

**AGENDA**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Columbia Falls School District Six**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Monday, April 13, 2026**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**School District Six Board Room**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge to the Flag**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Consent Agenda.**
  1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Pgs. 1-13
  2. Approval of March Bills
  3. Approval of Investment Reports
  4. Budget Transfer Request – Pg. 14
  5. Out of District
    - 26-211
5. **Public Participation**
  1. Student Body Representative
6. **Reports**
  1. Written
    - Board Standing Committees – See website for reports
    - Penni Anello – Glacier Gateway – Pg. 15
    - Allison Hawes – Ruder – Pg. 16
    - Ted Miller – Junior High – Pg. 17
    - Josh Gibbs – High School – Pg. 18
    - Mark McCord - Curriculum Director – Pg. 19
  2. Verbal
    - MTSBA Update – Barb Riley
    - Clerk / Business Manager – Dustin Zuffelato – Pgs. 20-21
    - Superintendent – Cory Dziowgo
    - Board Chair – Jill Rocksund
7. **Action/Discussion Items:**
  - a) Early learning data presentation – Kristy Orem and Penni Anello.
  - b) UK / Ireland trip presentation – Willow Moran
  - c) Consideration of proposed class trip to Greece – spring of 2028. – Pg. 22
  - d) Consideration of the FY 2025 Audit Report. – Pgs. 23-26
  - e) Update on the High School Facility Bond Project.
  - f) Cancellation of the March 12, 2026 school day due to inclement weather.
8. **Personnel**
  - a. **The superintendent has accepted the following resignations:**

Terri Eckel	Family Advocate – Ruder Elementary – effective March 8, 2026
Stephen Blados	Special Education Paraeducator – Junior High – effective April 10, 2026
Joseph Welch	Shop Teacher – Junior High – effective end of SY 25-26

**Personnel (continued)**

Paula Koch	ESL Campus Coordinator – Junior High – effective end of SY 25-26
Trina Crowe	MTSS District Coordinator – District – effective end of SY 25-26
Alon Golan	Part-time Custodian – District – effective March 6, 2026
Michael Clinkenbeard	Bus Aide – District – effective March 30, 2026
Kristine Zika	Health Aide – District – effective May 22, 2026
Jasna Stafford	Speech-Language Pathologist – District – end of SY 25-26
Chris Finberg	Head Boys Basketball Coach – High School – end of SY 25-26
Bridget Chiarito	Math Teacher – High School – end of SY 5-26
Hanna Holderbaum	English Teacher – High School – end of SY 25-26

**b. Consideration of the Elementary Hiring Recommendations:**

Ashley Kempainen	Building Secretary – Junior High – 4/9/26
Courtney McCord	MTSS District Coordinator – SY 26-27
Alon Golan	.50 Special Education Teacher – 3/1/26
McKenna Rensel	Librarian – Glacier Gateway – SY 26-27
Lauren Shinkle	Special Education Paraeducator – Junior High – 4/9/26

**c. Consideration of the following High School / District-wide Hiring Recommendations:**

Bryan McGrath	Assistant Track Coach – High School – 3/16/26
Tatem Schweikert	Assistant Volleyball Coach – High School – SY 26-27
Madison Wheeler	Activities Director – High School – SY 26-27

**d. Consideration of the non-renewal of a non-tenured teacher without cause:**

Sarah Sheldon	Special Education Teacher – Ruder Elementary – end of SY 25-26
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**e. Consideration of the following substitute hires: - Pg. 27**

**9. Miscellaneous and Future Planning:**

- Health Insurance Committee Meeting – April 15, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Student Advisory Committee Meeting – April 16, 2026 – 11:30 AM
- Negotiations Committee Meeting – April 20, 2026 at 4:30 PM
- Regular School Election – May 5, 2026 – Ballots mailed April 17, 2026
- Schedule Policy Committee Meeting

**10. Adjournment**

**The next Regular Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m.,  
Monday, May 11, 2026, in the School District Six Board Room**

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
MARCH 9, 2026

Unofficial

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, March 9, 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 Huepel ..... Trustee
- Cory Dziowgo ..... Superintendent of Schools
- Dustin Zuffelato ..... Business Manager/ Clerk

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January Bills
- Approval of Investment Reports
- Out of District
  - o 26-209
  - o 26-210

Passed 8-0.

Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Approximately fourteen (14) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets. Approximately fourteen (14) people participated in person.

Leslie Dimaio, 162 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave WN, reflected on the decision to not propose an elementary general fund levy on the May ballot. Ms. Dimaio understands that enrollment is decreasing and the Board needs to make difficult decisions, but felt that there should have been more discussions on how not filling four elementary positions would affect the students. As the Board moves forward, Ms. Dimaio asks that the Board considers how the decisions that are being made will change how teachers teach and how the changes will affect the students' ability to learn. Another consideration to contemplate is how the Board educates the community regarding the financial position of the District. The community does not understand how the state formula works, or how the District gets additional funding. The topic of students going to homeschooling has come up and a follow-up question that needs to be asked is "why students are leaving"? What can the District do differently to keep the students in school? Ms. Dimaio's last point was that some curriculum could be provided remotely in lieu of adding additional programs such as \$30,000 for the baseball program. Maybe it is time to "pay to play" in order to focus on the academics?

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Unofficial

REPORTS:

Written Reports:

Board Standing Committees' reports and Student Advisory minutes 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.

Special Education Director, Michelle Swank, 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 shared that the MTSBA Board has not met since the last Board meeting and strategic planning meetings are coming up on April 7-9, 2026. Bridged Health Alliance received full validation from the State Commissioners of Insurance and Securities. Mrs. Riley introduced State Senator Dave Fern (in attendance) who has been pushing the state insurance idea since 2019. The plans for BHA are out to 205 school districts across the state and was able to meet the minimum numbers without the bigger districts from Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula.

Business Manager/Clerk Dustin Zuffelato was in Missoula earlier in the day for the MASBO regional meeting and celebrated the approval of Bridged Health Alliance. The District's Health Insurance Committee will now get to work implementing the plan before July. Another take away from the meeting for Mr. Zuffelato was the changes from House Bill 231 and Senate Bill 542 regarding residential property tax assessments and what is yet to come from those changes. Mr. Zuffelato will share more details in the upcoming High School Bond meetings on how the changes impact the proposed tax levy for the High School facility project. Lastly, Mr. Zuffelato stated that the annual audit report will be complete by March 30. The federal single audit focused on the IDEA and USDA food programs. The final report should be to the Board Members by the April meeting.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo shared the progress on the High School Bond project. Weekly community meetings are currently happening with tours of the different areas of the school. After each meeting members of the District meet with Jackola Engineering to discuss comments and/or questions from the public to help fine-tune the plans for the project. Mr. Dziowgo also reported about an exchange program for high school seniors after graduation. This program is nationwide and gives students exposure to other parts of the country. All expenses are paid and students stay with host families for a week. This opportunity gives students chances to experience other parts of the country and for our community to share what the valley has to offer. This program is to start in the summer of 2027.

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

ACTION/  
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action/Discussion Items:

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# Unofficial

Flathead County Superintendent Marcia Stofus introduced herself to the Board and informed the District about the County Transdisciplinary Student Information and School Safety Team. Ms. Stofus is bringing up a team that will include, but is not limited to, the Department of Health Services, the County Youth Court, County Superintendent of Schools, City Police Chiefs, etc. The goal of the team is to talk about safety, about students being served in each community, and be able to recommend resources to students in need. The team will meet this spring to discuss bylaws and procedures with a plan to roll at the beginning of the next school year. Ms. Stofus sees this program to be modeled similar to the special education realm where the schools will identify students who may be struggling to the County Superintendent's office and from there the appropriate entities will address the needs with the student. Each school district in the Flathead County will need to designate one or two individuals to be the point of contact to work with the team, this could be the superintendent, an administrator or even a school counselor. More information will be coming regarding this program.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - MARCIA STOFUS - SELF INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION ON THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDENT INFO AND SCHOOL SAFETY TEAM

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the School Year 2026-2027 Calendar presented by Mark McCord.

MOTION TO APPROVE SY 26-27 CALENDAR

Mr. McCord shared the process the Calendar Committee took to devise the final draft for next school year. The start date of August 26, 2026, is the same as surrounding districts in Kalispell and Whitefish; as well as the holiday and spring breaks.

Trustee Riley shared her concerns regarding the full two weeks off during the Christmas holiday break and the impact that has on working families with child care. Mrs. Riley also mentioned that if the High School Bond passes, then the District may want as many days as possible in the summer for construction. Shortening the holiday break will give more days in the summer.

Trustee Upton likes having the two full weeks for families to enjoy more time together. Public comment was requested and Junior High Teacher Leslie Dimaio shared that if the holiday break wasn't the two full weeks, then on the school days student attendance would drop immensely.

Passed 7-1, no - Riley

Motion by Mumby, second by Cheff, to approve Resolution #450 – Elementary District: Intent to impose non-voted levies.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #450 - ELEMENTARY DISTRICT INTENT TO IMPOSE NON-VOTED LEVIES

Business Manager/Clerk Zuffelato presented the details of the resolution(s). Mr. Zuffelato took the time to explain how Senate Bill 307 and House Bill 515 work and how each bill affects the District's funding for school major maintenance of the facilities. Mr. Zuffelato detailed the other permissive levies proposed for fiscal year 2027 including the Transportation and Tuition funds.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 7-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve Resolution #451 – High School: Intent to impose non-voted levies.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #451 - HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT INTENT TO IMPOSE NON-VOTED LEVIES

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Hill, to approve a Multi-District agreement between the Elementary District and the High School District.

MOTION TO APPROVE MULTI-DISTRICT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ELEMENTARY DISTRICT AND THE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

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# Unofficial

MOTION TO APPROVE MEAL AGREEMENT WITH DEER PARK ELEMENTARY

Motion by Hill, second by Upton, to approve the Meal Agreement with Deer Park Elementary effective September 1, 2026, to June 15, 2027.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DREW MORGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST FUND

Motion by Cheff, second by Upton, to approve the establishment of the Drew Morgan Memorial Scholarship Private Purpose Trust Fund.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE RES. #452 - REMOVAL OF AUTHORIZED SIGNERS/OFFICERS FROM GLACIER BANK ACCOUNTS

Motion by Pacheco, second by Riley, to approve Resolution #452 – Removal of Authorized Signers/Officers from Glacier Bank Accounts.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 8-0

MOTION TO APPROVE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RATES

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the new substitute teacher rates.  
Public comment was requested and Junior High Teacher Leslie Dimaio complimented the Board on making substitute rates more appealing and continuing to work on substitute recruitment.  
Passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Denise Osborne – Glacier Gateway Librarian; Mary Garate – Junior High Secretary; Ellie Green – Bookmobile; Ross Lingle – High School Counselor; Gretchen Miller – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach

MOTION TO APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL/DISTRICT-WIDE HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Cheff, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District-wide Hiring Recommendations: Natalie Corcoran – Food Service Director  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE ELEMENTARY TENURE TEACHER HIRES Addendum #1

Motion by Pacheco, second by Cheff, to approve the elementary tenure teacher hires.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL TENURE TEACHER HIRES Addendum #2

Motion by Upton, second Cheff, to approve the high school tenure teacher hires.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE SUBSTITUTE HIRES

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the substitute hires.  
Public comment was requested and there was none.  
Passed 8-0.

MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE PLANNING:

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Policy Committee Meeting to look at the first 1000 series in the new system. – April

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MARCH 9, 2026  
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# Unofficial

- 8, 2026 – 4:00 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room
- Canyon Elementary Building Use Committee and Community Garden. – April 7, 2026 – 5:00 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room
- HS Bond Meeting – March 11, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – High School
- HS Bond Meeting – March 18, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – Admin Conference Room
- Health Insurance Committee – March 12, 2026 – 4:00 P.M. – Admin Conference Room
- Negotiations Committee Meeting – March 16, 2026 – 4:30 P.M. – Admin Conference Room
- Negotiations Committee Meeting – March 19, 2026 – 4:30 P.M. – Admin Conference Room
- Transportation Committee Meeting – April 1, 2026 – 3:30 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room
- Special Board Meeting – March 17, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – District Board Room

The Board considered a sick leave bank request. The District followed procedures and there was nothing to discuss. Hence, there was no need for an executive session.

Motion by Riley, second by Cheff, to approve the sick leave bank request.  
Passed 8-0.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:36 P.M.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
SICK LEAVE BANK  
REQUEST

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

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Board Chair

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Business Manager/Clerk

First Name	Last Name	Primary Worksite	Primary Job Title	Tenure Date
JODI	JENSEN	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/30/1995
JASON	THOMPSON	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Counselor	9/3/2002
KRISTY	OREM	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Kindergarten	8/29/2005
RACHEL	SCHAEFFER	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - PE	8/29/2005
CARRIE	GNAUCK	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Elem	8/28/2006
LAURA	EMERSON	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/27/2007
EMILIE	ERLER	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/27/2007
MARY ELLEN	GETTS	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/25/2008
DENISE	OSBORNE	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Librarian	8/25/2008
TRISTA	SCHAEFFER	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/25/2008
JENNIFER	MARTIN	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Speech Patholog	8/28/2014
EMILY	HARRIES	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/31/2015
TROY	MILLER	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/31/2015
ANDREA	WEAVER	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/28/2016
JANE	DEWS	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Elem	8/28/2017
ALEXANDRA	GEORGE	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Special Ed	8/28/2017
CAMBERIA	HARWOOD	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/28/2017
ASHLEY	JOHNSON	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/28/2017
DEIDRA	ENOS	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Elem	8/22/2019
PATRICIA	HALL	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/22/2019
JENNIFER	THURSTON	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/22/2019
SUZANN	JENSEN	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/20/2020
COURTNEY	MCCORD	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Special Ed	8/20/2020
JENNIFER	MILLER	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/20/2020
MARY	CHAPPELOW	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Elem	8/19/2021
TRINA	CROWE	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Psychologist	8/19/2021
LINDSEY	FISHEL	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Special Ed	8/19/2021
ALICIA	HAKES	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Special Ed	8/19/2021
KYLE	HUBBARD	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Music	8/19/2021
ALLIE	SCHULZ	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Early Elem	8/19/2021
CALLIE	MOORE	GLACIER GATEWAY	Teacher - Title 1	10/26/2021
SABRINA	NICHOLS	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/30/1991
KIMBERLY	GANGE	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Librarian	8/25/1996
KENT	BLAIR	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/25/1997
KRISTINE	GANGE	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Elem	8/25/1997
PAULA	KOCH	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/31/1999
KATHY	WETSCH	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/31/1999
JOSIE	BROWN	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/28/2000
HEATHER	FEIST	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/28/2000
JENNIFER	ROBBINS	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/28/2000
TAMMY	COLEMAN	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Title 1	8/30/2004
JOSEPH	WELCH	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/30/2004
JACQUELINE	BRANSTETTER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Music	8/29/2005

Elementary

RUBIANNA	MASA	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/29/2005
CAMI	BOWLER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/27/2007
HEATHER	GILCHRIST	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - PE	8/27/2007
SIMON	VAN DER WEIDE	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/27/2007
MARNA	BALTZ	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Counselor	8/25/2008
JESSICA	SCHWADERER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/26/2013
ZACHARIAH	DEISTER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/28/2014
CECILIA	BYRD-RINCK	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/31/2015
BENJAMIN	CAUDILL	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/31/2015
SAMANTHA	JONES	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Counselor	8/29/2016
AERICKA	BUTLER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Speech Patholog	8/28/2017
CHARLES	LILIENTHAL	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/28/2017
ALLYSON	REAMY BUTTS	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/23/2018
PAULA	FOSTER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Special Ed	8/22/2019
AUSTIN	BARTH	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/20/2020
EVAN	MILLER	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Special Ed	8/20/2020
MINDY	ALLEN	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/19/2021
PATRICK	JOHNSTON	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Elem	8/19/2021
DEREK	ANDREWS	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/18/2022
KERSTIN	BROCKIE	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/18/2022
ELLIE	GREEN	JUNIOR HIGH	Teacher - Junior High	8/18/2022
ROBYN	KEHR	RUDER	Teacher - PE	8/28/1992
JANAE	CHRISTENSEN	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/31/1998
JENNIFER	HOERNER	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/31/1999
HEIDI	FREEMAN	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/25/2003
SARA	CHILDERS	RUDER	Teacher - Librarian	8/30/2004
NICOLETTE	TRENERRY	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/27/2007
CASSIE	LADENBURG	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/25/2008
HALEY	LOBBESTAEL	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	11/19/2012
DANA	SHIELDS	RUDER	Teacher - Math Interventi	8/28/2014
JOSHUA	PREISS	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/31/2015
TRISHA	QUIRAM	RUDER	Teacher - Speech Patholog	8/31/2015
KRISTY	QUEEN	RUDER	Teacher - kind lang inter	8/29/2016
AUTUMN	MANSFIELD	RUDER	Teacher - Reading Interv	8/28/2017
ASHLEY	NADEAU	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/28/2017
MARY	ROWE	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/28/2017
CAROL	MATHESON	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/23/2018
SARA	KAVANAGH	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/20/2020
SAMANTHA	RADABAH	RUDER	Teacher - Early Elem	8/20/2020
SUZANNE	ANDREWS	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/19/2021
PAIGE	HALL	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/19/2021
CRYSTAL	FISHER	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/18/2022
JENNIFER	GREENBERG	RUDER	Teacher - Elem	8/18/2022

Elementary

MACKENZIE ROBERTS  
CRYSTAL SUNDBERG

RUDER  
RUDER

Teacher - Early Elem  
Teacher - Special Ed

8/18/2022  
8/18/2022

First Name	Last Name	Primary Worksite	Primary Job Title	Tenure Date
JENNIFER	LOVERING	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/31/1999
REBECCA	BATES	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - Voed	8/27/2001
ZULMA	FERNANDEZ	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2002
JESSIE	SCHAEFFER	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - PE	8/28/2002
WILLIAM	COLEMAN	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/30/2004
KELLY	HOULE	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/30/2004
JULIA	WHITMAN	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - Special Ed	8/29/2005
BEVERLY	DEWELL	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2006
ASHLEY	JOLLYMORE	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - Psychologist	8/28/2006
ERIN	QUINTIA	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2006
DAWN	WHEELER	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2006
ALIA	HANSON	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - Librarian	8/25/2008
KATE	DANIELS	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/24/2009
JASNA	STAFFORD	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - Speech Patholog	8/29/2011
JACKSON	SCHWEIKERT	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - PE	8/27/2012
BENJAMIN	SCHAEFFER	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - Voed	8/28/2014
JOSHUA	FORKE	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/31/2015
SHELLY	GRESS	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/31/2015
JAMES	PEACOCK	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/31/2015
CHRISTOPHER	FINBERG	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/29/2016
NIA	VESTAL	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/29/2016
BRIDGET	CHIARITO	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2017
SHELBY	FORKE	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2017
EMILY	HACKETHORN	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/28/2017
WILLOW	MORAN	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/23/2018
JEANETTE	PRICE	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/23/2018
LINDSEY	RACIOPPI	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/23/2018
ANNA	DANLEY	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/22/2019
JOSIAH	OSBORNE	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/22/2019
MARY	WEBB	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/22/2019
CIERA	FINBERG	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/20/2020
HILARY	YPMA	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/20/2020
JAIME	BELL	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/18/2022
CYDNEY	FINBERG-ROBERTS	HIGH SCHOOL	Teacher - High School	8/18/2022

SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
MARCH 17, 2026

Unofficial

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of School District Number Six was held at 5:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in the boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

- Jill Rocksund..... Board Chair
- Barbara Riley ..... Trustee
- Casey Heupel ..... Trustee
- Amanda Pacheco..... Trustee
- Keri Hill ..... Trustee In at 5:09
- Megan Upton..... Trustee
- Cory Dziowgo ..... Superintendent of Schools
- Dustin Zuffelato ..... Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

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

Board Chair Rocksund called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the agenda as presented. Passed 5-0

Public Participation:

Chair Rocksund requested public participation on any agenda or non-agenda items. No members of the public attended in-person. None via remotely. There was no public participation.

Action/Discussed Items:

The Board considered the inclement weather day on March 12, 2026. Chair Rocksund noted that the agenda was amended to include this item subsequent to the required 48-hour notification. Preliminary consideration is necessary to facilitate payroll and a subsequent vote during the properly noticed April 13, 2026 Board Meeting will be necessary. Trustees may close school for one day each year for unforeseen emergencies that is not subject to state funding reduction in accordance to 20-9-806(2), MCA.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Heupel, to cancel school on March 12, 2026 without rescheduling the pupil instruction time lost during the 2025/26 school year because of inclement weather. Passed 5-0.

Executive Session:

The Board conducted an expulsion hearing for student 26-01. As the individual's right to privacy outweighs the public's right to know, Chair Rocksund called the meeting into executive session at 5:04 P.M.

Trustee Hill in at 5:09 P.M.

Open meeting resumed at 6:01 P.M.

The Board considered the executive session meeting minutes.

Motion by Heupel, second by Hill, to approve the executive session meeting minutes. Passed 6-0

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL ON MARCH 12, 2026, WITHOUT RESCHEDULING TIME LOST DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

MOTION TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2026  
PAGE 2

# Unofficial

MOTION TO RE-ADMIT  
STUDENT 26-01 WITH  
DISCIPLINARY  
CONTRACT

Motion by Pacheco, second by Riley, to re-admit student 26-01 to the High School subject to an executed disciplinary contract that includes a requirement for the student to park on campus and be subject to random vehicle searches. Passed 5-1. No – Trustee Upton.

The Board conducted an expulsion hearing for student 26-02. As the individual's right to privacy outweighs the public's right to know, Chair Rocksund called the meeting into executive session at 6:05 P.M.

Open meeting resumed at 6:42 P.M.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

The Board considered the executive session meeting minutes.

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

Passed 6-0

MOTION TO EXPEL  
STUDENT 26-02 FOR  
REMAINDER OF  
SY 25-26

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to expel student 26-02 for the remainder of the 2025/26 school year. Readmittance to the High School for the 2026/27 school year is subject to an executed disciplinary contract. Passed 5-1. No – Trustee Heupel.

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 6:44 P.M.

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Board Chair

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Business Manager/Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
MARCH 30, 2026

Unofficial

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, March 30, 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
- Amanda Pacheco ..... Trustee
- Casey Heupel ..... Trustee
- Cory Dziowgo ..... Superintendent of Schools

ABSENT:

- Heather Mumby ..... Trustee
- Dustin Zuffelato ..... Business Manager/Clerk

Call to order at 7:00 P.M. by Board Chair Rocksund.

CALL TO ORDER

Purpose of this Special Meeting is to conduct an expulsion hearing for student 26-001. The student did not accept the behavior contract as required for readmission by the Board motion during the March 17, 2026 special meeting.

As the individual's right to privacy outweighs the public's right to know, Chair Rocksund called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Open Meeting resumed at 7:27 P.M.

