

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

The **REGULAR** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbus School District #6 was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, in the middle school commons area. Chair Morse called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established, and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those participating were Trustee Joe Morse, Trustee Ryan Meier, Trustee Sue Ivankovich, Trustee Stephanie Wright and Trustee Jay Baum. Superintendent Jeff Bermes, Middle School Principal Joseph Morse, Elementary Principal Tom Kurtz, High School Principal Jim Browning, BCEA Union President Vickie Gibson, Laurie Martinez and Lisa Westervelt were also in attendance.

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Warrants, Extracurricular Balances & Expenditures.

Trustee Baum made a motion to accept the agenda Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously

Trustee Baum made a motion to accept the consent agenda with addition to resignations of Christina Nelson and Cecelia Peterson. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

The sub list will be available at the September meeting.

At 6:09 p.m. the board and those present toured the apartment complex purchased by the District.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Laurie Martinez spoke on behalf of her concerns of the dress code policy in the High School Handbook.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Construction Update:

- Carpet is currently being installed in both the High School and Elementary buildings.
- The HVAC systems are almost completely installed.
- The track has been painted with exception of the inside portion because the track is not a 400 meter track. One spot that was painted on the track has been turned into warranty.
- Grandstand wall will be completed before the first home game.
- ESSER money has been spent out. Remainder of building projects will come out of the Elementary Bond and Metal Mines.

- Elementary building underground sprinklers are almost completed.
- Bids are coming in for the roofing on our new teacher housing.

B. Coaches and Activity Handbook Adoptions for 2023-24

It was discussed to change the meal allowances for our teams to the following: When the District provides meals, \$12 Breakfast, \$20 Lunch, \$25 Dinner. \$50 total (per diem per day at Tournaments that are overnight when breakfast is provided by the motel.) \$30 (per diem per day at State Tournaments with no lodging.) \$25 (per diem per day at District and Divisional Tournaments with no lodging.) Gratuities: when appropriate (sit down meals), the coach/sponsor will include, but not exceed 15% of the total meal bill. These amounts are MAXIMUM including beverage and/or dessert.

Trustee Wright made a motion to accept the 23-24 Coaches and Sponsors Activity Handbook with the creation of the meals. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

C. Review of the Property Management Contract

All rental funds will be placed in Fund 20 up to \$10,000 for each district with the remainder being placed in Fund 182. Trustee Baum made the motion to approve the 23-24 property management contract with Park Realty to manage the district owned rental property at 127 N 4th. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

A. Handbook Adoptions for 2023-2024

Elementary Handbook changes:

- Breakfast will be served before school from 7:55-8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria.
- Parents will be notified at 6,12, and 18 absences. These are absences that are not counting medical absences. Those medical absences must have a doctor's note to be excused.
- If your child is too sick to go outside for recess, they are probably too sick to be at school.
- As a general rule, gum is not permitted due to it getting on the carpets, under desks, and so on. But, some teachers do allow gum in the classroom. Please check with the classroom teacher whether or not gum is allowed in the classroom before sending gum with your child(ren).

Middle School Handbook changes:

- 8th Grade Recognition will be scheduled for the last Tuesday of the school year, at 5:00 p.m.

High School Handbook changes:

- On page 1, the start and end time of the school day has been updated. This year, the day will go from 8:10 a.m. – 3:35 p.m. with 37 minutes for lunch.
- On page 8, nicotine and drugs were added along with tobacco as items students are not allowed to have in their possession at any time in the school, on school grounds, or at activities where the student is competing or performing as a student.
- On page 10, we could add another item about marijuana specifically if that is something the board feels is necessary. Superintendent Bermes will reach out to Mr. Weldon, District Attorney on proper procedure to follow in regards to how to handle marijuana cases.
- It was brought to the boards attention that there are many concerns with the high school dress code policy and what is considered appropriate.

