

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

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

Visitors: Landon Dybdal, Lyra Hyndman, Ed Burke, and Jenn Martens (Zoom)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ridgley Elser led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

Public Comment

REPORTS:

HEALTH CAREER CURRICULUM: Landon Dybdal from Ruby Valley Medical Center, discussed restarting the program for juniors and seniors to job shadow at the hospital; the program is modeled after the Deer Lodge Hospital program, and gives students the opportunity to job shadow in all the medical center's departments; he would like to have it in place by the spring semester.

Health Career Curriculum

ARP ESSER PLAN: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that he has submitted the ARP ESSER Plan to the Montana Office of Public Instruction, as required by the US Department of Education; the report follows the Policy 1900 series, and is required as part of the ESSER money the District is receiving.

ARP ESSER Plan

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

1. Sheridan School Board will proactively address annual and long-term financial strategies while maintaining transparency and fiscal responsibility. Superintendent Wetherbee discussed the ways the Board and Administration work to meet this goal: prepping for the annual budget meeting, adopting the budget, receiving positive audit reports, and overseeing monthly expenses. The District has a good team with good accountability, and a good track record of being fiscally responsible.
2. Ed Burke-Athletic Director Report: Mr. Burke gave the Board a quick overview of the responsibilities and duties of the athletic director and the way games are scheduled for each season (see enclosed); he stated that MHSA hasn't offered any guidance for COVID protocols for the 2021-22 school year.

Board Goals/Training

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF FY22 ACADIA CONTRACT-ALTACARE: The FY22 contract with Acadia for AltaCare services was previously tabled; Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that he has spoken with their director, and they feel like they are going to be solvent; based on that conversation, Superintendent Wetherbee feels comfortable recommending approval of the contract. He will still work on an alternate plan with our mental health providers in case state funding or the company's situation changes, and will bring any proposal to the Board if it becomes necessary. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the FY22 Acadia contract, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The important

AltaCare Contract

thing will be to avoid interrupting services to students who need them; if there are no other options, the District may use ESSER money to provide services. The motion carried.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF POLICY SERIES 1900: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that the Policy 1900 Series expired on June 30, and he recommended that they be readopted as they were. Ridgley Elser moved to adopt the Policy 1900 series as previously implemented, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: The Board could choose to remove them from policy, but it is advisable to keep them in place to assist with any COVID money restrictions; COVID numbers are also climbing county and state wide. The motion carried.

Policy 1900
Series

NEW BUSINESS:

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: The Board reviewed the attendance agreement for a resident student attending school in Ennis. William T. C. Wood moved to acknowledge the attendance agreement for the Buyan family, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Out of District
Attendance

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION: The Board reviewed Cathie Sheldon's letter resigning from her position as a paraprofessional (See enclosed.) William T.C. Wood moved to accept her resignation, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resignati
on

Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that the District advertised to fill two paraprofessional positions before receiving Mrs. Sheldon's resignation. He and Principal Stout interviewed three applicants. Principal Stout recommended hiring Rena Ames and Samantha Johnson as paraprofessionals, pending successful background check results. Ridgley Elser moved to hire Rena Ames as a paraprofessional, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried. Kaylie Theis moved to hire Samantha Johnson as a paraprofessional, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FY2021 TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL SUMMARY: The Board reviewed the TFS, and the Clerk advised the Board that there were some small items to complete regarding long-term liabilities, fixed assets, scholarships and student activities before submission. William T. C. Wood moved to accept the high school TFS for FY21, pending completion by the Clerk, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FY21 TFS

William T. C. Wood moved to accept the elementary TFS for FY21, pending completion by the Clerk, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FY2022 BUDGET: The Board discussed the FY22 high school and elementary budgets, sources of revenue, and compared proposed FY22 mills levied against previous years'. William T. C. Wood moved to accept the FY22 Elementary Budget as presented, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: changes in taxable values, guaranteed tax base aid, state funding components, ANB, and unanticipated enrollment increases. The motion carried.

FY22 Budget

Ridgley Elser moved to accept the FY22 High School Budget as presented, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF REQUIRED REVISIONS TO RECOMMENDED POLICIES: Policy 2332, 2600, 2600F, 2600P, 3121, 3233, 3510 and 8410: Superintendent

Policy 2332,
2600, 2600F,

Wetherbee recommended accepting the revisions as presented. William T. C. Wood moved to accept the policy revisions as presented by MTSBA for policies 2332, 2600, 2600F, 2600P, 3121, 3233, and 8410, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2600P, 3121,
3233, 3510,
8410

Ridgley Elser moved to adopt revised policy #3510 as presented by MTSBA, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF REQUIRED POLICY REVISIONS: 5228F, 5228F1, 8130, 8200, and 8301: Superintendent Wetherbee recommended approval of the revised policies as presented by MTSBA, and advised that Policy 8130 and Policy 8301 contain options and should be considered separately. William T. C. Wood moved to adopt revised policies 5228F, 5228F1, and 8200 as presented. Cory Rowberry seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Policy 5228F,
5228F1, 8130,
8200, 8301

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended adoption of Policy 8130 with the following options:

1. The District shall use the Montana Air Quality website and our own visual points of reference including the "S" (see enclosed), and will use discretion of the staff;
2. Personnel: will be the administration or designee;
3. Reasonable amount of time;
4. Students and parents will be informed through Infinite Campus, text, email, voicemail, and verbal communication, while the community will be informed through the electronic billboard, Facebook, and the District website.

Ridgley Elser moved to adopt Policy 8130 as recommended, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended adoption of Policy 8301 as presented without the optional language. William T. C. Wood moved to adopt Policy 8301 as presented, omitting the optional language on line 36, and the possible hazards as listed in the model policy. Cory Rowberry seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE MATRIX: The Board reviewed the current classified employee matrix. (Enclosed.) Superintendent Wetherbee discussed how the District is falling out of competition with other local employers; currently the nursing home and grocery store are starting employees at around \$15/hr; the District will need to look at employers in the area, and other Districts that are of comparable size in the area and state-wide; additionally, the District doesn't offer benefits to hourly employees unless they are on a full year contract, and most employees aren't offered a 40 hour week due to the 4-day school week. State-wide it is difficult to hire bus drivers; if there aren't enough drivers, parents may need to drive their children to out of town games; wages may be part of the issue; in February, new federal regulations will go into effect, making it more difficult for drivers to obtain their CDL; it would benefit the District to review the current matrix. Ridgley Elser moved to form a committee to meet and look into the issue, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried. Committee members are Superintendent Wetherbee, Principal Stout Kaylie Theis and Ridgley Elser.

Classified
Employee
Matrix

CONSIDERATION OF RESCHEDULING SEPTEMBER REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Due to conflicts with Homecoming and Superintendent Weetherbee's scheduled leave, it was recommended that the regular September board meeting be

September
Board Meeting

rescheduled to Wednesday, September 8. Cory Rowberry moved to reschedule the September board meeting, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCONTINUING ZOOM PLATFORM: The Board briefly discussed discontinuing the Zoom platform for meetings, as there are rarely any public participants. However, it enables the public to be more involved. There was no motion.

Zoom Platform

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

Ridgley Elser moved to approve minutes from the July 13, 2021 regular meeting as presented, and William T. C. Wood 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 August warrant list as presented, including warrants #109595 through #109632 totaling \$44,171.65, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Expenditures

Expenditure Proposals: Superintendent Wetherbee advised that the new ramp at the high school entrance is scheduled to be done Thursday.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Stout advised the Board that the District will have to drop from four transportation routes to three due to the lack of drivers. There are a lot of new students, but the routes will be planned in order to ensure all are provided with transportation. He will bring revised bus routes to a future meeting.

Principal's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

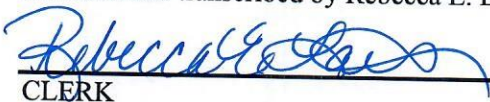
Supt. Report


- The Governor's Office issued a letter to schools on masks, see enclosed;
- Federal COVID money is tied to schools following the CDC guidelines; currently, CDC guidelines require face masks on public transportation, specifically including school buses, even though other areas of law specifically exclude school buses from public transportation; the District will need to consider the possible consequences of not following the mask guidance as far as insurance and liability are concerned, in addition to the approximately \$400,000 in ESSER money that could be at risk.
- The County Health Department sent a letter to schools, see enclosed;
- Vaccine mandates may be on their way, and the parents in the District may not respond very well if that occurs.
- He is still working to see if the District is able to offer drivers' education during the spring semester as part of the curriculum, even as soon as this spring.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:04 p.m., Bill Wood moved to adjourn the meeting. The minutes of this meeting were recorded and transcribed by Rebecca E. Larsen, District Clerk.

Adjourn


CLERK


CHAIRMAN