

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
DECEMBER 8, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, December 8, 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
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Amanda Pacheco Trustee
Casey Heupel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Megan Upton Trustee
Justin Cheff Trustee

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

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to revise the agenda removing the cancellation of payroll warrants 47602 and 47728.

MOTION TO REVISE
AGENDA

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Hill, to approve the remaining agenda items.

MOTION TO APPROVE
REVISED AGENDA

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the consent agenda.

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of November Bills
- Approval of Investment Reports
- Out-of-District Approval – SY 25-26
 - o 26-201
 - o 26-204

Passed 6-0

Public Participation:

Approximately five (5) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.
Approximately ten (10) people participated in person.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Junior Class President Emma Wilcox and Vice President Onnikka Lawrence shared what has been happening and will be coming up for the High School. The Cats versus Griz Food Drive is complete and both boxes were filled with food for the local pantry. Many holiday celebrations are coming up with the assembly on December 19th, spirit week the last week in December containing dress up days, door decorating event, and the Freshman Class will be handing out hot coco the last day of school. Band and choir concerts are coming up. Speech and Debate

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will host a tournament in January and are looking for volunteer judges. The team has won all tournaments so far. The basketball teams have tip off tournaments in Frenchtown and Browning the next two weekends. The swim team will compete in Polson, and the wrestling team has been doing well. The National Honor Society has been working with businesses to provide Christmas presents for students in need serving two hundred-sixty students, all classes are sponsoring a head start student.

REPORTS:

Written Reports:

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

The Elementary School Principals (Penni Anello, Allison Hawes, and Ted Miller) provided the Board with written reports.

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

Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, provided the Board with a written report.

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 also shared an update for the Bridged Health Alliance stating that approximately forty school districts are voting for approval into the insurance program and more information will be coming in January. To date, three hundred districts could save a total of up to fifteen million dollars for insurance coverage in the first year.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato also shared that the elections for trustees and levies are coming up with February deadlines. Three trustees are up for reelection and applications are due February 9, 2026. The district's insurance claims in the current year are running a bit high and some will be pushed off to the stop loss insurer. The term of the three-year agreement with the Columbia Falls High School Baseball Association (CFSBA) to operate and fund the High School baseball teams expired at the end of the 2025 season. The District has discovered that the CFHSBA is no longer functioning. Based on discussion with the Athletic Director and Coaches, there appears to be an ability to fund the program in FY26 with banners and advertisement arrangements with businesses. For the long-term the Trustees will be seeing funding requests to consider.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo shared that the interview for the Charter School has been completed. The public comment section is still open and there are some businesses within the community that will be submitting comments on how they can help the program. It is a competitive application process in which seven districts applied and only three will likely be approved. Mr. Dziowgo shared that sixteen students have applied to join the council with the Board, two applicants are from the Junior High School. From the High School there were two seniors, three juniors, three sophomores and four freshmen. The Board is planning to meet in January.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund shared that a local state representative, Dave Fern, visited the District, gathering and sharing information and touring each building. Mrs. Rocksund was able to attend the professional develop Montana Digital Academy online and saw how AI helps learners. Mrs. Rocksund would like to consider a district policy regarding use of AI.

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Action/Discussion Items:

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo shared a presentation on enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. Homeschool enrollment is increasing in the early primary grades, then students are transitioning to the District for upper grades.

Business Manager/District Clerk Dustin Zuffelato shared budget projections for Fiscal Year 2027. The fall enrollment count showed that enrollment is declining, which impacts budget authority. The District will likely use the three-year average for enrollment for funding, which will generate more than just using the current year's numbers. The District is down twenty-nine students in the Elementary District and ten students in the High School District. The three percent funding increase from the state will actually be a 1.45% increase for Elementary and 1.06% for High School due to the decrease to enrollment. Mr. Zuffelato shared the budget projections for next fiscal year without a levy vote and how much voted levy authority the District may have. Information was also shared on House Bill 252 in which expands the budget authority to address the high cost of housing and allowable expenditures.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve cancelation of outstanding warrants:

- Warrant 390099 – 7/12/2023
- Warrant 392764 – 8/7/2024

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the Flathead County Elections Agreement to conduct the 2026 school district elections.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve resolution 448 – Call for an Elementary District election by mail ballot, revising by taking out the part about Lake County.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve Resolution 449 – Calling for a High School District election by mail ballot, removing Lake County.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Samantha Jones – Junior High School Track Coach; Michelle Woodard – High School Assistant Softball Coach

Motion by Pacheco, second by Riley, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Terri Eckel – Ruder Family Advocate; Angela Tamburelli – Glacier Gateway Family Advocate (split stipend); Alicia Hakes – Glacier Gateway Family Advocate (split stipend); Alon Golan – Junior High Part-time Custodian

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

FY 27 BUDGET
PROJECTIONS
PRESENTATION - D.
ZUFFELATO

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUTSTANDING
WARRANTS

MOTION TO APPROVE
FLATHEAD COUNTY
ELECTIONS
AGREEMENT

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 448

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 449

PERSONNEL:

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

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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: Scarlet Kaplan – High School Assistant Swim Coach; Tatem Schweikert – High School Assistant Tennis Coach; Crystal Fisher – Non-CDL Activity Driver; Valerie Parsons – Non-CDL Activity Driver; Daniel Boutwell – Non-CDL Activity Driver; Tammy Graham – Hot Lunch Building Site Lead
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

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

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the following out-of-state travel request:
- Alia Hanson – Democracy in Dialogue Virtual Exchange Facilitator – January 11-16, 2026 – Washington D.C. – Travel expenses paid by DIDVE
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING;

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Scheduled Finance Committee Meeting – December 22, 2025 – 3:00 P.M. – Administrative Conference Room
- Transportation Committee Meeting will wait until January 2026.
- Superintendent Evaluation – January 26, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

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