BOARD  
RECONVENES

The Board considered the Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Cheff, second by Upton, to approve the executive session meeting minutes.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MINUTES

Motion by Pacheco, second by Cheff, to expel student 20-001 for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. Readmission will be subject to a behavior contract.  
Passed 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
EXPULSION FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF THE  
25-26 SY

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Transportation Committee Meeting on April 1, 2026, has been postponed.
- Spring Sports Ice Cream Social – April 1, 2026 – High School
- Canyon Elementary Building Use Committee Meeting – April 7, 2026 – 5:00 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room
- Regular Board Meeting – April 13, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – District Board Room
- Health Insurance Committee Meeting – April 15, 2026 – 4:00 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room

MISCELLANEOUS  
AND FUTURE  
PLANNING

SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 30, 2026

PAGE 2

Unofficial

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

---

Board Chair

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Business Manager/Clerk

# Budget Transfer Request

Board Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered on Accounting \_\_\_\_\_

System \_\_\_\_\_

Business Office Use Only

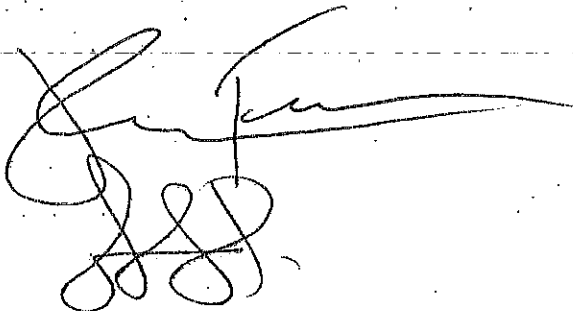
Transfer From		Transfer To	
Account Number	Amount	Account Number	Amount
Sonjas 126	\$150	Bleed Blue 129	\$150-
Believe Blue 107	\$150	Bleed Blue 129	\$150-
Columbian 118	\$150	Bleed Blue 129	\$150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$450.-</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$450.-</b>

## JUSTIFICATION

to help pay for the BLEED BLUE lunch.

Josh Forke

Lang Hadethorn



Signatures

  
Administrator

Business Manager

Superintendent

# April Board Report Building/Department

COLUMBIA FALLS

## SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

Schools: Glacier Gateway, Ruder Elementary,  
Columbia Falls Junior High, Columbia Falls High School

- 15 -

### Challenging, Diverse, and Supportive Learning Environment

New curriculums can be challenging for teachers to support students that need challenged and supported. We have been focusing PLC time on exploring how to use the intervention and enrichment sides of both the math and reading curriculum.

Early Learning program completed our Winter Benchmark data and will share with the board during the meeting.

### High Performing Workplace

We are excited to celebrate our colleagues at GG. Each month we have a small celebration, we verbalize a thank you to staff and enjoy a special treat together. Last month we had a baked potato bar, because we were spudtacular!

This month we are excited to nominate our colleagues for "Portrait in Action" and celebrate.

We also have started planning our mentor/mentee feedback process to help our new teachers learn.

### Organizational Effectiveness

We will be gather feedback at our annual Art Night from our families to make GG more effective. This survey helps us, communicate and support students and families needs.

We will also conduct a staff survey with our MTSS survey to start action planning for organizational effectiveness in the 26/27 school year.

### Family & Community Engagement

Bikes for Books initiative students engaged in extended reading beyond the school day by logging independent reading minutes. This collaborative community partnership with the Mason's not only promoted literacy and student motivation, but also resulted in students earning new bicycles and helmets, awarded on Friday, March 20th.

Thank you to the Mason's and Ashley Johnson, GG staff member, for another great Bikes for Books Year!

### District Facilities Support & Enhance Learning

Maintaining a new building can be a challenge. We almost at 4 years in our building and we are starting to see some wear and tear on our playground. We are working on several issues such as the field is a mud pit, the chipping courtyard, and adding more equipment that meets the needs of students.

We are also starting to see wear and tear on light colored walls and have planned to address this in the summer.

### Upcoming Events

- Art Night, Thursday, April 16th
- Awards Assembly, April 29th
- Talent Show, May 28th

### WILDCAT PRIDE

Glacier Gateway is hosting Girls on the Run this Spring with practice two nights a week and then the final fun run in May.

# Glacier Gateway

# April Board Report Building/Department

# Ruder Elementary

## Challenging, Diverse, and Supportive Learning Environment

During recent PLCs, we engaged in ongoing progress monitoring by revisiting our SMART goals and analyzing STAR data to evaluate student growth and instructional effectiveness. This process ensures that our curriculum, instruction, intervention, and assessment practices remain data-driven and aligned with research-based, evidence-based best practices to support continuous improvement.

## High Performing Workplace

Through collaborative data analysis of our most recent STAR benchmark results, we celebrated strong evidence of student growth and achievement, particularly in our first year of full implementation of Amplify CKLA. These results reflect the collective impact of our entire staff—including classroom teachers, special education, Title, reading intervention, and support staff—demonstrating a shared responsibility for student outcomes. This work highlights our commitment to distributed leadership and a cohesive, positive workforce..

## Organizational Effectiveness

We strengthened a positive, collaborative culture across district departments by welcoming a high school student to Ruder to complete a legacy project focused on supporting our ESL students. This partnership reflects meaningful cross-level collaboration and a shared commitment to helping students acclimate, succeed, and thrive beginning at the elementary level.

## Family & Community Engagement

Through our Bikes for Books initiative, led by our reading intervention teacher, Autumn Mansfield, and in partnership with the Masons of Columbia Falls, students engaged in extended reading beyond the school day by logging independent reading minutes. This collaborative community partnership not only promoted literacy and student motivation, but also resulted in twelve students earning new bicycles and helmets, awarded on March 20th—demonstrating a meaningful connection between community engagement and enhanced student learning opportunities.

## District Facilities Support & Enhance Learning

We have made meaningful progress toward maintaining and improving our facilities through the installation of new flooring and repairs to the bathrooms in the original section of Ruder, which had sustained significant damage from prior flooding. These improvements ensure that our restrooms are safe, functional, and well-maintained, supporting the current and future needs of our Wildcats and the broader school community.

## Upcoming Events

- Awards Assembly - April 10th
- Neon Family Dance - April 17th - 5-7 PM
- Kindergarten Round Up - April 20th
- No School - April 24th

## Celebrating All Wildcats/kats

- Ruder is celebrating Autism Awareness Month throughout the month of April with dress up days and the 3rd annual Art Installation that will be on display by the main office.

# April Board Report Building/Department

COLUMBIA FALLS  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT #6**  
Schools: Glacier Gateway, Ruder Elementary,  
Columbia Falls Junior High, Columbia Falls High School

## Challenging, Diverse, and Supportive Learning Environment

We held the annual Geography Bee. It was a huge success! There were just over 40 participants, which is a wonderful amount. Students had to qualify for the competition.

There was a 6th Gr. Movie Night put on by the 6th Gr. Student Council. There were over 50 students in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to build community and make connections. The Student Council did a wonderful job planning & running the event.

## High Performing Workplace

We are currently replacing a secretary and a Special Education Paraprofessional. There were great candidates and hires have been made. They will go through the training process to make sure we are providing the best learning environment and supports for our students and staff.

Our Wildcat Building Team met to discuss school issues, concerns, & new ideas. It was a productive meeting & the team continues to make an impact.

## Organizational Effectiveness

The MTSS Team recently met to examine the SWAT referral process, ensuring a more efficient & cohesive pathway for student interventions. A key idea of the session was to establish a team dedicated to regular parent meetings, focusing specifically to support attendance, academics, & behavior. The group also reviewed & discussed the latest student survey results, using the data to meet the needs of our student body.

## Family & Community Engagement

Our PTO held a fundraiser with a mission! While physical activity is great, we want to ensure our playground is also a place where meaningful interactions happen. Funds were raised to add equipment specifically designed to foster student connection—think outdoor seating where students can talk, collaborate, and build friendships. This will also be a great space to read books and play games. Thank you PTO!

## District Facilities Support & Enhance Learning

We used the new addition of a large-scale, mobile screen! It's already made a big splash during a recent assembly, and we can't wait to put it to even more use. Whether it's for future concerts, assemblies, student events, or meetings, this screen will be a key tool for presenting information, teaching, and, most importantly, giving us another way to celebrate our students' successes!

## Upcoming Events

- 7th & 8th Gr. Spring Fling Dance Friday, Apr. 17th
- Jazz Band w/KMS Tuesday, Apr. 21st
- Parent-Teacher Conferences Thursday, Apr. 23rd
- No School Friday, Apr. 24th

## Wildcat Way

- The 7th & 8th Gr. Track season kicked off. We have almost 100 students participating this spring. We are excited about the large number of participants! We look forward to a competitive season.

Junior High

# April Board Report Building/Department

## SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

Schools: Glacier Gateway, Ruder Elementary,  
Columbia Falls Junior High, Columbia Falls High School

High School

### Challenging, Diverse, and Supportive Learning Environment

Columbia Falls High School is expanding its partnership with Flathead Valley Community College. We're excited to announce that our building trades program will now offer dual credit classes, allowing students to earn credit toward a certificate at FVCC, similar to our successful college welding certificate program. This expansion gives students more pathways to career-ready skills and postsecondary success while still in high school.

### High Performing Workplace

As we look ahead to next school year, we currently have one science position and two paraprofessional positions open and are actively working to fill them. We also anticipate the possibility of additional openings following the upcoming board meeting.

We are continuing to review student registration numbers to ensure our staffing aligns with student needs while remaining mindful of our budget deficit. Updates will be provided as our staffing picture becomes clearer.

### Organizational Effectiveness

At Columbia Falls High School, our MTSS SWAT team meets weekly to review and develop strategies for supporting students referred by their teachers. This collaborative team includes building principals, counselors, a student family advocate, our school psychologist, a Logan Health school-based therapist, and our special education staff. By working together, we ensure that every student has access to the supports they need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

### Family & Community Engagement

As we transition into the spring season, we kicked things off with our Spring Sports Ice Cream Social. This event is a great tradition that brings together our athletes, coaches, families, and community to celebrate the start of a new season. It was great to see so many students excited and ready to represent our school.

Spring is one of the busiest times of the year, with students involved in a wide range of activities from athletics to music and performances. I encourage everyone to come out and support our students at the many events happening this spring.

### District Facilities Support & Enhance Learning

At CFHS, we have recently implemented a bi-weekly custodial meeting to strengthen our systems and support our team. This time is focused on improving communication, building consistency, and reinforcing a shared standard of cleanliness across the high school. By creating space for collaboration and alignment, we are working to ensure our facility remains a place our students and staff can take pride in every day.

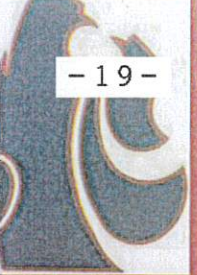
### Upcoming Events

- April 16 - Advisory
- April 21 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- April 24 - No School

Our HOSA and FCCLA programs recently competed at the state level. Both teams gained valuable learning experiences and enjoyed success in their competitions, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our students and advisors.

# April Board Report Building/Department

COLUMBIA FALLS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
Schools: Glacier Gateway, Ruder Elementary,  
Columbia Falls Junior High, Columbia Falls High School



## Curriculum

### Challenging, Diverse, and Supportive Learning Environment

The district staff participated in multiple sessions focused designed to improve teaching and learning including STAR Assessment Data training, Getting Started with myGDI's (screener) training, and CKLA Implementation training.

### High Performing Workplace

We will be interviewing candidates for two open stipend positions including The District MTSS Coordinator and CEIH ESL Campus Coordinator.

### Organizational Effectiveness

The District MTSS Leadership Team has been working to develop tracking systems for students who are in interventions. District Intervention Teachers were trained on how to enter data into Infinite Campus . Campus walkthrough visits have been scheduled to check progress of Tier I systems at each campus.

### Family & Community Engagement

Currently there are several state testing windows currently open. These include: MAST, Dynamic Learning Maps (ELA, Math, Sci), Montana Science Assessment, and the ACT. Parents have been granted access to digital reports to monitor their child's progress for MAST testing.

### District Facilities Support & Enhance Learning

The Technology Committee convened to evaluate printer lifecycles, printing processes, server vs. cloud servers, and hardware upgrades. We continue to look for cost-cutting measures and methods to work more efficiently.

### Upcoming Events

- Mentor Leadership Team Meeting (4/14)
- GT Campus Coordinator Meeting (5/5)
- ESL Campus Coordinator Meeting (5/12)
- PD Committee Meeting (5/19)

### Quotable

- "In our own case we accept excuses too easily; in other people's, we do not accept them easily enough." – C.S Lewis

**TO:** Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Dustin Zuffelato, Business Manager/Clerk  
**DATE:** April 9, 2026  
**RE:** Business Office Report for the April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting

### **FY 2025 Financial Statements/Audit**

Financial Highlights: Total Governmental Funds revenue of \$34,228,077 was funded by 51% State/Federal sources and 49% Local property taxes. During FY 2024, the District levied \$12,740,330 in local property taxes and collected \$12,645,014 representing 99% of the amount levied during FY 2025. Federal revenues of \$2,994,609 decreased \$3,512,249 or 53% as compared to FY 2024. The decrease was related to the ESSER grants being fully spent in FY 2024. The change in net position is important because it tells the reader if the financial position of the school district as a whole has improved or diminished. The change to net position was an increase of \$5,032,938. As of June 30, 2025, the District had invested \$78,763,283 in capital assets including land, buildings, construction in progress, and machinery and equipment. This represents a net increase of \$4,991,536 prior to depreciation.

The audit tested federal compliance with the IDEA funds and USDA School Nutrition Program as the major programs. The District received an unmodified opinion on compliance.

I understand the audit report is over 100 pages long, I encourage you to read the Management Discussion and Analysis (pages 2-12) to obtain a quick overview of the Districts' financial position.

### **School District Election:**

Trustee Election

Ballot was certified March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Absentee Ballots mailed April 17<sup>th</sup>. Drop boxes will be available at the Administration building from 9AM-4PM daily and until 8PM on election night.

Election Day May 5<sup>th</sup>

Reorganizational Meeting May 11<sup>th</sup>

### **E Rate Program**

The FCC's E-Rate program makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools. With funding from the Universal Service Fund, E-Rate provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools.

USAC filing deadline was April 1. The District's discount rate (based on free/reduced enrollment) was increased from 80% to 90%.

Internet Service – currently Vero – 2GB @ \$2,264 per month. The District accepted the low bid to continue with Vero at a reduced rate of \$1,030 per month.

Wide Area Network-connects each of our buildings. Currently Ziplly Fiber @ \$4,180 per month. The District accepted the low bid with Vero at a reduced rate of \$3,000 per month.

Total annual savings for the new contracted rate is \$28,968 and the District cost (10%) decreases from \$15,465 to \$4,836.

### High School Facility Bond Project

In the wake of the community meetings and the proposed changes to the project scope, it will be necessary for the School Board to formalize a plan. Some topics of consideration and applicable information to help guide follows;

**Calling for the Election:** This includes setting the amount and project scope. A resolution to call the election, stating the date, purpose, amount, and term of the bonds, is required to be approved by the Board at least **seventy (70) days** prior to the election. The Board has discussed a tentative election date of **September 29, 2026**. This date was vetted by the County Election Department in terms of them being able to accommodate within the other elections scheduled to be conducted next fall. This date provides adequate time for community engagement. Ballots would be mailed September 11, 2026, which is after the start of the new school year, after the summer break, after the Labor Day holiday, and should facilitate active participation. Working backwards from the September 29<sup>th</sup> election date yields the following timeline: Last date the Board can adopt the resolution calling for the election – July 11, 2026 (70 days prior). Ballot is certified August 20, 2026 (40 days prior). Ballots mailed September 11, 2026 (no earlier than 20 or later than 15 days). While the Board has until July 11<sup>th</sup> to call for the election, there is a good argument to maintain the momentum and community support by calling for the election sooner than July during summer break.

### Monthly Insurance Claim Summary:

#### Paid Claims MARCH, 2026

Medical Plan paid claims	\$ 262,784
Specific Stop Loss	\$ 67,156

Monthly medical expected claims based on an enrollment of 230 Plan participants (64 singles/166 families): \$ 241,500  
Plan claim liability as a percentage of expected claims: 108.81 %

#### Paid Claim summary plan year-to-date (July 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026):

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Medical Plan paid claims	\$ 2,479,845	\$ 2,158,789	115 %
Specific Stop Loss	\$ 176,442		
Aggregating Specific Deductible	\$ 100,000		

# - 22 - Greece Tour Proposal

SPRING 2028



## Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly overnight to Greece
- Days 2-3:** Athens, Corinth, Argolida
- Days 4-5:** Epidaurus, Mycenae, Olympia
- Day 6:** Delphi, Athens
- Days 7-8:** Athens
- Day 9:** Depart for home

## Group Leader: Willow Moran

- ★ Promotes the tour and recruits travelers (and chaperones)
- ★ Maintains communication and prepares the group for travel
- ★ Coordinates fundraising efforts
- ★ Supervises the group while abroad

## Tour Info

### REQUESTED TRAVEL DATES

March 19, 2028 – March 27, 2028

### YOUR ITINERARY (9 DAYS)

[View](#)

### STUDENT PRICE

\$4,699

*Combining the power of experiential learning with the thrill of travel, this program helps students expand their knowledge of the world around them; understand new people, places, and cultures; discover more about themselves; and grow more confident and independent. When students grow in these ways, they become more curious, more open-minded, and more excited about the future.*



"EF Education First is the world leader in international education. For over 55 years, we've partnered with educators around the world to help more than 15 million students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future through experiential learning."

Nexus CPA Group  
406.756.6879  
office@nexuscpa.net



1740 U.S. Hwy 93 South  
P.O. Box 1957  
Kalispell, MT 59903

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March 28, 2026

Columbia Falls Schools Trustees  
Dustin Zuffelato, Business Manager

Columbia Falls Public Schools  
P.O. Box 1259  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia Falls Public School for the year ended June 30, 2025. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated February 15, 2026. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Significant Audit Findings

##### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Columbia Falls Public School are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2025. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, Columbia Falls Public School changed accounting policies related to the reporting of the fiduciary funds by adopting statement of Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB Statement) No. 101, Compensated Absences, in fiscal year 2025. We noted no transactions entered into by Columbia Falls Public School during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements and are based on management's judgment, including historical experience, current conditions, and assumptions about future events. Some estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and the potential for actual results to differ materially from those assumptions. The most sensitive estimates affecting the Government-Wide financial statements include the OPEB liability, the net pension liability, and the compensated absences liability.

Management's estimates for the OPEB liability and net pension liability are based on the requirements of GASB Statement No. 75 and GASB Statement No. 68, respectively, and are determined with the assistance of professional actuaries under generally accepted accounting principles. The estimate for compensated absences is based on the District's analysis of historical data of employees sick leave, including patterns of sick leave usage and amounts paid out upon separation. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions underlying these estimates and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

##### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

*Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. The attached schedule summarizes the material misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures and were brought to the attention of, and were corrected by, management.

*Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

*Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated March 31, 2026.

*Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Columbia Falls Public School's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

*Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Columbia Falls Public School's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Budget-to-GAAP Reconciliation, Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), Schedule of Changes in the Total Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability and Related Ratios, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, and Schedule of Contributions which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide an assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on Schedule of Enrollment, Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures – Extracurricular Fund – All Fund Accounts, and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Current Year Findings Not Considered Significant Deficiencies or Material Weaknesses (With Recommendations)

1. **Disbursement Controls**

Controls over disbursements can be improved by removing custody of the warrant stock from individuals responsible for processing payments. We recommend maintaining custody with the Business Manager and implementing a warrant log requiring two authorized signers. Additionally, each payment batch should be reviewed and approved by the Business Manager prior to authorizing payments.

2. **Capital Asset Policy**

We recommend revising the District's capital asset threshold policy to increase the capitalization threshold to \$10,000 in accordance with recent Uniform Guidance revisions. Additionally, the policy should address technology purchases, clarifying that individual technology items with a cost exceeding \$10,000 should be capitalized in accordance with applicable GAAP guidance.

3. **School Nutrition Program Reporting**

During testing of School Nutrition Program claim requests, minor variances were identified. The most significant occurred in February 2025, where meals were underreported by approximately 999 meals, resulting in an estimated funding difference of \$2,700. We recommend the District review its meal claim reporting procedures to ensure meals served are accurately reported. Additionally, a review process should be implemented that separates preparation and review functions to strengthen internal controls over claim submissions.

4. **Direct Certification Data – Title I and CEP**

We recommend the District obtain and retain supporting direct certification data from OPI to support the completion of the Title I application (for schoolwide programs) and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) election for the School Nutrition Program. This will help ensure the accuracy of eligibility determinations and strengthen documentation supporting federal program compliance.

Restrictions on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of Trustee's and management of Columbia Falls Public School and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan Mahr†, CPA

Nexus CPA Group, PLLC

Columbia Falls SD  
Adjustments  
Fiscal year 2025

DO NOT POST

Adj #	Fund Name	Fund Number	Account #	Description	Debit	(Credit)
1	Government-wide	*****	*****	Deferred inflows of resources - OPEB	\$ 683,974	
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Deferred outflows of resources - OPEB	\$ 61,628	
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Other post employment benefits		\$ (162,177)
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Instructional - regular		\$ (583,425)
<i>Reason:</i>		To adjust for OPEB				
2	Government-wide	*****	*****	Current portion of compensated absences		\$ (193,327)
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Non-current portion of compensated absences	\$ 60,113	
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Restatement	\$ 133,214	
<i>Reason:</i>		To restate FY 24 compensated absence balances upon adoption of GASB 101				
3	Government-wide	*****	*****	Current portion of compensated absences		\$ (233,147)
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Non-current portion of compensated absences	\$ 75,142	
	Government-wide	*****	*****	Salary Expenditure	\$ 158,005	
<i>Reason:</i>		To adjust FY 25 compensated absence balances upon adoption of GASB 101				
4	HS Building	260	***	Other Financing Source	\$ 4,232,757	
	HS Building	260	***	Extraordinary Item		\$ (4,232,757)
<i>Reason:</i>		To reclassify insurance proceeds as an extraordinary item rather than an other financing source				

Client's approval of proposed adjustment(s):  
 The accountant went over all adjustments with me.  
 I have read the above adjustments.  
 I understand the purpose of each adjustment  
 I agree with the above adjustments.  
 I have posted the above adjustments to my accounting system

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

March 31, 2026  
Date

Substitute Hires  
April 2026

**Teacher**

LNAME	FNAME	Teacher
Thornberry	Rhonda	Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide
		Teacher or Aide

**Secretary / Nurse**

LNAME	FNAME	Other
		Nurse
		Nurse
		Secretary

**Bus Driver**

LNAME	FNAME	Other
		Bus Driver
		Bus Driver
		Bus Driver

**Hot Lunch**

LNAME	FNAME	Other
		Hot Lunch
		Hot Lunch
		Hot Lunch
		Hot Lunch

**Custodian**

LNAME	FNAME	Other
		Custodian
		Custodian
		Custodian
		Custodian

4/9/2026