

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

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

Visitors: Kaiden Batzler, Jenna Nate, Rahn Abbott, Jason Hardy, Sara Decker (Zoom), April Wuelfing (Zoom).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Luke Cordingley led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge

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

Public Comment

**REPORTS:**

**Student Council:** Student body president Kaiden Batzler reported on the following: middle school basketball is finishing up their season, the high school basketball teams will have play-in games for Districts on Wednesday, February 16, and will be in the tournament if they win; FFA has upcoming competitions, including a district competition that will be hosted by the Ruby Valley FFA in Sheridan on Monday, February 21; upcoming trips include the senior trip in April and Close Up in May. The Board asked Kaiden to report on how students are feeling about school lunch at the next meeting.

Student Co.

**Water Quality:** Rahn Abbot updated the Board on the progress of the DEQ's new water testing requirements for schools; he provided the final report on all the fixtures tested through the Montana DEQ Lead in Schools project; the fixtures all were within the proper range, and the district will need to sample the water every five years.

Water Quality

**Negotiation Committee:** The negotiation committee has discussed the following: brought initial items to the table, including a 4% increase on the base every year for the three year term of the contract, clarifying some language, options to remove the retirement incentive, and changes to the extracurricular stipend schedule.

Negotiation Comm.

**Football Co-op:** The application for the co-op has been submitted to MHSA by both schools, and was due Feb. 1; there has been no response from MHSA yet.

Football Co-op

**BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:**

Sheridan School Board will encourage feedback from alumni to showcase strengths and improve weaknesses.

Board Goals

Superintendent Wetherbee discussed Mrs. Bartoletti reaching out to alumni to see how prepared students felt for college or careers after graduation; he makes contact with alumni who have graduated during his tenure in Sheridan; most of the time



students report that they are well prepared; the District tries to send a survey to students one year after graduation, but there isn't a great response; there are several alumni among board members. The District is interested in knowing how prepared students for all types of success, not necessarily college only.

Board Retreat: The Board retreat will be Saturday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m. with the location to be determined.

County Wide Board Meeting: Kaylie Theis, Cory Rowberry, Superintendent Wetherbee and Principal Stout plan to attend the county wide board meeting in Ennis on Monday, February 28.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

ESSER II/III PLAN UPDATES: Superintendent Wetherbee reported that he would like to keep this item on the agenda to keep the Board informed if there are any developments, and to meet the requirements of the grant; he is still waiting to hear from Ameresco on the heat exchange for the high school.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: The Board reviewed the out of district attendance agreement for the Clark family; Luke Cordingley moved to approve the agreement, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION: Superintendent Wetherbee recommend hiring Becky Larsen as head varsity track coach; Kaylie Thies moved to hire Becky Larsen as head track coach, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Board Chair Kendra Horn read Mrs. Bartoletti's letter of resignation as K-12 counselor. (Enclosed.) Cory Rowberry moved to accept her resignation, and Luke Cordingley seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the Board thanked her for her service to Sheridan Schools.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR TRUSTEE ELECTIONS (FOUR POSITIONS) AND GENERAL FUND MILL LEVY ELECTIONS: The Board reviewed the enclosed FY23 budget spreadsheet and election resolutions; preliminary budget numbers are based on the post-session FY22 projections for FY23 funding; the District may have the option to run an elementary general fund levy for approximately \$34,000; the administration advises against running a levy just because we are able to; due to increasing enrollment, the projected budget limits are above the current year budgets.

Luke Cordingley moved to approve the elementary resolution for a trustee election for one one-year position and two three-year positions, without running a levy election, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Board Retreat

County Wide  
Mtg.

ESSER II/III  
Plan Updates

Out of District  
Attendance

Hiring/Resignati  
on

Election  
Resolution



Cory Rowberry moved to approve the high school resolution for a trustee election for one trustee position for one year, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SENIOR TRIP-SALT LAKE CITY, UT, APRIL 7-10: Senior Jenna Nate requested Board approval for the senior trip to Salt Lake City, UT April 7-10; the proposal includes staying at an AirBnB rental instead of a hotel to save money, and trips to the planetarium, Boondocks, and Top Golf, with students wanting to cook and eat their own meals; the trip will require the students to miss one day of school. Kaylie Theis moved to approve the senior trip to Salt Lake City, UT April 7-10, Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. Chaperones will be Mr. Johnson, Ms. Schmit, and the bus driver; 15 of the 17 seniors plan on going on the trip; the currently have approximately \$5,000 in their class account, and will do more fundraising if required. The motion carried.

Senior Trip

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CLOSE UP TRIP, APRIL 30-MAY 6: April Wuelfing requested approval for the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C. from April 30 through May 7; the program runs from Sunday night through Thursday night, and the group will have a day before and day after the program to tour on their own; there will be 9 seniors, 9 juniors, Mrs. Wuelfing and one chaperone will be attending; fundraising is still in progress, with Krispy Kreme sales, a carnival, dance and concessions; she is hopeful that Close Up will be as normal as it can be since the beginning of the pandemic; all attractions that are "the people's" are open, but the Capitol is still closed; last year's group was still able to meet with state representatives when they went in June; the groups will need to wear masks in public places, but other restrictions have been lifted. Cory Rowberry moved to approve the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C. April 30-May 7, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Close-Up

Enrollment

REVIEW SPRING ENROLLMENT DATA: The Board reviewed the enclosed spring enrollment data, and discussed how ANB is calculated and how it will drive next year's budget.

CSCT MOU

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REVISED MOU WITH OPI AND DPHHS FOR CSCT SERVICES: The Board reviewed the enclosed revised MOU for CSCT services. Luke Cordingley moved to approve the revised MOU, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Principal  
Renewal/Non-  
renewal

PRINCIPAL RENEWAL/NONRENEWAL: Superintendent Wetherbee commended Principal Stout's performance, and recommended that the Board renew his contract for the FY23 school year. Cory Rowberry moved to renew Principal Stout's contract for FY23. Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Supt. Contract

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: Superintendent Wetherbee recommended drafting a letter of intent and tabling the contract negotiations until the negotiations with the SFT are complete to take care of the teaching staff first and have a better picture of how the CBA will go. William T. C. Wood moved to

Minutes



approve a letter of intent for Superintendent Wetherbee for FY23 and table contract negotiations, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) MINUTES:**

Kaylie Theis moved to approve minutes from the January 11, 2022 regular and safety committee meetings as presented, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS AND EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS:**

Cory Rowberry moved to approve the February warrant list as presented, including warrants #109827 through #109868 totaling \$71,330.91, and Luke Cordingley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The clerk advised the trustees that there will be an additional warrant to OPI for CSCT match purposes.

Expenditure Proposals: Superintendent Wetherbee informed the Board that he is looking at buying a metal shear for the shop, which will cost approximately \$12k; the FFA Alumni may be able to help with the cost, and there is state CTE grant money available to spend, as well.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

- January attendance: JS-6=93%, 7-8=96%, 9-12=91%, and JS-12=93%;
- January students of the month;
- The Sheridan Spelling Bee will be Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. for grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>; the top four spellers will move on to the Madison County Spelling Bee;
- The Science Fair will be Feb. 16; anyone interested in judging should contact him or Mrs. Decker;
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter midterm is Feb. 17, and students will be released early on Feb. 24 for parent-teacher conferences;
- The current JS-6<sup>th</sup> enrollment is 128; current projections for next year indicate the Jumpstart Kindergarten will be consistent with the size of this year's class.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

- Facilities: a new commercial washing machine was purchased to replace a broken washer in the elementary school; Rahn Abbott did a great job on the DEQ's lead in schools testing, which required a lot of legwork to map the fixtures all over campus;
- He is currently about 75% done with the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) report that must be done every year; it is a very tedious and detailed report for all three school levels that takes about 15-20 hours to complete; it is a requirement for the District to receive federal funding;
- High school and middle school staff will be calling parents to invite them to parent-teacher conferences;

Expenditures

Principal's  
Report

- MAPS testing is complete for grades K-12, and the juniors will take the ACT next month;
- The high school will be visiting MSU and Gallatin colleges on Monday, Feb. 28; the trip is made annually and rotates between Bozeman, Dillon, Butte, and Helena;
- Discipline: He is having issues with students who have just received their license driving at lunch, so he is working on lining that out; high school discipline hasn't been too bad, but he sees the same few kids more than once; middle school was having a hard time with their behavior, but they seem to be getting better with fewer classroom disruptions; tardies have been an issue, and he's been pretty strict in response, which is resulting in a lot of detentions to try and fix it;
- He showed the trustees some vaping and drug paraphernalia that was brought in for demonstrations;
- The inspection dog was here, and didn't hit on anything; while it is not impossible that items were missed, it is unlikely that there were any items on campus at the time; the seniors will have their bags inspected before they go on their senior trip;

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:21 pm, Cory Rowberry moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

  
CLERK  
CHAIRMAN