

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

The **REGULAR** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbus School District #6 was held on Tuesday, February 20, 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 Ryan Meier, Trustee Stephanie Wright and Trustee Jay Baum. Superintendent Jeff Bermes, Elementary Principal Tom Kurtz, High School Principal Jim Browning, BCEA Union President Vickie Gibson, Dallas Moore, Clint Moore, Clark Moore, Lisa Westervelt, Doris Chesshir, Diane Chesshir, Donna West, Travis West, Jeannie Eaton, Laycee Hand, Marah Murphy, Lydia Hulsey, Becky MacEwen, Landon Olson, Mike Courts, Ethan Johnson, Tanya Ellis-Baum, Matt Maxted, Emily Davis, Dean Baum, Casey Olsen, Elias Vesbach, Lindsey Cross, Nichole Waltner, Cody Ruprecht, Karen Hodge, Beth Ann Steffan.

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Warrants, Extracurricular Balances & Expenditures.
- C. Approve Resignation for Jolena Ray-Rollins, Kitchen Help

The agenda for tonight’s meeting was changed to place item B of new business after public comment. At this time the board will move into executive session. Trustee Baum made a motion to accept the changed agenda. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously

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

Warrant were approved at special board meeting on February 13, 2024.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Middle School Student Council Secretary, Laycee Hand, updated the board with the following projects they will be working on; planting trees and creating ceiling art tiles. They have also expressed their support of the 8th graders playing high school baseball and softball.

Community member, Lisa Westervelt, requested to have an agenda item added to next board meeting of allowing home school students to participate in graduation.

Student Credit Loss Appeal

At 7:09 p.m. Trustee Baum made a motion to move into executive session. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

At 7:29 p.m. Trustee Baum made a motion to close executive session and move to open session. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Trustee Wright made a motion to allow student A7 to be placed on probation if they meet the attendance agreement policy for second semester of this year and for the credit to be reinstated. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of MHSA Proposals

MHSA proposal number 1 was voted down and number 10 was withdrawn. All other proposals passed.

B. Final reading of Board Policy 3141 and Form 14.1

The board discussed changing the open enrollment deadline to May 1st. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve Board Policy 3141 and Form 14.1 with the date change of May 1st. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

C. Construction Update

The vestibule project is schedule to start the first week of March with some updates of adding more lights and moving the card reader.

A&E will be presenting the district with a design fee for the remodel of the studio apartment.

A bid will be coming in on flooring to finish the elementary hallways with LVOP, redoing the high school music and vo-ag rooms with LVP, and carpeting one high school room that is in bad shape.

Shane Swandal, the district's construction rep, is working with Superintendent Bermes to decide the best way of moving forward on replacing the shingles on the roof of the high school gym.

D. Update to ARP and Safe School Return per ESSER Requirements

Montana Office of Public Instruction is requiring the district to re-approve the Safe Return Plan to School with any necessary changes. Given that there has not been an issue with how the

district has handled and operated through the pandemic, the plan will remain as is. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the District's Safe Return Plan to School to remain as it is currently written. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Resignation

Vickie Gibson, technology department will be resigning her position at the end of June 2024. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the resignation of Vickie Gibson. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

B. Student Credit Loss Appeal

This item was discussed following public comment.

C. Review of 8th Grade Participation Request

The administration team did not sign the requests for 8th grade participation in softball and baseball. The administration felt they could not justify #2 of the Columbus High School 8th Grade Athletic Advancement Form which states advancement will only be considered if it is to fill rosters to have enough players for the high school teams to be eligible to compete. Softball has 18 players and baseball has 17.

D. Call for Elections

The district will have one, three-year term up for election this year. There will not be an operation levy ran. It was decided this election will be a mail in ballot. Trustee Baum made a motion to have school elections held on May 7th, ending at 4:00 pm for the purpose of electing one school board trustee and having mail in ballots. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

E. First Reading District Strategic Plan

Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the first reading of the District Strategic Plan was is. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

F. First Reading Family Engagement Plan

Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the first reading of the Family Engagement Plan was is. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

G. Approve Design Fee from A&E for District Apartment Expansion

A&E has submitted a bid to design and handle all requirements with the housing remodel. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the design bid from A&E of \$16,890 to provide all of the necessary services in designing and bidding the remodel project of the teacher remodel housing project. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

H. Approve Purchase of a New Activity Bus

After check up on the oldest coach bus, it has been determined that this bus has an overall and a major power steering issue that will cost up to \$20,000 to fix. This coach bus is over 30 years old and has reached its life expectancy. A bid was presented on a new activity bus using funds from bus depreciation. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the purchase of the new activity bus, a 2025 Freightliner M2 Executive Supercoach from Best Bus Sales at a cost of \$380,300. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

I. Tri-County Honor Band Bus Request

The Tri-County Honor Band is requesting the use of one of Columbus's charter buses for their annual trip. The board recommended that Mr. Bermes submit a bid to the Honor Band group for the bus and driver. Trustee Baum made a motion to submit a bid to allow the group to use one of Columbus's charter buses. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

J. New District Hires

Trustee Wright made a motion to hire Tom Tindale as a new custodian at \$14.50 and Kristi Pattee as a new kitchen helper at \$14.50. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

K. Approval of the New Superintendent Contract

Trustee Baum made a motion to approve a two-year contract for the new superintendent. First year salary at \$118,500, second year to be determined. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Administrative Reports

A. Elementary Report:

- Enrollment 322
- End of the 2nd trimester is Wednesday.
- Wednesday, March 6th is our School Support Staff Appreciation Day.
- Shakespeare in the Parks came and did a performance for our school last Thursday.
- Our 5th grade is doing the classes again from the Matt Wilhelm Fly Fishing Class.
- 4th and 5th graders used to go to Red Lodge Mountain to ski every year. The trip would include a lesson for skiing or snowboarding that lasted an hour. The rest of the day was spent skiing with friends etc. The elementary would like to bring this back. The new company that has taken over Red Lodge Mountain is willing to work with the school on pricing.

B. Middle School Report

- No Middle School Report due to spelling bee.

C. High School Report

- Enrollment 236
- FFA went to Melstone for the mechanics contest and Billings for the horse judging contest, and the livestock judging.
- Eight wrestlers qualified for the state meet.
- Several students placed at the State Speech and Drama meet.
- Robotics team finished in the middle of the pack at the state competition in Bozeman.
- In April, the juniors/seniors will be participating in hospital immersion days with Stillwater Clinic.
- The new CEO with Montana Silversmiths would like to work with the school to show students hands-on careers they offer.

D. Superintendent Report

- Divisional Boys and Girls Basketball passes are available to the board members.
- New Superintendent Klasna will be coming Friday to discuss budgets and different funds.
- Senate Bill 307 will be discussed at next board meeting.
- Preliminary budgets will be coming out in the next few weeks.
- Discussion of Indian Ed stipends at next board meeting.
- Curriculum Proposals.
- Teacher contracts will come out in March.
- Presented the board with a Golden Award plaque.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation:

Personnel Committee:

Buildings:

Finance:

Technology:

Policy:

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Baum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm, Trustee Meier seconded it. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.


Chairman

Attest:

