

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

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.

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

Motion by Pacheco, second by Cheff, to approve the 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:

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?

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT  
AGENDA

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

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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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Flathead County Superintendent Marcia Stolfus introduced herself to the Board and informed the District about the County Transdisciplinary Student Information and School Safety Team. Ms. Stolfus 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. Stolfus 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS -  
MARCIA STOLFUS -  
SELF INTRODUCTION  
AND DISCUSSION ON  
THE TRANSDISCI-  
PLINARY STUDENT  
INFO AND SCHOOL  
SAFETY TEAM

MOTION TO APPROVE  
SY 26-27 CALENDAR

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

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

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

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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 ESTABLISH-  
MENT 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 SIGN-  
ERS/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/DIS-  
TRICT-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 TEN-  
URE 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 TEN-  
URE 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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- 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager/Clerk

MOTION TO APPROVE  
SICK LEAVE BANK  
REQUEST

MEETING  
ADJOURNED