

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kendra Horn. William Fabel, John Russ Hamilton, Therese Sutton, Klint Todd, and William T. C. Wood were present. Superintendent Wetherbee and Principal Stout were present.

Visitors: Laurie Bartoletti (Zoom)

William Fabel led the audience and the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Public
Comment

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

Sheridan School Board will maintain board policy in order to be current with state and federal laws with a focus on quality education.

Board Goals &
Training

Superintendent Wetherbee emphasized how the board has adapted to the changing educational climate, and is keeping up with new and revised policies as things continue to change, especially the COVID-19 policies, to best serve the District's students.

MTSBA Webinar: Flexibility, Efficiencies, and Funding Challenges Facing Montana's Public Schools-Part II – The Board watched the twenty minute webinar provided by MTSBA. Discussion included, but was not limited to: What other things can we look at to expand college and career readiness; there is flexibility in state law to enroll students who have graduated; there is potential to work with colleges; currently, the District only has one teacher offering a dual credit course; dual credits are available through Montana Digital Academy; incentives for teachers to obtain Master's degree to be able to offer dual credits; this is a difficult topic for small school due to limited resources, but it is another way to make Sheridan an exceptional school.

MTSBA
Webinar

OLD BUSINESS:

EARLY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: The Board reviewed the provided handout regarding an early kindergarten program. (See enclosed.) Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the program can be funded through Title I, grants and private donors; the program would be classified as a transitional kindergarten; students who are four years old by September 10 will qualify for ANB; the initial plan is for a half-day program with a certified teacher; there is a need in the community for an early kindergarten program; the District will need to work with the SFT due to adding a certified position; there is a lot of interest in the program already; morning transportation can be provided; the District can poll the community to gauge interest and need; elementary classrooms will be reconfigured to accommodate the program. The Board consensus was that Superintendent

Early
Kindergarten

Wetherbee and Principal Stout should move forward, and have the item ready for board action at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: The Board reviewed attendance agreements for the Anderson, Dale, Fitzpatrick, Fraser, Frederick, Hayden, Hellwinkle, Hendrickson, Keltz, Kinoshita, Kruer, Pearce, Stack, and Witham families. William T. C. Wood moved to acknowledge the 24 attendance agreements presented, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Out of District
Attendance

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION: Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Rosie Bartoletti as paraprofessional. Therese Sutton moved to hire Rosie Bartoletti as paraprofessional, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. Principal Stout stated that she would fill the Spanish speaking paraprofessional position; she is very qualified, and will be here on a temporary basis. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resigna
tion

APPROVE SUBSTITUTE HANDBOOK: The Trustees reviewed the Substitute Teacher Handbook for 2020-21. William Fabel moved to approve the handbook with the revised cell phone policy added. Therese Sutton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approve
Substitute
Handbook

DECLARATION OF TRUSTEE VACANCY: The Board reviewed the letter of resignation from Donnie Engelhardt, who is moving out of district. John Russ Hamilton moved to declare a trustee vacancy, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board will have 60 days to appoint a new trustee.

Declaration of
Trustee
Vacancy

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED POLICY #1905-STUDENT, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: The Board reviewed the revised policy as presented by MTSBA. The policy was revised due to the Governor's August 12 directive. Superintendent Wetherbee recommended adopting the revised policy with the following options:

Policy #1905

- Physical Distancing: Option 1, with recess "Recess will continue as scheduled in accordance with physical distancing guidance, without the use of playground equipment. Any other use of school playgrounds is strictly prohibited." stricken and replaced with "Recess and use of playgrounds during recess are permitted on an adjusted schedule to maintain appropriate student groupings."
- Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment: Option 2, with additional optional language if the county has four or more active cases of COVID-19, with the time of day changed from 3:00 pm to 10:00 am, and the language regarding harassment revised as follows: "Allegations of harassment of any person regarding face coverings will be promptly investigated in accordance with District policy."

Therese Sutton moved to adopt the policy as revised. William Fabel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REVIEW MADISON COUNTY SPORTS PLAN: The Board reviewed the county sports plan as presented. The superintendents of the Madison County Schools collaborated to develop the plan, and it was presented to the county health board. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: Superintendent Wetherbee commented that if the Board were to revise the plan, he would like to remove the provision for "direct family members" and replace it with "four spectators per uniformed player"; the intention of the plan is to limit the number of people who are at games and keep sporting events consistent throughout the county; the Board would still like to make a way for the community to support the students; the list of names of visitors is an issue for some; spectators may not be willing to be part of contact tracing, and are not made aware of that if they are on the list; it doesn't matter who is in attendance if the purpose is to limit crowd size; ultimately, the Board is liable if best practices aren't followed, so the Board must make the decision that is best for the District. John Russ Hamilton moved to accept the plan, striking "direct family members" and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The Board discussed eliminating the list of visitors, and would like four spots per uniformed player instead. MHSA has notified schools that they will need to adhere more strictly to the guidelines, or programs may be shut down. John Ross Hamilton rescinded the motion on the floor, as the plan has already been approved by the county health board. The Board recommended changing procedure from keeping a list of names of spectators to tally marks for each player.

Mad. Co.
Sports Plan

APPROVE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST: The Board reviewed the enclosed list of substitute teachers. Background checks for new additions, Luca Troiani and Lauren Bleck, are in process. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the list, contingent on the favorable results of background checks. William Fabel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Sub List

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

John Russ Hamilton moved to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2020 regular meeting, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes

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

The Trustees reviewed the claim approval list for September, totaling \$ 87,348.22 including claims 2852-2888. William T. C. Wood moved to approve the claim approval list as presented, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried. The board noted the larger expenditures were the playground equipment, electrical work on the shop addition, and the disinfectant sprayers. Due to the Labor Day holiday, some September invoices were not received in time for the Board meeting; the clerk will update the Board at the October meeting of any additional September claims.

Warrant List

Expenditure Proposals: None at this time.

Exp. Proposals

PRINCIPAL REPORT:

Principal Stout reported on the following:

- Attendance for K-6 = 97%, 7-8=93%, 9-12= 95% and 96% overall;
- Students started fall MAPS testing today, and he is looking forward to reviewing the data since we are coming off a 6 month hiatus;
- He has ordered the Inspired Classroom training module for substitute teachers;
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held Sept. 24 in a virtual format;
- The administration has decided not to take any student-teachers or observers at this time;
- K-6 enrollment was 88 at the start of school, and 7 students have enrolled since then.

Principal's
Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

- Students are getting back into their routine, and doing what they are supposed to be doing;
- There are 11 students participating in remote learning;
- He and Mrs. Bartoletti will be very involved with the students who are participating in Bridgeway Academy so they can monitor their progress;
- The high school and middle school will begin their testing next week;
- Sports livestreaming: last week, the District was able to livestream the football games; it ended up being a last minute decision, and there are some kinks to work out; at the end of the season, his goal is to have equal streaming between volleyball and football; he has ordered a new camera with better resolution; the NFHS program will cost the District money, and then viewers need pay a subscription to watch games; he is exploring alternatives; the Board discussed whether there is any liability involved with streaming if there are students who do not want to be part of a live stream. He will contact MTSBA and find out.
- He will reopen the public weight room because there is sufficient staff to clean it every day; users will be notified.

Supt. Report

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:57 p.m., John Russ Hamilton made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Adjourn

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


CLERK


CHAIRMAN