

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
NOVEMBER 24, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 24, 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
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Amanda Pacheco..... Trustee
Casey Huepel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/ Clerk

ABSENT:

Justin Cheff..... Trustee

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

CALL TO ORDER

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to reflect on the High School Facility Improvement project based on the results of the November 4, 2025 election results. The November 2025 Columbia Falls High School facility bond election failed, with a majority of voters rejecting the \$84.8 million request for high school renovations and expansion. Moving forward, the district will focus on analyzing the reasons for the failure and re-engaging with the community to develop a new plan for addressing the high school's needs for safety, capacity, and modern programming.

Mark McCord led a process to allow everyone's voice to be heard in an efficient and effective manner. Each person who attended the meeting provided written thoughts to some prepared questions concerning the scope of the project, ways to strengthen trust and ensure accountability, and timing of conducting another election. The Board discussed concerns or drawbacks of conducting an election at the next regular school election on May 5, 2026. The election would be required to be called prior to December 11, 2025. The Board discussed the recent legislative changes to the property tax structure. The timing of the November election did not provide an opportunity for taxpayers to understand the impact of these changes on their tax bills as the bills were not sent until October 31, 2025. The Board discussed the perception (to the community) if the election was conducted again in May, including feeling insulted or levy fatigue. More time may be necessary to explain the amount and the scope. The Board discussed community engagement and communication strategies. The Board discussed the project scope including what could be changed.

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MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

Regular Board Meeting – December 8, 2025. It would be necessary to approve a resolution for an election if the Board wanted to conduct the HS Facility Bond Election on May 5, 2026. Next steps included discussing what changes could be made to the scope and related amount, devising effective communication strategies, and which portions of the community to devote resources and target to garner support.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:44 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk