

ENNIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
*******MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2012*******

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
FINAL AGENDA
5:00 P.M. - HIGH SCHOOL STAFF ROOM

PLEDGE

- I. VISITORS AND PATRONS**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- III. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Budget Work Session for Trustees**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA
Monday, AUGUST 6, 2012**

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - 5:00 P.M.

Lisa Frye	Chairperson
Craig George	Vice-Chair
Jim McNally	Trustee
Mike McKittrick	Trustee
Bill Clark	Trustee
John Overstreet	Superintendent
John Sullivan	Principal
Ginger Martello	District Clerk

Chairperson Frye called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was recited.

VISITORS

Greg Lemon	Editor, Madisonian
Melissa Newman	Teacher
Ross Lingle	Teacher/Counselor
David Kelley	Community Member
Marge Kent	Community Member

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Work Session for Trustees

Superintendent Overstreet explained this meeting is being held for a couple of purposes. It will give the trustees the opportunity to learn about budgets and give the superintendent direction from the board on how to proceed with setting the budget next week.

Superintendent Overstreet informed the board he would be focusing on budgeted funds. These funds include: general, transportation, bus depreciation, tuition, adult education, Ennis School District 52
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technology, and building reserve. The general fund covers student instruction, which includes: teachers' salaries and benefits, and supplies and books for teachers and students.

Dave Kelley asked how much was levied for the use of adult education vs. general fund? Is there a cost allocation plan and does OPI have a say in it? He also asked if Superintendent Overstreet saw how the district supplemented the general fund and if so, how far off the mark are we?

Superintendent Overstreet explained that past practice usually covers allocations and OPI does have a say in allocations. He explained the general fund is limited and you have to be creative with a delicate balance. This year we are looking at increasing the allocations to the general fund for utilities and custodial salaries and reduce these costs in the transportation and adult education funds. He may be able to move more next year but there may need to be cuts. One possible change could be moving salaries for the cafeteria to the lunch fund. Superintendent Overstreet said he needed to observe for a while and thought the teachers were underpaid. He said the district may want to transfer money with voter approval from the adult education fund to the flex fund next spring. He explained we have lots of money but not in the right spot.

Trustee McNally said MTSBA addressed cost allocations. If you assign hours to funds, wages could differ for hourly versus salaried.

Ross Lingle talked to the state MVEA representative and our district has one of the lowest tax burdens in the state due to Big Sky.

Superintendent Overstreet explained the components used by the state to set the general fund budget. Some of the components include: average number belonging (ANB), basic entitlements, per ANB entitlements, quality educator, Indian Ed for all, American Indian achievement gap, and special education funding. These components are calculated to set the base budget, maximum budget and maximum budget with a vote. The district did not vote any levies for the general fund for the 2012-2013 school year so this budget is set.

Discussion took place about where to levy money and where to cut levies. Superintendent Overstreet explained the transportation fund had a lot of money to re-appropriate to next year with 20% left in reserves. He felt we could cut \$800,000 safely. He did not want to cut mills too slim in case they were needed next year. He said taxpayers don't understand when there are spikes in taxes from year to year.

Trustee McNally explained they were told to keep taxes level or small spikes. In fact, Denning and Downey told the commissioners the same thing at the county level.

The board agreed to cut the transportation to nine mills in order to keep spikes in taxes small in the future.

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Superintendent Overstreet recommended not milling any money in bus depreciation, tuition, adult education. There is enough money in the funds to sustain the district for a few years. The board agreed.

Discussion took place on the technology fund. Technology is always changing and increasing and they did not want to short this fund. The board decided to cut the mills in technology by half.

Overall, the budget was cut almost in half. Discussion took place about communication with the community regarding the possibility of transferring money next spring. We need to help them understand the reasons for a transfer.

Superintendent Overstreet said he enjoys budget work and had never had this luxury before.

As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Attest


Ginger R. Martello, District Clerk


Lisa Frye, Chairperson

9-12-12
Date Approved