

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
APRIL 13, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, April 13, 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
Wayne Jacobsmeyer 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 Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the agenda as presented.
Passed 8-0.

Motion by Cheff, second by Pacheco, to approve the consent agenda with a correction made to the March 30th minutes, changing 20-001 to 26-001.

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of March Bills.
- Approval of Investment Reports
- Budget Transfer request
- Money transferred out of student activity funds 126, 107, and 118 deposited into fund 129.
- Out-of-District Approval
 - o 26-211

Passed 8-0.

Public Participation:

Approximately ten (10) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.
Approximately twenty-three (23) people participated in person.

Student Body Representatives Greyson Pfeifle and Chloe Kinsella shared past, present, and future events happening at the High school. The student counsel had a successful blood drive with many volunteers donating blood, there have been changes to the morning announcements opening the opportunity up to more students to participate, and the counsel will be re-opening the student store offering school supplies and snacks. Mr. Pfeifle shared that the spring sports are in the middle of the season and there have been some field trips with a cadaver lab at FVCC and hiking in Glacier National Park. During Bleed Blue week over five hundred Bleed Blue tickets were earned giving the students extra lunch time. Also shared was that prom was a huge success on April 4th. Upcoming events are the sports wrapping up their seasons at the end of May and graduation coming up June 6, 2026.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

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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 attended the spring MTSBA meetings last week in Whitefish. The group worked on the strategic planning process and reviewed all member surveys that had been submitted. They are applying some of the results from the surveys to the work plan, as well as getting ready for the membership meeting in June. The Montana School Board Association is celebrating one hundred years in service and are inviting current and past board members to the celebration. Mrs. Riley also shared that Bridged Health Alliance will be having another meeting in the following weeks. Open enrollment will start May 4 and end June 5, 2026. Medical ID cards are to be out in the mail on June 20 for implementation of July 1, 2026.

District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato reminded the Board that trustee election ballots will be mailed out on April 17 and are due by May 5, 2026. Members of the business office will be at the election office the night of the fifth to get results as they happen. Ballots can be dropped off at the business office during working hours and on the day of election the office will be open until 8:00 P.M. Mr. Zuffelato shared that the District had executed some different service agreements through the E-rate program which provides internet connectivity and a wide area network through the schools. The E-rate program offers a ninety percent discount on services, but also, through the bid process, the base prices were reduced from what the District was paying previously resulting in significant savings.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo shared that the Student Advisory Counsel will meet on the upcoming Thursday, with lunch from Chick fil-A. The principals have been taking actions on some of the topic discussions from previous meetings. Mr. Dziowgo talked about the District's endeavor into social media with a page on both Facebook and Instagram. There will be an invite to staff and students to be part of helping to create the content. All posts will go through the same monitoring system called *Class Intercom*, which will provide trainings and end-of-the-year reports that can be printed to help students with possible future employment. The purpose of social media is to help tell the District's story and share with the community what is happening at the schools of School District 6.

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

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Action/Discussion Items:

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Pre-kindergarten - Early learning data was shared by Kristy Orem and Penni Anello from Glacier Gateway Elementary. The last presentation was in November and the discussion was around eligibility. Today's focus is on the data, sharing the progress of students from the assessment conducted in January. Parent/teacher conferences were also held in January sharing how the students are performing and where they should be by the last assessment in May. Using the information and survey results from parents, Mrs. Orem and Mrs. Anello are planning changes for next school year. The class will also be piloting a new program, *Read It Again*, designed for Pre-K curriculum.

UK/Ireland High School trip presentation was conducted by teacher Willow Moran and high school students. The group visited the UK, Wales and Ireland over spring break in March. Mrs. Moran shared photos, the experience of traveling with another school from Indiana, and the history of the sites seen.

Motion by Mumby, second by Heupel, to approve the proposed class trip to Greece in the spring of 2028.

High School teacher Willow Moran presented a trip for students to Greece during spring break in 2028. The group will go through the company Education First.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE CLASS TRIP TO
GREECE IN SPRING
OF 2028

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Report.

Board Chair Rocksund shared that she was able to attend the exit interview and was impressed with Dustin Zuffelato and the Business Office Staff for the favorable audit.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
FY 2025 AUDIT REPORT

Update of the High School Facility Bond Project was presented by Cory Dziowgo. Mr. Dziowgo recapped the April 8th community meeting and shared the updated project website with all the information possible. The new budget for the entire project is \$75.9 million dollars and the tax impact is 83.99 mills. Mr. Dziowgo shared that not all the funds will be needed at once and will be split in two phases. Phase one is approximately \$50 million dollars and will affect a home worth \$600 thousand with added taxes of \$275 dollars per year. Phase two is an additional \$25.9 million dollars, increasing the same house another \$134 dollars for a total of \$409 dollars per year. The hope is that more individuals will move into the area, spreading the project total among more houses and decreasing the \$406 dollars on the example \$600k market value house. The project website CFHSbond.org will be up and running soon.

Vice Chair Barb Riley would like to see the cost savings that may happen on the utilities if the bond passes. With new windows and no curtain wall, the classrooms will stay cooler in the hot weather and warmer in the colder weather taking some pressure off the HVAC system. There also should be some savings on the property insurance with a new sprinkler system.

Dustin Zuffelato shared the timeline for the election. The District is trying to stay away from the general election in November 2026, and the election office has accepted an election date of September 29, 2026. Ballots will go out the first week of September, right after Labor Day. The resolutions will need to be reviewed and voted on in April to keep the momentum going before the end of the school year.

HS FACILITY BOND
PROJECT UPDATE

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	Public comment was requested and there was none.
MOTION TO APPROVE THE CANCELLATION OF MARCH 12, 2026 SCHOOL DAY DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER	Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve the cancellation of March 12, 2026, school day due to inclement weather. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 8-0.
PERSONNEL:	<u>Personnel:</u> The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Terri Eckel – Ruder Elementary Family Advocate; Stephen Blados – Junior High Special Education Paraeducator; Joseph Welch – Junior High Shop Teacher; Paula Koch – Junior High ESL Campus Coordinator; Trina Crowe – MTSS District Coordinator; Alon Golan – District Part-time Custodian; Michael Clinkenbeard – District Bus Aide; Kristine Zika – District Health Aide; Jasna Stafford – District Speech-Language Pathologist; Chris Finberg – High School Head Boys Basketball Coach; Bridget Chiarito – High School Math Teacher; Hanna Holderbaum – High School English Teacher
MOTION TO APPROVE ELEMENTARY HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS	Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Ashley Kemppainen – Junior High Building Secretary; Courtney McCord – MTSS District Coordinator; Alon Golan - .5 FTE Special Education Teacher; McKenna Rensel – Glacier Gateway Librarian; Lauren Shinkle – Junior High Special Education Paraeducator Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 6-0, abstained - Cheff
MOTION TO APPROVE HS AND DISTRICT- WIDE HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS	Motion by Cheff, second by Hill, to approve the following High School/District-wide Hiring Recommendations: Bryan McGrath – High School Assistant Track Coach; Tatem Schweikert – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach; Madison Wheeler – High School Athletic Director Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 8-0
MOTION TO APPROVE THE NON-RENEWAL OF NON-TENURE TEACHER WITHOUT CAUSE	Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the non-renewal of non-tenure teacher without cause. - Sarah Sheldon - Ruder Elementary Special Education Teacher Discussion is limited due to personnel item. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 7-0.
MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER HIRES	Motion by Upton, second by Hill, to approve the substitute hires. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 8-0
MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE PLANNING	<u>Miscellaneous and Future Planning:</u> - Health Insurance Committee Meeting – April 15, 2026 – 4:00 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room. - Student Advisory Committee Meeting – Trustees Riley, Hill, and Cheff will attend, with Pacheco can substitute – April 16, 2026 – 11:30 A.M. – Admin Building

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- Conference Room.
- Negotiations Committee Meeting – April 20, 2026 – 4:30 P.M. – Admin Building Conference Room.
 - Policy Committee Meeting – April 27, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
 - Special Meeting for Bond amount – April 27, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
 - Regular School Election – May 5, 2026 – Ballots mailed on April 17, 2026.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:31P.M.

MEETING
ADJOURNED



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk