

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

The **REGULAR** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbus School District #6 was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the middle school commons area. Chair Morse called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Sue Ivankovich, Trustee Stephanie Wright and Trustee Jay Baum. Superintendent Jeff Bermes, Elementary Principal Tom Kurtz, Middle School Principal Joseph Morse, High School Principal Jim Browning, CCEA Union President Vickie Gibson, Kiley Frank, Beth Ann Steffan, Paden Nation, Elias Vesbach, Payne Brower, Lukas Vesbach, Anders Bjorkman, Tom Kurtz, Jim Browning, Westyn Baum, Quincie Baum, Kinley Baum, Paisley Baum, Tanya Ellis-Baum, Jordyn Wolf, Brenna Beck, Riley Beck, Maryn Martin, Anna Kraft, Shannon Meier, James Plymale, Morgan Womble, Dawn Womble, Karli Wilson, Blake Haug, Skye LaFlex, Bailee Raihl, Kelly Ault, Lisa Westervelt, Jeannie Eaton, Kyle Miller, Paige Lethert, Katelyn Hamilton, June Luepke, Hank Luepke, Abby Kessy, Julie Hamilton, Trista Meier, Chance Udenberg, Casey Olsen, Jetta Driggs.

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

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

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

Warrant approved 26118-26166

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

High School Student Council announced prom was successful and spring sports are in full swing.

Middle School Honor Society presented on the American Heart Association Fins Mission Challenge.

Hard Rock Mining will be meeting on May 6, 2024 in Helena.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Construction Updates

Middle School vestibules are about complete just waiting on flooring and locks. On the high school wing we are waiting for concrete to be poured.

One bid came in for the gym room.

Hersrud family would like to replace the sign in front of the high school with a digital sign.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of BPA National Trip to Chicago

The BPA national members presented the board with a request to attend National BPA Conference the second week of May in Chicago. Ten students made nationals, nine will be attending. They have been fundraising through concessions, middle school dances and Krispy Kreme donut sales. The club is projected to raise \$5,000 and are asking the board to cover all advisor expenses and \$625 per kid for plane ticket and registration. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve our BPA finalists to attend the National Convention in Chicago with the district providing \$625 per student and all advisor expenses. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

B. Resignation

Resignations: Ramon Ochoa, current high school/ middle school music teacher; Kasidy Robbins, current fourth grade teacher, Kristee Pattee, kitchen help and Kacey Kosel from her Speech and Drama position. Ms. Robbins position will not be replaced. Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to approve the resignations of Kasidy Robbins, fourth grade teacher, Kristee Pattee, kitchen help, Ramon Ochoa high school/ middle school music teacher and Kacey Kosel's position with speech and drama. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

C. Teacher Renewals/Non-Renewals

There was a change to the recommendations. The original non-renewal for Joel Eklund has been voided. He will be recommended for the Special Ed High School position.

The following non-tenured teachers to be renewed: E. Gruwell, A Killebrew, K. Stahl, M King, R Ryan, A Kraft, b Price, T Lewis, R Reed and E Jorgenson. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the non-tenure teachers. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

The following teachers will be offered for tenure: Kasey Kosel and Tarah Ralph. Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to offer Kasey Kosel and Tarah Ralph tenure. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

The following teachers to be tenured renewed: K Blaylock, B Chamberlin, K Frank, J Holbert, J Lowell, D Miller, K Delzer, P McDermott, J Taft, S Bruesch, J Crago, J Haug, S Johnston, L Martin, C Olsen, S Kunze, P Nation, J Burke, L Cross, B Hoge, C Longin, L Martinez, S Roberts, J Whiting, M Olsen, M Culbertson, D, Johannes, N Means, M Staudinger, A Zachary,

M Robinson. Trustee Baum made a motion to renew the tenured teachers. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

D. Principal Renewals

High School Principal Jim Browning and Middle School Principal Joseph Morse are up for tenure and Elementary Principal Tom Kurtz is up for non-tenure renewal. Trustee Wright moved to approve High School Principal Jim Browning and Middle School Principal Joseph Morse for tenure and Elementary Principal Tom Kurtz for non-tenure renewal. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Board Chair Morse abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

E. New Teacher and Staff Hires

Shannon Meier, head cook, is being recommend for the new 6th grade ELA position for the 24-25 school year. Trustee Baum made a motion to hire Shannon Meier as the new Middle School ELA teacher. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

F. Approve Middle School Summer School

Per our middle school policy, this states that any middle school student that fails a core class shall recovery that credit through a set summer school program before moving to the next grade level. Mrs. Holbert would like to take over this program. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the hiring of Mrs. Holbet as the 2024 summer school teacher at \$25 per hour. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

G. Trustee Election by Acclamation

Only one person turned in an application to get their name on the ballot for our one open trustee position. This individual can be elected by a resolution of the Board, the process of acclamation. Mr. Joseph Morse II will serve another three years with this election. Trustee Baum declared election by acclamation that the candidate who filed for the open 3-year term for the Columbus Public Schools Board of Trustees, Mr. Joseph Morse II, fill the open trustee position. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

H. New Middle School ELA Curriculum

The Middle School ELA Department is looking at a 6-year MS ELA Curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt at a cost of \$50,368.87. This would be for grades 6th-8th. This program is a standards-based program based upon research base practices for proven grade level instruction for the ELA content area. Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to approve the 6-year MS ELA curriculum proposal from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt at a cost of \$50,368.87 to be paid out of the district multidistrict fund. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

I. First Reading of Board Policy 7320

The Montana Statue regarding the amount of the minimum threshold that requires a public entity to go out for bid on a project has been increased. Recent legislation has changed the minimum amount going out for bids has moved from \$80,000 to \$150,000. I have changed the policy to reflect the new amount. This is the only change in the policy. This is important to include in our policies as the district has upcoming projects that will be affected by this change. The board recommended setting the limit for the new superintendent coming in limit to be \$15,000 and bid process at \$150,000. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the first reading of Board Policy 7320 setting stipulations at \$15,000 and \$150,000. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

J. Classified Negotiations

The board has requested from the CCEA to open negotiations for the 2024-25 school year. Trustee Ivankovich and Trustee Baum volunteered to sit in on negotiations, they will be held April 25th at 3:45 in Superintendent Bermes's office. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the opening of CCEA negotiations. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

K. Approve Carpet Bid

KC Interior has given a bid to complete the rest of the carpeting in the Elementary building to finish the hallways with the LVP flooring to match the new wings. Also included in the bid was to put LVP flooring in the music room and new carpet in Mr. Olsen's room. The bid not include a \$1,450 labor cost to install the carpet purchased last year for Ms. Steffan's room. The elementary and a portion of the music floor will come out of the remaining funds set aside from the elementary building bond and the remainder coming out of the high school metal mines. The elementary portion would be \$28,183.26 and the high school \$16,865.98. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve KC Interior's flooring bid to finish the elementary hallways, high school/middle school music room, and Mr. Olsen's room with the cost to be split between the elementary bond at \$28,183.26 and \$16,875.98 from high school metal mines. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

L. Renewal of the JTP Health Insurance Rates and Proposals

The renewal premium increase for our current health insurance plan went up \$104.02 per month and \$71.59 month for our current HDHP. Columbus Schools maintains a positive position regarding our claims as we are not above the voted percentage increase. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the JTP health insurance renewal rates for our traditional health insurance plan and the HDHP saving plan. Trustee Ivankovich seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

M. Approve MOU for DES of Stillwater County

This MOU is to establish a framework for collaboration between SC School and Stillwater County to facilitate the use of SC School facilities or equipment to provide “Emergency Shelters, Reunification Centers, Evacuation Points, Points of Distribution for aid or to transport victims” in the event of a locally declared emergency or disaster. In the event of an ordered evacuation of the public from an area to protect life safety, Stillwater County may utilize the following SC School facilities, as they are available. Trustee Ivankovich made a motion to approve the MOU and DES to provide school facilities in case of county emergency. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Administrative Reports

A. Elementary Report:

- Enrollment 321.
- Ski trips.
- Field trips to Alberta Bair Theater.
- MAPS testing.
- Field trip to Museum of the Rockies.
- Discovery Education for PIR Day.
- MAST testing.
- Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Field trip zoo in Billings.
- Spring concert.

B. Middle School Report

- Enrollment 160.
- SBAC/MAST Testing.
- Career Fair.
- Midterms.
- 8th grade promotion.
- Tree planting.
- American Heart Challenge.

C. High School Report

- Enrollment 245
- Key Club attended the MT District Convention in Billings.
- Ms. Killebrew will have the top student art work displayed at the community library for the month of April.
- FFA had 7 teams qualify for state and took 11 kids.
- FCCLA had a good showing at State Competition.
- PRE-ACT/ACT day.
- Trig Star.
- Hospital Immersion Day.

D. Superintendent Report

- Interview committee for Tech position. April 18th or 19th.

- Special Board Meeting April 29th at 5 p.m. to transition new supt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation:

Personnel Committee:

Buildings:

Finance: They met to approve and sign warrants.

Technology:

Policy:

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm, Trustee Baum seconded it. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.



Chairman

Attest:

