Emerson, Alexandra George, Jodi Jensen, Andrew Lilienthal, Rebecca Bates, Julian Whitman, Jasna Stafford, Emily Hackethorn.

Passed 7-0.

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING:

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Negotiations Committee Meeting – Certified Union – August 11, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

Negotiations Committee Meeting – Certified Union – August 18, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

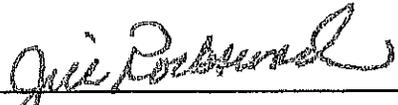
Negotiations Committee Meeting – Certified Union – August 25, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.

Special Board Meeting – High School Facility Improvement Project – Election Resolution – August 25, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

Long-Range Committee – September 8 – 5:00 P.M. – Before the regular board meeting.

REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2025  
PAGE 7

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Riley adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Business Manager/Clerk

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

08/11/2025 10:00 AM

08/11/2025 10:00 AM

08/11/2025 10:00 AM