

PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
Special Board Meeting
February 4, 2020

The Board of Education of Park County School District No. 6 met on February 4, 2020 at 5:30 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, John McCue, Brandi Nelson, Cathy Roes, Jenni Rosencranse and Karen Schipfmann. Administrators present: Peg Monteith, Tim Foley, Jeremiah Johnston, Beth Blatt, Nick Gallagher and Kelly Merager. Supervisors/directors present: Terry Gardenhire, Sam Hummel, Chynna Singer and Dawn Solberg.

Trustee McCue moved to approve the amended agenda. Trustee Schipfmann seconded. Motion carried.

Chief of Police, Chuck Baker, presented information on an opportunity to apply for a COPS Hiring Program grant that is geared toward smaller agencies. He noted that the grant application is due March 11 and there are \$4M allocated for the purpose of hiring extra police officers, such as school resource officers (SRO). He explained the conditions of the grant obligation wherein the first three years the award would cover 75% of the approved entry-level salary and fringe benefits for a full-time officer and 25% being a local cash match requirement. At the conclusion of year three, recipients must retain the position for a minimum of another 12 months. He explained more details of the program and stated if awarded, the grant would begin for the 2020/2021 school year and an additional SRO would be added to cover CMS, Livingston, Sunset and Eastside.

Terry Gardenhire displayed contractor bid results for the construction of a new transportation facility, along with bid alternates. He shared the available funding amount and that six bids had been received. Base bids and alternates were reviewed with trustees. The bids from Diamond Point and from Groathouse were very close and he recommended moving forward with an interview process with those two companies within the next week in order to make a recommendation at the regular February board meeting.

Eastside principal, Nick Gallagher, along with teacher Audra Wood, and community member, George Niemann, gave a thorough explanation of a pilot program – “Activate” - that they are hoping to institute at Eastside Elementary School. Funding has been donated to cover costs to run the program from March 2020 to March 2021. Dr. Bruce Wexler, founder of C8 Sciences and creator of this program, joined the meeting via video conference. Dr. Wexler explained the basis of his program which is a sophisticated brain cross-training program that combines physical, social and computer neuroscience-based exercises to improve the neural networks that impact executive function which is comprised of self-control, memory and attention. Students in grades three and four would participate for 20 minutes per day, three days per week. Parents would be notified and given the choice of opting out. Should trustees agree to this trial program, the funding donation would need to be approved at the regular February board meeting.

Mr. Johnston spoke about the proposed courses he would like to add at Cody High School. Four courses are being proposed, all within the social studies department, are all advanced placement and include: AP European History, AP Comparative Government and Politics, AP US History, and AP Psychology. He explained that they will not necessarily offer all four courses next year, but he would like to include these during forecasting for student interest.

Mrs. Singer spoke about the existing classified evaluation tool and shared a newly revised tool. She explained her concerns with the current system and supervisors’ inability to adequately review individual employee performance. The new tool has been split into seven classified employee categories and addresses three shared criteria and a fourth area for essential elements. In addition, Policies GDO and GDO-R needed revisions in order to mesh with the new tool. Trustees agreed the new tool was better and asked about the amount of time supervisors would need to complete a more in-depth tool. The revised policies will be shared at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Foley presented information on the proposed science resources that had been on display at the public library. The 45-day display has concluded and two complaints were received; one on a high school biology textbook and one on a unit within a middle school resource. He will work with Mrs. Monteith to convene the KEC complaint committee to handle the complaints, but is hopeful that the board will consider allowing purchase of the rest of the materials that did not receive complaints.

Mr. Foley presented information pertaining to soliciting bids for student computers. He shared that he would like to solicit bids for Chromebooks, Chromestations, Apple iMacs and PC's. Detailed information about life expectancy, a purchasing rotation through FY 2022/2023 and the building location for replacements was shared.

Chairman Nelson asked for trustee discussion of board governance. She shared how the policy committee had held their first meeting, but it was apparent that before further work was done, the board needed to determine whether they wish to continue following board governance. Mrs. Bell explained that board governance delineates the board's role and the superintendent's role. Trustees discussed how the Section B policies and board governance policies overlap in many areas, creating duplication. The consensus was to use board governance as a resource, but to remove it from the website and focus on Section B policies which cover board governance and operations. The board agreed to take formal action at the upcoming regular board meeting.

Chairman Nelson called for approval of the request to bid student computers.

On motion by Cathy Roes, seconded by John McCue and carried, the request to bid was approved.

Mrs. Nelson called for authorization to proceed with the COPS grant.

On motion by Trustee Bell, seconded by Trustee Schipfmann and carried, the Board authorized Chief Baker to proceed applying for the COPS grant.

Mrs. Nelson requested approval of the proposed new classes for Cody High School.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Karen Schipfmann and carried, the board approved the proposed CHS classes as presented.

Stefanie Bell moved to adjourn the regular meeting to conduct executive session. Karen Schipfmann seconded. Motion carried.

A brief recess was taken.

The Board convened in the student support services conference room and on motion by Trustee Roes, seconded by Trustee Bell and carried, the Board moved into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. for the purpose of W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) (personnel) and (ix) to consider or receive information classified as confidential by law.

On motion by Trustee Bell, seconded by Trustee Schipfmann and carried, the board adjourned from Executive Session at 10:44 p.m. and the regular meeting was adjourned.

Chairman of the Board

Date

Clerk

Date