

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kendra Horn. Luke Cordingley, Ridgley Elser (Zoom), Kendra Horn, Cory Rowberry, and Kaylie Theis, and William T. C. Wood were present. Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee was present. Principal Rodney Stout was absent.

Visitors: Sara Decker (Zoom), Anthony Johnson, Katherine Tucker, Lynette Tucker, Clay Pierson, Laurie Bartoletti (Zoom), Jerrod Hemphill (Zoom), Bo Herak, and Kaiden Batzler

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Kaylie Theis led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this time.

Public Comment

**REPORTS:**

Student Council: Student Council President Kaiden Batzler reported on the following: middle school boys' basketball wrapped up before Christmas break, and now middle school girls' basketball is underway; high school basketball is in progress; FFA members received their fair checks, and are planning the District CDE competition; FCCLA has held their monthly meeting; the first semester ends Thursday, Jan. 13; the forensics team competed in Forsyth this past weekend, and did well.

Student Co.

Safety Committee: The committee reported that workplace safety, staff concerns regarding drainage and ice issues, and staff wellness programs were discussed.

Safety Comm.

**BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:**

Sheridan School Board will facilitate communication between the District and all stakeholders by using all available sources of media with the intention of promoting the school. Superintendent Wetherbee discussed how communication is always a goal of the District; the District uses the electronic billboard, Facebook, the District website, and athletic schedules to put out information; the local paper doesn't come to our events, but will use pictures and articles that are submitted to them; *The Passamari* has been resurrected, and is distributed around town; Superintendent Wetherbee is publishing a short newsletter each month with a calendar of school events that he distributes to local businesses; other items are submitted to *The Ruby Valley Nugget*; the Board and staff need to do a better job promoting the District, but we have improved; and we can put out a lot of information, but we can't make people read it.

Board Goals

Board Retreat: The Board Retreat was scheduled on Saturday, March 5, with time and location to be determined.

Board Retreat



County Wide Board Meeting: Ennis School will be hosting the county wide board meeting, and would like to know what schools would be interested in participating; several trustees said they would like to attend if they are available on the date that is set.

County Wide  
Mtg

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TERMINATING ZOOM MEETINGS:**

Superintendent Wetherbee noted that Zoom meetings were provided as a way for the public to participate in open meetings when there were restrictions on attendance; there are no longer any restrictions on in-person meetings; moving away from Zoom meetings will help satisfy the goal of normalcy. William T. C. Wood moved to terminate holding meetings by Zoom, and Luke Cordingley seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: some people complain about transparency and communication from the District; offering Zoom meetings is one more tool to communicate with the public; Zoom is a convenience for the public now that they are able to come to meetings in person; the Board is still trying to fill a vacancy, so Zoom is helpful if trustees aren't able to attend in person; if electronic meetings are discontinued, will it seem like we are barring people from participating; the end of the school year is a better time to make the transition. William T. C. Wood, Luke Cordingley, and Kaylie Theis voted in favor of discontinuing Zoom meetings; Ridgley Elser, Kendra Horn, and Cory Rowberry were opposed. The board decided to continue for now and revisit the issue later.

Term. Zoom  
Mtgs

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FOOTBALL CO-OP WITH TWIN BRIDGES SCHOOL:** Clay Pierson informed the board that he had taken a straw-poll of football players, and they are split on whether they want to have a co-op or not; concerns players noted included the following: logistics of practicing in two places, they started football as panthers and they want to finish as panthers, teams that made it through the first round of playoffs were co-ops or schools with bigger rosters, safer for students to have a larger team, teams that are competing for state titles are co-ops; the coaches are in favor of a co-op; Twin Bridges coach Bo Herak informed the Board that Twin Bridges will hold a special board meeting to approve the application to MHSA if Sheridan approves the application; the application is due to MHSA before their February meeting; options include alternating between playing in Falcon and Panther jerseys or a true co-op with new colors and mascot; a true co-op will likely have more buy-in from players and the community; Mr. Pierson has held lunch time meetings, and believes he has met with the majority of the players; the projected roster number for the next three years is around 34 players; the last application was rejected by MHSA because the roster number was too high; however, there are many existing co-op teams with that many or more players; the coaches are confident they can pick up a JV games; the details of the co-op can be worked out if MHSA approves the application. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the application for a full football co-op with Twin Bridges School. Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. Board discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the Districts have been discussing the co-op for three years; it seems to be in the best interests for the health and safety of the kids, and will allow them to play at a higher level and be more competitive; some players play every down,

FB Co-op with  
Twin Bridges



and aren't healthy by the end of the season; looking down the road, the girls will need help with numbers in the near future; it would make sense to implement the co-op at the middle school level as well; Twin Bridges needed to pull up 5<sup>th</sup> graders for football this last season; Twin Bridges doesn't want to go down to 6-man football; the players have known there was a discussion for at least a month; the public has had the opportunity to discuss it; board members have been actively soliciting input; and this is the third time the issue has come to the Board level; the main issue is the kids' safety; MHSA has structured it so that co-ops with bigger rosters are the powerhouses, and other teams can't compete. The motion carried with none opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS:** Cory Rowberry moved to approve the out of district attendance agreements for the Ellis and Maddison families. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Out of District  
Attendance

**HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION:** Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Amanda Norman as assistant cook pending the results of a background check, which is in process. William T. C. Wood moved to hire Amanda Norman as assistant cook, pending the completion of her background check, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resignati  
on

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CHOIR TRIP-MAY 11-16, 2022:** Mr. Johnson provided an itinerary for the proposed trip; the group will be six students and 2 chaperones; the group will be able to perform 5-6 times; their fundraising efforts garnered approximately \$2,300, and should cover the cost of the trip; the film class will also record the performances, and create a documentary of the trip for their final project. Kaylie Theis moved to approve the trip, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to: the group will need a bus, and the itinerary is dependent on a driver and COVID restrictions at participating schools; Mr. Johnson will develop a back-up plan. The motion carried.

Choir Trip

**SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION:** Kendra Horn offered to close the meeting due to Superintendent Wetherbee's right to privacy, in accordance with MCA 2-3-203(3). Superintendent Wetherbee waived his right to privacy, and the meeting remained open. The trustees reviewed the compiled results of the board evaluation and staff evaluation. Kendra Horn commented that Mr. Wetherbee is doing a great job, but continues to find ways to improve; communication is much better; the staff evaluation will see better results from high school staff since he has a competent principal in the elementary and doesn't need to be as visible there; Kaylie Theis commented that if he plans to stay, she would like to remain committed to the students instead of coasting; William T. C. Wood remarked that the job can be difficult even without the obstacles presented by COVID, and appreciates the attention to detail and making sure that students are in the building. No other trustees commented.

Supt. Eval.



**SUPERINTENDENT RENEWAL/NONRENEWAL:** Cory Rowberry moved to renew Superintendent Wetherbee's contract, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board was advised that the Superintendent contract will be negotiated at the February meeting.

Supt.  
Renewal/Non-  
Renewal

**READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) MINUTES:**  
Cory Rowberry moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2021 regular meeting, and Luke Cordingley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes

**REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS AND EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS:** William T. C. Wood moved to approve the January warrant list as presented, including warrants #109788 through #109826 totaling \$72,941.87, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Expenditures

Expenditure Proposals: None at this time.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

- None at this time.

Principal's  
Report

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

Supt. Report


- In general, kids are going to school and doing a good job of it; lot of positives;
- He currently has one of the smallest ineligibility list he has had at this time of year, the student body is working harder than it has for a few years, maintaining grades and behavior at the middle school and high school levels, and discipline wise-things are going well; when he isn't having to deal with issues he's able to do other parts of his job; kids are progressing into senior scholarships, college, jobs, etc.,
- He's looking ahead to some COVID issues, but trying to anticipate; if we need to close, we will move to remote learning; that will depend on staffing; he is still trying to buy home tests, but they are hard to find; the state had some available, but then the school would have had to become a testing center; if we had a school nurse, it would be easier to do that; there are other illnesses going around right now, and he doesn't want kids staying home if they don't have COVID.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:23 pm, William T. C. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were recorded and transcribed by Rebecca E. Larsen, District Clerk.

  
CLERK

  
CHAIRMAN