

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
MAY 11, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, May 11, 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
Heather Mumby Trustee
Amanda Pacheco Trustee
Casey Heupel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Justin Cheff Trustee
Keri Hill Trustee

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

Motion by Upton, second by Heupel, to approve the agenda as presented.
Passed 6-0.

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

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of April Bills
- Approval of Investment Reports
- Student Activity Account Transfer request From SA account 143 to SA account 142
- Out-of-District Approval
 - o 26-212
 - o 26-213
 - o 26-214
 - o 26-215

Passed 6-0.

Public Participation:

Approximately nine (9) people participated in the meeting remotely via Google Meets.
Approximately fourteen (14) people participated in person.

Alston Olson, Student Body President, and Emma Wilcox, Junior Class President, updated the Board with the past, present and future ongoings in the High School. The new student store is stocked and ready to open. Student Counsel's main goal with the store is to form better relations with the student body and clubs, not to raise money. There have been some changes made to the morning announcements inviting guest speakers and having fun jokes on Fridays; at some point the High School would like to bring back live announcements at least once per week. AP testing is happening during the current school week. Post season competitions in the spring sports are coming up on the following weekends. Finally, with the end of the year

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

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wrapping up, there are many band and choir concerts scheduled, and graduation is June 6 with Jesse Mann from Edward Jones as the guest speaker.

Charles Andrew Lilienthal, current Junior High Teacher and parent of two boys at Glacier Gateway, addressed the Board regarding approving stronger policies for the use of technology during the school day, particularly on the Chromebooks issued to students. Students are able to get around the firewalls to play non-educational games during class time. Mr. Lilienthal has read a book, *Dopamine Kids*, mentioning how these games are highly addictive and habit forming, causing issues in the learning process for students. He would also like to see time limits for students to have with the Chromebooks throughout the school day. Mr. Lilienthal's second issue to address to the Board is how losing one to two teaching positions at the Junior High will create higher numbers in the classrooms causing co-workers and families to go to other school districts in the valley.

Cassidy Lilienthal, parent of two students and sixth generation graduate of Columbia Falls, addressed the Board with her concerns of the administration cutting teaching positions to meet the budget. Mrs. Lilienthal feels that cutting teaching positions shows a disregard for children's education, especially how it relates to sports in the District where cuts do not appear to be made. Some solutions that Mrs. Lilienthal has suggested is the possibility of pay-to-play sports, or help the community to see sports as an extra for students. Mrs. Lilienthal has seen teachers searching for job elsewhere in the valley due to the District paying teachers a lower salary. One last comment by Mrs. Lilienthal is that balancing the budget should not always be on the backs of the teachers, it should be the Board's responsibility to devise more effective strategies.

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.

Special Services 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 Lance Melton has given notice of retirement from MTSBA for June of 2030, giving the organization four years to work towards a process for transitioning. MTSBA is celebrating their 100th year of service in June at the planned leadership meetings. Mrs. Riley mentioned that MTSBA is putting together legislative platforms to address during the state legislation session next year, and feels that based on the number of failed levies throughout districts, it is more important than ever to reformulate the school funding process by the state. Conversations on the topic are scheduled for the morning of June 10, 2026, at the leadership meetings. On the health insurance side, Mrs. Riley shared that Bridged Health Alliance is in the middle of open enrollment, and most of the state medical facilities have accepted agreements with Allegiance on their reference-based pricing models, Logan Health being the first to sign.

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District Business Manager/Clerk provided the Board with a written report. Mr. Zuffelato shared that the new insurance program and Mikie Kimmet are working hard to put together information on BHA and Allegiance for staff members to make informed decisions on health care benefit plans during the open enrollment period. The deadline for making insurance elections is May 29, 2026. Mr. Zuffelato then mentioned the summer food program using Glacier Gateway facilities as a serving site for Monday through Thursday starting on the 22nd of June. Employees will be delivering meals to the canyon with a week's worth of food on Thursdays. This program is a per meal reimbursement and serves any children under the age of 18, whether they are part of the district or attend school elsewhere. Mr. Zuffelato and Natalie Corcoran are working through the budget to assure the District breaks even. Lastly, Mr. Zuffelato shared that the Negotiations Committee has reached a tentative agreement with the Certified Union. Once approved then contracts will be distributed with the new wages. Mr. Zuffelato reminded the Board that with student enrollment numbers decreasing the District is only getting a 1% budget increase from the state, and last year the District did give a great deal of money to the salary schedule to make wages competitive. Mr. Zuffelato acknowledged the Committee's efforts to listen to the teachers and for coming up with a solution to a difficult problem.

Superintendent Cory Dziowgo noted that the Hungry Horse News mentioned the CFHS bond website is up and running. There is a lot of important information with a tax impact calculator. Mr. Dziowgo shared the District's social media platforms are going strong and appreciate the efforts of the students to keep the community informed on the schools' activities.

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

Action/Discussion Items:

Motion by Heupel, second by Mumby, to approve the Audit Services Agreement with Nexus CPA for FY2026-2028.

It was mentioned that this group is the same company the District is been using for audits the last few years, and because of some retirements the name has changed this year.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Pacheco, to approve Resolution #454 -- Disposition of Abandoned, Obsolete and Undesirable Property.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the Flathead Crossroads Interlocal Agreement for FY 2027. The program is currently serving seven students.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve cancellation of outstanding claim warrants:

- 394002 - \$50.00 issued 1/29/2025

- 394099 - \$9.62 issued 2/12/2025

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MOTION TO APPROVE
AUDIT SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH
NEXUS CPA FOR FY26-
28

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 454

MOTION TO APPROVE
FLATHEAD CROSS-
ROADS INTERLOCAL
AGREEMENT FOR
FY 27

MOTION TO APPROVE
CANCELLATION OF
OUTSTANDING CLAIM
WARRANTS

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MOTION TO APPROVE
THE ADOPTION OF
NEW LANGUAGE ARTS
CURRICULUM

Motion by Pacheco, second by Upton, to approve the adoption of a new Sixth Grade Language Arts instructional resource – *Into Literature*.
Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, shared a handout with feedback from a parent meeting on the new literature program. It appears that the previously used *Springboard* program is no longer supported by the company. Last spring 6th grade teachers started looking into new programs, and *Into Literature* was the unanimous favorite. Trustee Megan Upton spent some time going through the material and felt that the students will be engaged with this curriculum material.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE RENEWAL OF IN-
DEPENDENT CONTRAC-
TOR AGREEMENT WITH
LESLIE HAYDEN

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the renewal of Independent Contractor Agreement – Physical Therapy Services with Leslie Hayden – PT for SY2026-2027.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
CHANGES TO POLICY
1111 - ELECTION

Motion by Heupel, second by Pacheco, to approve the changes to Policy 1111 – *Election* on first and final reading.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
CHANGES TO NUMBER-
ING OF POLICY 1112 TO
1113

Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the change in numbering of Policy 1112 – *Resignation and Other Vacancies* to 1113 on first and final reading.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE ADDITION OF
POLICY 1512 F-CON-
FLICT OF INTEREST
- RELATIONSHIPS
DEFINED

Motion by Riley, second by Upton, to approve the addition of Policy 1512-F – *Conflict of Interest – Relationships Defined and Chart* on first and final reading.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE COMBINING OF
POLICIES 1532, 1535,
AND 1540 ALL INTO
1532 AND ELIMINATING
THE OTHERS

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the combining of Policies 1532 – *Trustee Insurance*, 1535 – *Indemnification and Defense of Trustees and Employees*, and 1540 – *Trustee Health Insurance* all into Policy #1532 and the elimination of Policy 1535 and 1540 on first and final reading.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
THE ADDITION OF
POLICY 3550 AND
3550-NF (1) ON 1ST OF 3
READINGS

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the addition of a new Policy 3550 – *Student Clubs* and Form 3550-NF (1) – *Student Clubs – School District Club Application* on first of three readings.

Public comment was requested and there was.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HEALTH INSURANCE
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR PLAN YEAR 27

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the Health Insurance Committee Recommendation of changes for Plan Year 2027:

- Funding from reserves - \$187.

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- Vision and dental voluntary programs renewal with same carriers and new dental rates.
- Terminate the Employee Assistance Program.
- Telehealth – First Stop Health complete care package \$14.58 PEPM
- Life Insurance carrier change from Metlife to UNUM.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Mumby, to canvass the results of the votes for the May 5, 2026 Trustee Election.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Suzanne Andrews – BookMobile; Katie Robinson – Ruder Elementary Special Education Teacher; Maya Garcia – Ruder Elementary Special Education Teacher; Alysha Wassam – High School Assistant Cheer Coach

Motion by Upton, second by Riley, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Amie Dziowgo – Junior High ESL Campus Coordinator; Brady Wassam – Junior High Industrial Arts Teacher

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

Motion by Pacheco, second by Heupel, to approve the following High School/District-wide Hiring Recommendations: Beverly Hayes – High School/Elementary Speech/Language Pathologist; Elizabeth James – High School Special Education Teacher; Maria Phelps – High School Assistant Track Coach; Amanda Piilola – High School Assistant Golf Coach; Lindsey Wendt – High School Science Teacher; Austin Barth – High School Head Boys' Basketball Coach

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the following Summer Temporary Hiring Recommendations: Sierra Robertson – Summer Food Service Helper; Tammy Graham – Summer Food Service Helper; Heather Ronne – Summer Food Service Helper; Amanda Seal – Summer Food Service Helper; Austin Barth – Summer Weight Room Supervisor

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

Motion by Mumby, second by Riley, to approve the Junior High fall extra duty contracts.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

Motion by Upton, second by Pacheco, to approve the High School fall extra duty contracts.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO CANVASS
VOTES FOR THE MAY
5, 2026 TRUSTEE
ELECTION

PERSONNEL:

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS AND DISTRICT-
WIDE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
TEMPORARY SUMMER
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY FALL
EXTRA DUTY
CONTRACTS -
Addendum #1

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS FALL EXTRA
DUTY CONTRACTS -
Addendum #2

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MOTION TO APPROVE
ADMINISTRATIVE
HIRES FOR FY 26-27
Add. #3

Motion by Riley, second by Pacheco, to approve the administrative hires for SY2026-2027.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

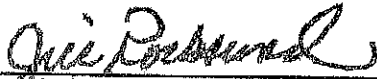
MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING:

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

- Classified Negotiations Meeting – May 13, 2026 – 4:30 P.M.
- Canyon Building Committee – Flathead Food Bank, Clothing Swap and Community Garden – May 14, 2026
- Student Advisory Council – Jill Rocksund, Keri Hill and Justin Cheff - May 18, 2026 – 11:30 A.M.
- Policy Committee Meeting – May 18, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
- Special Meeting followed by Work Session – May 18, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
- High School Bond Steering Meeting – May 21, 2026 – 11:00 A.M.
- District Retirement Celebration – May 28, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 7:02 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk

Addendum #1

Coaching Contract Title	LName	FName	FTE
Coach JH Football	Andrews	Derek	0.065
Coach JH Football	Anello	Derek	0.065
Coach JH Football	Correa	Anthony	0.065
Coach JH Football	Gress	Darrin	0.065
Coach JH Football	Miller	Theodore	0.065
Coach JH Football	Grace	Christopher	0.065
Coach JH Instrument	Caudill	Benjamin	0.085
Coach JH Vocal	Branstetter	Jacqueline	0.085
Coach JH Volleyball			0.065
Coach JH Volleyball	Kehr	Robyn	0.065
Coach JH Volleyball	Thurston	Jennifer	0.065
Coach JH Volleyball	Rensel	McKenna	0.065
Coach JH Volleyball			0.065
Coach JH Volleyball			0.065
Coach JH XCountry	Andrews	Suzanne	0.065
Coach JH XCountry	Koch	Paula	0.065
JH Annual	Branstetter	Jacqueline	0.065

Addendum #2

Coaching Contract Title	LName	FName	FTE
Coach HS Annual	Finberg	Ciera	0.12
Coach HS Art Club	Daniels	Kate	0.01
Coach HS Boys Soccer	Byrd	O'Brien	0.15
Coach HS Boys Soccer	Pete	Cory	0.1
Coach HS Boys Soccer	Wanner	Sage	0.06
Coach Asst Soccer	Karberg	Brandon	0.06
Coach HS Cheer	Courtney	Kendra	0.17
Coach HS Cheer			0.1
Coach HS Class Sponsor -9	Victor	Jessica	0.01
Coach HS Class Sponsor-10	Whitman	Julia	0.02
Coach HS Class Sponsor-11	Ypma	Hilary	0.04
Coach HS Class Sponsor-12	Moran	Willow	0.03
Coach HS Football	Barth	Austin	0.12
Coach HS Football	Coleman	William	0.12
Coach HS Football	Cordier	Kole	0.12
Coach HS Football	Houle	Kelly	0.17
Coach HS Football	LaTray	Ronald	0.12
Coach HS Football	Marton	Slmeon	0.12
Coach HS Football	McGrath	Bryan	0.1
Coach HS Football	Babcock	Jacob	0.1
Coach HS Girls Soccer	Byrd	Melanie	0.06
Coach HS Girls Soccer	Clark	Thomas	0.15
Coach HS Girls Soccer	Kinder	Alexis	0.1
Coach HS Golf	Pillola	Amanda	0.1
Coach HS Golf	Osborne	Josiah	0.12
Coach HS Honor Society	Sundberg	Tamara	0.03
Coach HS Instrument	Forke	Josh	0.17
Coach HS Jazz	Forke	Josh	0.055
Coach HS Pep	Forke	Josh	0.055
Coach HS Special Olympics	Bahr	Naomi	0.1
Coach HS Special Olympics	Daniels	Kate	0.15
Coach HS Special Olympics	Foster	Paula	0.1
Coach HS Student Council	Gress	Shelly	0.04
Coach HS Vocal	Hackethorn	Emily	0.17
Coach HS XCountry	Finberg	Colleen	0.12
Coach HS XCountry	Knutson	Kati	0.12
Coach HS XCountry	Peacock	James	0.15
Elementary School Music			0.03
Stipend HOSA	Hulett	Brittney	0.03
Stipend HOSA			0.03
Stipend Key Club Advisor	Moultray	Jessica	0.03

Addendum #3

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Allison Hawes	Ruder Principal
John Cooper	JH Asst Principal
Josh Gibbs	HS Principal
Shaun Forrest	HS Asst Principal
Mark McCord	Curriculum Director
Michelle Swank	Director of Special Education
Pennl Anello	Glacier Gateway Principal
Ted Miller	JH Principal
Dustin Zuffelato	Business Manager/Clerk
Natalie Corcoran	Food Services Director
Kris Jackola	Director of Transportation and Facilities
Ron LaTray	Transportation Manager
Aaron Wiersma	Director of IT
Jolandle Brooks	College and Career Coordinator
Stacy Caron	Speech Language Pathologist Aide
Tamara Sundberg	District Coordinator of Student and Family Advocacy School MTSS Coordinator