

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016**

SPECIAL MEETING - 9:00 A.M.

John Scully	Chairman
Maria Lake	Vice-Chair
Craig George	Trustee
Chad Coffman	Trustee
Kris Inman	Trustee
Rich Borden	Principal
Jon Wrzesinski	Superintendent
Ginger Martello	District Clerk

VISITORS

Kelley Knack
Steve Knack

NEW BUSINESS

Eligibility Policy Appeal

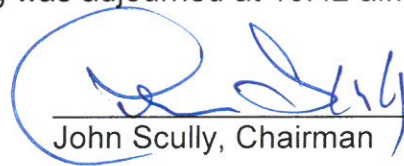
As the individual's right to privacy outweighed the public's right to know the meeting was held in an executive session.

The meeting was opened to the public at 10:05 a.m. Chairman Scully stated the appeal was discussed privately and now the board needed to decide on whether to act on the appeal. There were three options: A - accept the ruling that the quarter grade applies and denies the appeal, B - because verbiage in the policy is unclear do not apply any consequences to the first semester grades for any student or C - apply the first semester grade to the policy. Trustee Inman felt that because the policy was unclear the best course of action would be option B or C. Trustee Lake explained her conflict was there aren't any consequences with one option and applying one way or the other affected someone. Chairman Scully explained there were consequences already as two students missed one event already. Trustee George asked how a student makes up a class that they have failed. Superintendent Wrzesinski said by policy if the district offers the course the student takes the class to get credit recovery, if they fail again there are options for online courses. If they failed a class that is not required for graduation and they have met the requirements

to graduate they would not have to retake the class. Trustee Coffman said he is torn because he agreed with option A, but not how it was applied and if he chose option B, he would be throwing administration under the bus because they did what he wanted. The students were ineligible now and have received some form of punishment. Trustee Inman didn't feel he was throwing anyone under the bus. This was a bad and unclear policy and the board was being responsible for their mistake, and trying to do their best to help students. It was hard to agree that someone that failed a semester should be eligible to participate. Trustee Lake agreed and said the policy was set to benefit all students, flawed as it may be, and we need to do what is in the best interest of all students. She was leaning toward the same options as Trustee Inman. Chairman Scully said there is no reason to feel bad, this is just something we have to solve. Superintendent Wrzesinski explained a two-week punishment is significant and could last longer if the student doesn't perform. He believes the semester grade should be used going forward as it is the grade on record. The board agreed the policy going forward had to be revised but needed to deal with the policy in place for first semester. They asked the Superintendent his thoughts. Superintendent Wrzesinski said the first semester policy was unclear and option B was his recommendation. The board said if they went with option B, it had to be clear this was a one-time pass because the policy was unclear. Trustee George made a motion that in the document under the scholastic eligibility section, paragraphs three and four, lacks clarity and therefore will not be applied to the first semester grades for 2015-2016. Trustee Lake seconded the motion. All members present were in favor and the appeal was granted. The board authorized the superintendent to get advice from legal counsel to revise the policy going forward. A special meeting will be held Monday, February 1st at 5 p.m. to address this issue before we are too far into the second semester. Trustee George asked if the administration was clear where this stood? Mr. Borden said we would meet with the ineligible students and explain that due to language in the policy they would now be eligible. This is a one-time deal and the policy will be fixed going forward. The board wanted to be sure parents were contacted as well. Superintendent Wrzesinski said we would be sure that the teachers were also contacting the parents when students are struggling.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

ATTEST 
Ginger Martello, District Clerk


John Scully, Chairman

2-10-16
Date Approved