

PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 6
Special Board Meeting
November 3, 2020

The Board of Education of Park County School District No. 6 met on November 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Westside Annex Board Room. Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Stefanie Bell, Tom Keegan, Brandi Nelson, Cathy Roes, Jenni Rosencranse and Karen Schipfmann. Absent: John McCue, but was expected to arrive later. Administrators present: Peg Monteith and Tim Foley. Directors present: Terry Gardenhire, Dawn Solberg and Chynna Singer.

Chairman Nelson called for approval of the amended agenda.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Cathy Roes and carried, the amended agenda was approved.

Cody Middle School guidance counselor, Kori Black, introduced Magnus, her therapy dog in-training and explained that she had been working to gather ideas for a set of written protocols pertaining to having a therapy dog. She will make certain that staff and parents receive notification once Magnus begins his work. The schedule will consist of having him onsite for two hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

School psychologist, Dr. Dan Cossaboon, spoke to the board about a proposal to amend the Jason Flatt Act. He shared that he would be asking for board support. He is proposing amendment of the 2014 mandated staff training to include students grades 6-12. He is scheduled to present to the Joint Education Committee on November 17 or 18. He shared information pertaining to youth suicide stating in 2019, suicide was the number one cause of death among students ages 15-24. He explained that money has already been allocated to Cody Regional Health for suicide prevention and Wendy Morris of CRH, along with five additional trainers, are ready to provide students with training. The training should not take up large amounts of classroom time and the plan would be to have school psychologists and guidance counselors trained also. Cody High School students Megan Horner (on behalf of National Honor Society), Paula Medina (on behalf of FBLA and student council), Sophie Anderson (on behalf of Youth for Justice, Gay Straight Alliance, and Teen Coalition) and Hannah (on behalf of Gay Straight Alliance and her personal experience) all shared their support in getting students trained. Dr. Cossaboon added that a petition with over 100 student signatures had already been completed in support of the training.

Stefanie Bell asked about an opt out option. Dr. Cossaboon replied that that option would be available. Mrs. Bell requested that this topic be added as an action item to the November 16 board agenda and that the board draft a letter of support. Brandi Nelson, Stefanie Bell and Karen Schipfmann will work on a letter. Dr. Cossaboon will notify them of the date that a letter of support would be due to the Joint Education Committee.

Tim Foley and MaryAnn DeHaven gave a high-level overview of the recent accreditation visit with Cognia. Interviews totaled 212 and both positive and other findings were shared. Overall the virtual visit was very positive. A written report is expected at the end of November.

Terry Gardenhire reviewed the 5-Year Major Maintenance plan. He shared that \$1M worth of work is scheduled to begin next June and an anticipated \$645,211 carryover by September 2021. He has anticipated capping spending at \$1M per year. The good news is after the School Facilities Commission scored district buildings, anything receiving a score of 3 or below will have been updated and fixed by September 2021, so our facilities will be in good shape. He shared that there are some project the district will need to start saving for; re-carpeting the CHS football field turf (2025) and resurfacing the CHS track (2027). Members of the activities committee discussed capturing some of the gate fees or activities monies to set aside for these large projects and plan to get Mr. Hult to schedule a meeting soon. The estimated 5-year spending plan and 2021 summer projects were also reviewed.

Mrs. Singer reviewed the responses and results of the substitute survey, as well as the discussion from the substitute focus group. She stated that many of the suggestions would be implemented next year, but one good suggestion was to utilize a building liaison as the point of contact for substitutes. That liaison was suggested to be the media paraprofessional in each building. Discussion continued with trustees and Mrs. Singer shared that the biggest difficulty is filling vacancies due to COVID leave. Substitutes do not generally want to commit to that many consecutive days. Trustees will consider the hiring of two full-time substitutes for the district at the November 16 meeting.

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The board took a brief recess. Jenni Rosencranse left the meeting.

The meeting resumed and Chairman Nelson called for discussion of Policy GCQA – Reduction in Force.

Superintendent Monteith shared that district counsel had recommended changes be made to the existing policy to remove the language referring to non-instructional staff as they are on one year contract and non-tenured employees. Policy GCQA will be up for first reading at the November 16 meeting.

Chairman Nelson called for discussion on Policy BDE – Board Committees.

Trustee Keegan began the discussion by stating that Jenni Rosencranse would have best input. Chairman Nelson stated that Mrs. Rosencranse had in fact shared her opinion by stating that she felt a wording change of “recommendation” in place of the word “policy” would improve the policy intent. Policy BDE will be up for second reading at the November 16 meeting.

Chairman Nelson asked for discussion about an early retirement incentive.

Mrs. Monteith stated that an early retirement incentive was utilized in 2016/2017 and there has been discussion about possibly using a similar incentive with looming budget cuts. Approximately 30 employees could potentially qualify and the board would need to determine the parameters. Discussion continued with Mrs. Solberg and Mrs. Singer and Trustee Nelson shared that suggested revisions be completed and resent to trustees as soon as possible. Trustee Roes suggested looking at what other districts have done.

Trustee Bell reviewed revisions to Policy HB Negotiations, Legal Status along with the HB Procedures that had been done with the help of 3x3 members. She suggested the HB Procedures should possibly be a regulation. Mrs. Nelson shared that with the minimal time to review the revisions, that trustees should reach out to the 3x3 board members to share any additional considerations and the board would again review Policy HB and Procedures at the November 16 meeting

Chairman Nelson asked for volunteers to serve as voting delegates for the Wyoming School Boards Association conference. Trustees Bell and Roes volunteered.

Chairman Nelson called for discussion about advertising costs for sale of the old transportation facility.

Mrs. Monteith shared that \$2,500 were set aside for the broadcast journalism club to create the marketing plan. For advertising, the district would run the ad which would be paid from the advertising line item in the board budget. Trustee Bell shared that a half page ad in the local paper runs about \$490 and then there is a discount for the second and third run. The Powell paper is similar but you buy two ad runs and get the third free. Trustee Roes suggested the broadcast journalism students develop a print ad and Facebook ad not to exceed \$2,500.

Chairman Nelson called for approval of the Consent Agenda.

On motion by Stefanie Bell, seconded by Karen Schipfmann and carried, the following consent agenda items were approved:

Certified Resignations/Terminations/Retirements

Robyn Gott-Wickes, Special Education, Eastside

Classified Resignations/Terminations/Retirements

Lisa Thomas, Tech Specialist, Technology

Classified Employment

Ernest Hiltz, Food Truck Driver, Transportation

Gail Sizer, Crossing Guard, Sunset

Leland Baer, Relief Driver, Transportation

Crystal Chacon, Paraeducator, Livingston

- Accepted Donation of \$4,500 Trailer to CHS Activities

Chairman Nelson called for approval of an advertising budget for the sale of the old transportation facility.

Cathy Roes moved to allow the CHS Broadcast Journalism students to do the advertising for the sale of the old transportation facility with a budget not to exceed \$2,000 to be paid from the board budget plus any expense that are not billed directly to the district will be paid by the district. Stefanie Bell seconded. Trustee Roes amended her motion to clarify that the CHS Broadcast Journalism students would build the print ad. Trustee Bell seconded and the motion carried.

Tim Foley updated the trustees that the tech department had begun working on a substitute email list and would be providing sub kits with Chromebooks at the buildings and begin plans to provide training.

There being no further business to come before the board, on motion by Cathy Roes, seconded by Tom Keegan and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Chairman of the Board

Date

Clerk

Date