Trustee Baum motioned to approve the elementary, middle school and high school handbooks as presented, with proposed changes to come to the high school handbook. Trustee Ivankovich seconded it. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

B. Transportation Handbooks 2023-2024

There are no changes to the transportation handbook. Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Transportation Handbook. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

C. Adopt Elem & HS 2022-2023 Trustees Financial Summaries

Superintendent Bermes and Business Manager Kari Econom reviewed the 22-23 Trustees Financial Summary with the board. Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to approve the 22-23 Trustee Financial Summary. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

D. Adopt Elem. & HS 2023-2024 Final Budgets

Superintendent Bermes discussed the District's final budgets for the 23-24 school year. Changes were made on the mills based off of the difference in the taxable values from 22-23 and 23-24. Trustee Baum made a motion to adopt the 23-24 budget. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

E. Hiring of Extra-Curricular Positions and New District Hires

Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to accept the following spring extra-curricular sports: Golf – Head Jeromey Burke, Asst. Bob Fitzgerald; HS Track – Head Jen Crago, Asst. Mark Albrecht; Asst. Thea Karamazadeh; MS Track – Jaime Holbert and Michael Robinson; Softball – Head Rachelle Gravance, Asst TBD; Baseball – Head Travis West, Asst. Cactus Anderson. Other extra-curricular – Paul Barta – 6th grade boys basketball. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

F. **Joliet District's Request to Enter District to Turn Around**

The Joliet School District is requesting permission to entry our district on Highway 421 to turn around at the designated turn around at the county line again this year. They will not be picking up any students within our district boundaries and are requesting this entrance into our district for safety purposes to turn around safely. Trustee Baum moved to allow the bus to turn around at the county line. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

G. **Out-of-District Application**

It was discussed to reopen the out of district application reconsideration starting August 15, accepting applications through August 18th at 2 p.m. Trustee Wright made the motion to reopen the out of district application from tonight August 15th through 2 p.m. on August 18th to be reconsidered for enrollment. If the student meets the district requirements. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the out-of-district applications of the Smith, Brito and Snap Families. Trustee Ivankovich seconded it. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Administrative Reports

A. **Elementary Report:**

- Current enrollment: 323 (Last years at this time was 327) 14 of the 323 are new registrations.
- New teacher orientation will be Friday August 18th.
- Interviewing for two PARA positions.
- Open house will be Monday, August 21 from 4:00-6:00 PM.
- Wednesday, August 23 is the first day of school.
- There will be two third grade classes and three fourth grade classes this year. Due to a smaller class size in the third grade and a larger class size in the fourth grade.
- Carpet is about finished in the K/1 classrooms.
- A fence was installed between the "big toy" and the faculty parking lot.
- Math workbooks will be a new edition called Eureka Squared.
- The Big Jay Show based out of Billings will be buying a new book every month for grades K-5. The community of Columbus stepped up and helped the Big Jay Show donate for this cause.

B. **Middle School Report**

- Current Enrollment: 182
- 6th grade and new student orientation night will be August 21 at 4 p.m.
- First day of school is August 23, start time 8:05 a.m.
- Yearbook Changes: Cadie Frickel-Secretary, TBD-Librarian, Ramon Ochoa-Band/Choir 6th, 7th and 8th. Honor Society-Beth Ann Steffan.
- Bell Schedule time changes.
- 8th grade recognition will be scheduled for the last Tuesday of the school year, at 5:00 p.m.

C. High School Report

- Current Enrollment: 250
- Senior class will have two foreign exchange students who will be leaving at the end of the first semester. In January, we will be getting a transfer student from Arkansas who is completely blind. We will need to prepare our teachers for this student starting in October.
- Handbook changes.

D. Superintendent Report

- Turf Tank is up and running. It took 36 minutes to complete the practice field.
- Beartooth Stock Growers would like to fundraise to give beef to school district.
- Any person interested in the items up for bid needs to email the superintendent.
- Current positions open with the district are: kitchen help, paraprofessionals and Librarian. Will possibly put out an ad for Librarian Aide.
- The partitions in the high school boy's bathroom were delivered warped and will not connect. New ones were ordered and will be here before school starts.
- New employees will be required to come introduce themselves to the board at the September board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation:

Personnel Committee:

Buildings:

Finance: They met to approve and sign warrants.

Technology:

Policy:

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Baum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm, Trustee Wright seconded it. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.


Chairman

Attest:

