

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kendra Horn. John Russ Hamilton, Kendra Horn, Therese Sutton, William T. C. Wood, Principal Rodney Stout and Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee were present. William Fabel attended the meeting electronically.

Visitors: Donnie Engelhardt, Stephanie Haag, Laurie Bartoletti, Anthony Johnson (via Zoom), and Julie Russell (via Zoom) James Schrank (via Zoom) Sharon Lombonaung (via Zoom).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Klint Todd led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

Sheridan School Board will proactively address annual and long-term financial strategies while maintaining transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Superintendent Wetherbee explained that this is a primary goal that the District accomplishes successfully every year; the process begins with adopting the budget, then reviewing expenditures every month. The Board asks questions and has a good understanding of financial operations; the District has received clean audits for the past few years, and financial management underlines every other goal of the District.

MTSBA Webinar-Flexibility, Efficiencies, and Funding Challenges Facing Montana's Public Schools-Part I: The Trustees and the audience watched the 20 minute webinar provided by MTSBA.

OLD BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEE: Therese Sutton moved to appoint Donnie Engelhardt as trustee to fill the vacant Alder position and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SHERIDAN SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN: Superintendent Wetherbee provided the revised draft of the reopening plan. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the number of active COVID cases affecting school, changing from county-wide numbers to Ruby Valley numbers, recommending face coverings, encouraging parents and visitors to stay out of the buildings as much as possible, parent/teacher conferences and sporting events, MW read through revised draft-discussion of minimum number of cases, threshold for normal school, modify to Ruby Valley, masks, encouraging people to stay out of the building through all phases, parent/teacher conferences, and sports

Pledge

Public
Comment

Board Goals

MTSBA
Webinar

Appointment
of Trustee

Reopening
Plan

spectators. Under the current reopening plan, there will be no spectators at volleyball games; he will work on a plan for the county health board to approve parents at indoor events; live-streaming events through the NFHS website will be an option; if students opt for remote learning, they will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities; remote learning will be provided through a third-party called Bridgeway Learning; it is a K-12 program, and the curriculum aligns with our existing curriculum and consists of a book learning approach with tutoring and live classes; we will still count those students for our ANB; he anticipates 10-20 students who will be participating in remote learning; the program costs approximately \$2,000 per student per semester; there will be a cut-off date for enrolling in remote learning; if students who are enrolled in remote learning are unable to participate in extra-curricular activities, allowing homeschool students to participate this year may create an equity issue; therefore, they are not allowed to participate at this time; in the future, the remote learning model may provide an additional avenue to invite some homeschool students into the school.

Therese Sutton moved to approve the plan with the revisions discussed and Bridgeway Learning as the distance learning platform. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: None at this time.

Out of District
Attendance

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION: The Board heard the resignation letter from Dave Larson, who is retiring. William T. C. Wood moved to accept the resignation and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resigna
tion

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Marty Gasper as custodian to fill the vacancies left by Mr. Larson and Mrs. Anson, and to fulfill the additional duties of sanitizing the school buildings at night. John Russ Hamilton moved to hire Marty Gasper as custodian. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Gina Engelhardt as the assistant varsity volleyball coach. William T. C. Wood moved to hire Gina Engelhardt as the assistant varsity volleyball coach, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Donnie Engelhardt abstaining.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Kim Baril as assistant middle school volleyball coach. Therese Sutton moved to hire Kim Baril as assistant middle school volleyball coach and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Ben Holland as head varsity boys' basketball coach. John Russ Hamilton moved to hire Ben Holland as head varsity

boys' basketball coach. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Isabel Anderson as assistant cook. Therese Sutton moved to hire Isabel Anderson as assistant cook. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Mike Wetherbee as assistant varsity football coach. John Russ Hamilton moved to hire Mike Wetherbee as assistant varsity football coach. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

APPROVE CLASSIFIED AND CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS: The Board reviewed the enclosed classified and certified employee handbooks. Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that dates had been changed, and recommend the Board approve the handbooks as presented. Therese Sutton moved to approve the classified staff handbook as presented. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Emp.
Handbooks

John Russ Hamilton moved to approve the certified staff handbook as presented. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

APPROVE 2020-21 STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended approving the student handbook but would like discussion on one item. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the student handbook and Therese Sutton seconded. Superintendent Wetherbee proposed banning cell phones for high school students; they are already not allowed during school hours for younger students; they are the largest distraction to learning in high school and junior high; it would help instruction, but staff will need to model the behavior. William T. C. Wood moved to amend the motion to approve the student handbook with additional language prohibiting cell phone use during the school day for all grade levels. Therese Sutton seconded the amendment to the motion. The motion on the amendment carried. The motion to approve the handbook as revised carried.

Student
Handbook

APPROVE FY2020 TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

The Clerk presented the FY2020 Trustees' Financial Summaries to the Board; there are a few final entries that need to be made to the fixed assets, due from other governments and taxes receivable, as well as some accounting entries for the Governor's Coronavirus Relief Funds. Therese Sutton moved to approve the FY 2020 High School Trustees' Financial Summary draft, with the finalizations discussed. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the FY 2020 Elementary Trustees' Financial Summary, with the finalizations discussed. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

FY2020 TFS

APPROVE FY2021 BUDGET:

The Clerk presented the FY2021 Budget Reports to the Board; there are a few discussion items for the Board's consideration; taxable valuations have increased by 2% in the high school district and 4% in the elementary district; the bus depreciation funds are will funded, with the district having the capacity to purchase or replace several busses if it becomes necessary; eliminating the levies in the bus depreciation fund will save taxpayers 7.1 mills in the high school district and 12 mills in the elementary district; the transportation funds will be increased slightly to accommodate for any unforeseen COVID related expenses in the budget year; there is no levy in the adult education fund, as there has not been enough adult education activity to spend down the available funds; there will also be some adjustments to the elementary budget due to the accounting entries necessary for the Governor's Coronavirus Relief Funds. Superintendent Wetherbee recommended the Board approve the budget without levying in the bus depreciation funds to reduce the burden on local taxpayers. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the FY 2021 High School Budget Report with changes to the levy in the bus depreciation fund. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

FY2021
Budget

Therese Sutton moved to approve moved to approve budget with changes to the bus depreciation fund levies and corrections to transportation and general funds due to the coronavirus relief. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF EARLY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Mrs. Bartoletti addressed the Board; she informed them that there will be Ready, Set, Grow preschool program this year; they have been operating for 35 years, and were an asset to the community; Twin Bridges School and Alder School are both operating pre-kindergarten programs; there is a need in the community for that kind of program; she read a letter from Julie Russell, long-time Ready, Set, Grow teacher (see enclosed). Superintendent Wetherbee informed the Board that he has already starting doing some research into implementing a pre-kindergarten in the District; he will assess community support, and further examine using the appropriate use of Title I funds, and obtaining ANB funding for four-year old students; he hopes that it can be an action item in September, and implemented after Christmas; he would want to hire a certified teacher.

Early
Kindergarten
Program

APPROVE BANK SIGNING PRIVILEGES: With the change from Ruby Valley Bank to Opportunity Bank, it is necessary for the Board to have an official motion to approve signing privileges on the school's accounts. Currently, signatories are Rebecca Larsen, Superintendent Wetherbee, William T. C. Wood, and Emily McParland. William T. C. Wood moved to remove William T. C. Wood from the bank signature card and add Kendra Horn and Rodney Stout. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bank Signing
Privileges

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE INACTIVE DEBT SERVICE AND BUILDING FUNDS: The Clerk advised the Board that there are no longer any taxes

Close Inactive
Funds

receivable due to the debt service and building reserve funds for both the high school and elementary districts. It has been advised by OPI and the auditor to close the inactive funds. By law, any residual equity may be transferred to the building reserve funds.

John Russ Hamilton moved to close the inactive elementary debt service fund and transfer the remaining balance to the elementary building reserve fund. Donnie Engelhardt seconded the motion and the motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to close the inactive elementary building fund and transfer the remaining balance to the elementary building reserve fund. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to close the inactive high school debt service fund and transfer the remaining balance to the high school building reserve fund. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

John Russ Hamilton moved to close the inactive high school building fund and transfer the remaining balance to the high school building reserve fund. Klint Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2019 AUDIT REPORT:

William T. C. Wood moved to approve the FY 2019 audit report by Strom & Associates. Therese Sutton seconded the motion. There were no findings in the FY2019 audit, and few verbal comments. The motion carried.

2019 Audit
Report

READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

MINUTES:

John Russ Hamilton moved to approve the minutes from the June 9 regular meeting, June 30 safety committee meeting, and August 3 special meeting as presented. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Minutes

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

William T. C. Wood moved to approve the July and August warrant list as presented, including warrants #109071 through #109143 totaling \$185,691.21. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Expenditures

Expenditure Proposals: None at this time

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Stout reported on the following:

- The busses were inspected by the Montana Highway Patrol, and are all ready to go for the routes;
- Bus drivers will have CPR and First Aid training on August 20th and 21st.

Principal's
Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

- The county health board is looking for a way to help facilitate school nurses, possibly through having some supervised nursing students filling that role;
- The enclosed NorthWestern Energy reports show a two-year history for power usage in the elementary building; the solar panels resulted in an immediate savings in power usage. He would like to look into solar panels for the high school building now, and will contact Kenworthy Electric about that.
- The shop addition has the electrical wires run, and we are currently waiting for the garage door. When students are back, they will put the wrap on the outside and then work on insulation this fall.

Supt. Report

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:05 p.m., William T. C. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

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


CLERK


CHAIRMAN