

PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 6
Special Board Meeting
January 5, 2021

The Board of Education of Park County School District No. 6 met on January 5, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Westside Annex Board Room. Vice Chairman Bell called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Stefanie Bell, Jessica Case, Tom Keegan, Brandi Nelson (via Zoom), Cathy Roes, Karen Schipfmann and Sheri Schutzman. Administrators present: Peg Monteith, Tim Foley, Jared Moretti, Jeremiah Johnston and Beth Blatt. Business Manager: Dawn Solberg.

Vice Chairman Bell called for approval of the agenda.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Karen Schipfmann and carried, the agenda was approved.

Vice Chairman Bell called for the trimester discussion.

Superintendent Monteith began by stating that trustees had requested information pertaining to the trimester schedule. Jeremiah Johnston and Beth Blatt gave an extensive update regarding how Cody High School ended up moving to trimesters after being on a modified block schedule for 20 plus years. A few years ago, the district was looking at budget cuts and staff reductions and the block schedule was more expensive due to the number of staff required. The move to trimesters cut the class time down to 77 minutes per class and fewer staff. Staffing levels were shared for 2010 – 41, 2015 – 42 and 2020 – 37* (*corrected 1/6/2021). They continued by explaining how forecasting works. Chair Nelson stated there are currently 40 plus class offerings, many with less than 10 students and asked if this was the best utilization of staff. She asked about AP classes and their success. A lengthy dialogue was held and Trustee Keegan shared that it appeared that we are offering students preference and choice vs. performance and achievement. Trustees continued with questions and Mr. Johnston stated that administration just needs clarity and purpose from the Board.

Tim Foley clarified the reasoning for new classes at Cody High School by explaining Perkins funds criteria for CTE classes. Business management and nutrition and wellness offerings provide additional concentrators. Mr. Johnston referred to the course catalog and shared they are looking at reducing the health credit from one to .5 and proposing 26.5 credits to graduate. He encouraged the board to continue to ask questions and to come visit about the programs.

Jared Moretti shared information for five proposed special education courses. He explained that after receiving the annual performance report, there were two areas needing attention: post-secondary outcomes and proficiency rates. Three of the proposed classes are based on preparation for post-secondary outcomes and two of the classes are for intensive math and reading interventions. He stated these new classes are strictly for students on IEPs. Superintendent Monteith added that the data have been alarming. Ninety-seven percent of students on IEPs do not have cognitive disabilities; they are capable of achieving at higher levels and these interventions may help improve proficiency.

Vice Chair Bell called for the visitor management system discussion.

Mrs. Monteith began by stating that the Raptor program has been discussed for the last two years. It does not interface with PowerSchool as it needs to. Sam Hummel reviewed the information he had researched on School Pass and Ident-A-Kid, with School Pass being the preferred program. He covered pros and cons of both software programs along with staff feedback. Trustees confirmed that this would be for next school year and that it would be worth looking into other districts our size who use School Pass.

Vice Chair Bell called for discussion of the advertising for sale of the old bus facility.

Superintendent Monteith shared that she and Mr. Gardenhire had worked with Erika Quick on some finishing touches to a website for the sale of the property with the plan to send an ad to the local newspaper next week. Trustee Keegan asked about moving the date out as he would like to see a new appraisal of the property or a comparative market analysis. A lengthy discussion was held and Trustees Schutzman and Case agreed that the sale would provide a large sum of money to the district and for the public's sake, the district should do its due diligence to obtain at least the appraised value. They agreed with the request for an updated appraisal.

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Vice Chair Bell called for discussion of a voluntary separation incentive.

Dawn Solberg shared that a large number of staff are eligible for the incentive based on the criteria outlined in the proposal. She shared that the amount of the incentive is based on \$10,000/person. So far, five early retirement packages have been received with two weeks left until the deadline. She has estimated a cost savings to the district (based on an average salary) of \$415,800. Trustees discussed the incentive and reviewed criteria and made changes with the plan to approve or decline offering the incentive at the regular January board meeting.

A five-minute recess was taken.

The meeting resumed and Vice Chair Bell called for the facilities update.

Terry Gardenhire stated that fiber service and fire services are now complete at the new transportation facility, however, a certificate of occupancy has not yet been issued. He spoke with the City of Cody planner who has put a hold on issuance based on minor changes that he stated were not in the original drawings. Trustees agreed that these issues had little to do with actual occupancy of the building, but the district will be meeting with City officials later this week to discuss a resolution. The City Planner has a list of items to review with the district and architect including landscaping and dirt work.

Vice Chair Bell called for discussion of board committees and assignments. She stated that policy work would no longer be done by a policy committee, but divided up among four board committees, as developed by Chair Nelson. A suggestion was made to have each trustee serve on two committees (except for the chairman). Chair Nelson offered recommendations and asked trustees to review the information for the Board to finalize on January 19th.

Vice Chair Bell called for a budget committee and recalibration discussion.

Superintendent Monteith said she and Dawn Solberg had been meeting regularly over the past several weeks looking at possible ways to reduce the budget. Mrs. Solberg stated they had identified areas that would not have a negative impact on instruction. The recalibration committee has voted to cut ADM money per student, which is estimated to be \$2M, along with a declining ADM which would be another reduction of \$340,000 and the sunseting of the external cost adjustment in 2021 for another \$400,000. Superintendent Monteith shared that so far, transportation and special education reimbursements have not been capped, which is good. It is likely to come up again during the legislative session. Vice Chair Bell encouraged trustees to communicate with the recalibration committee regarding budget cuts. Three trustees volunteered to serve on an Ad Hoc budget committee: Stefanie Bell, Brandi Nelson and Sheri Schutzman.

Vice Chair Bell called for approval of the consent agenda.

Chair Nelson noted that approval of the 60' right-of-way for 38th street was part of the original agreement and this allows the City to take over the easement.

Cathy Roes moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of authorization of the sale of the old bus facility, which was requested to be moved to an action item. Tom Keegan seconded. Motion carried and the following consent items were approved:

Certified Employment

Teresa Collingwood, Special Education, Eastside

Classified Resignations/Terminations/Retirement

Zachary Holmes, Library ParaPro, Sunset

- Approved Wells Fargo as a bank depository
- Approved a 60' Right-of-Way for 38th Street

Vice chair Bell called for approval of the Ad Hoc budget committee members.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Karen Schipfmann and carried, Stefanie Bell, Brandi Nelson and Sheri Schutzman were approved to serve on the Ad Hoc budget committee.

Vice Chair Bell called for determination of a bid minimum for the old bus facility.

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Cathy Roes moved to table determination of a bid minimum pending receipt of a new appraisal. Karen Schipfmann seconded. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Bell called for approval of the sale of the old bus facility.

Tom Keegan moved to table the sale of the old bus facility pending a new appraisal. Cathy Roes seconded. Motion carried.

Tom Keegan moved and Cathy Roes seconded, to move from general session into executive session for the purpose of W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) personnel or 16-4-405(a)(ix) to consider or receive any information considered to be confidential by law. Motion carried.

On motion by Cathy Roes, seconded by Tom Keegan and carried, executive session convened at 9:50 p.m.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Karen Schipfmann and carried, the regular meeting resumed and was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Chairman of the Board

Date

Clerk

Date