

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
JANUARY 12, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, January 12, 2026, 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
Justin Cheff Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee
Amanda Pacheco..... Trustee
Casey Heupel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo..... Superintendent of Schools

ABSENT:

Dustin Zuffelato..... Business Manager/District Clerk

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

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve the agenda as presented.
Passed 8-0.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Upton, second by Cheff, to approve the consent agenda.

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

- Approval of December Bills
- Approval of Investment Reports
- Out-of-District Approval – SY 25-26
 - o 26-202

Passed 8-0

Public Participation:

Approximately nine (9) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.
Approximately twelve (12) people participated in person.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

Sophomore Class President, Chloe Kinsella, and Vice President, Grace Kinsella, shared the happenings at the High School. Before the winter break there were many holiday celebrations. The student council is in the planning stages for Bleed Blue Week. Athletic teams have been busy with competitions and the Speech and Debate team won their last tournament over Whitefish. Finals are here next week and the Senior Reality Fair is February 3rd.

Written Reports:

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.

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

Special Education Director, Michelle Swank, provided the Board with a written report.

District Business Manager/Clerk 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). There is a board meeting at the end of January. Bridged Health Insurance will have a board meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. There are no final numbers as of yet on the number of school districts joining or the number of lives enrolling.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo thanked the High School for moving the flag pole and marquee. The work was donated by Swank Industries. Mr. Dziowgo shared an enrollment report from the 2018-2019 school year and the predictions for enrollment in the 2025-2026 school year. The prediction was very close at a plus/minus three to four percent. The Board of Public Education work session is coming up on Thursday and Friday, January 15 and 16 to consider the Charter School applications. The report currently has the District ranked third. Principals at the High School and Junior High will chat with students interested in the Student Advisory Council and will schedule a meeting around the needs of the students. The plan is to meet three to four times per school year.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund had nothing to add at this time.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action/Discussion Items:

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to approve the Columbia Falls School District #6 Advanced Opportunities Grant Procedure Outline.

Last spring the District was approved for the grant and is able to reserve funds year after year. The idea is to remove expenditures to help parents. Ideas for the money must meet the strategic plan adopted by the School District.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO DENY
OUT-OF-DISTRICT
APPLICATION
FOR STUDENT 26-205

Motion by Hill, second by Mumby, to deny the out-of-district application for student 26-205. No comments were requested without going into an executive session for the privacy of the child.

Passed 8-0

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Ellie Green – Junior High Track Coach; Megan Blackman – High School/Ruder Special Education Paraeducator; Bryan McGrath – High School Track Coach

Motion by Pacheco, second by Cheff, to approve the following Elementary District hiring

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recommendations: Sarah Day – Ruder Kindergarten Paraeducator; Katie Robinson – Junior High Girls’ Basketball Coach

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

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Upton, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District-wide Hiring Recommendations: Zulay Gonzalez – Custodian; Jessie Schaeffer – Non CDL Activity Bus Driver; Ellen Rogers – Food Service Helper/Floater; Melissa Davis – High School Assistant Softball Coach

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the following out-of-state travel requests paid for by the Professional Development Fund:

- Jenny Lovering – Northwest Council for Computer Education Annual Conference, February 25-27, Seattle WA
- Alia Hanson – Northwest Council for Computer Education Annual Conference, February 25-27, Seattle WA
- Jeanette Price – French for All Institute, June 22-26, Austin TX
- Jenny Martin – Spanish Lessons in Columbia, Summer 2026.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
OUT-OF-STATE
TRAVEL
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board acknowledged the following in-state travel requests paid by the Professional Development Fund, but do not need Board approval:

- Alicia Hakes – Montana Council of Exceptional Children, April 8-9, Bozeman MT
- Callie Moore – Montana Council of Exceptional Children, April 8-9, Bozeman MT
- Alex George – Montana Council of Exceptional Children, April 8-9, Bozeman MT
- Amy Caudill – Montana Council of Exceptional Children, April 8-9, Bozeman MT
- Derek Andrews – Family and Consumer Science State Conference, April 15-17, Dillon, MT

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Bond Steering Committee – Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 11:00 A.M. – Admin Conference Room
- Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 4:00 P.M. – Admin Conference Room
- Work Session – Superintendent Evaluation – Monday, January 26, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
- Student Advisory Council – Principals will pick a date that works for the students.

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING:

Executive Session:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board considered a uniform complaint regarding Policy 1700.

As the individual’s right to privacy outweighs the public’s right to know, Chair Rocksund call the meeting into Executive Session at 6:16 P.M.

Open Meeting resumed at 7:22 P.M.

The Board considered the Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

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MOTION TO APPROVE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
MINUTES

Motion by Cheff, second by Pacheco, to approve the executive session meeting minutes.

Passed 8-0

MOTION TO DENY
THE APPEAL OF THE
UNIFORM COMPLAINT
DECISION

Motion by Mumby, second by Upton, to deny the appeal of the uniform complaint decision.

Passed 8-0

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:23 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk