

PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
Special Board Meeting
March 22, 2021

The Board of Education of Park County School District #6 met March 22, 2021 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, Jessica Case, Brandi Nelson, Cathy Roes, Karen Schipfmann and Sheri Schutzman. Tom Keegan arrived later. Administrators present: Peg Monteith, Jeremiah Johnston and Beth Blatt. School District Attorney, Scott Kolpitcke was also in attendance

Chair Nelson called for approval of the agenda.

On motion by Karen Schipfmann, seconded by Stefanie Bell and carried, the agenda was approved.

Trustees met to address a request for expulsion of the student named in Docket File 2020-2021-03.

On motion by Cathy Roes, seconded by Sheri Schutzman and carried, the meeting moved into executive session at 5:35 p.m.

Mrs. Blatt and Mr. Johnston gave an overview of the violation of the policies pertaining to the infractions resulting in the recommendation for expulsion. Superintendent Monteith shared that she had reviewed the recommendation and was in support.

Trustee Keegan entered the meeting.

The board moved to deliberate on the recommendation at 5:40 p.m.

On motion by Sheri Schutzman, seconded by Jessica Case and carried, the regular meeting resumed at 5:50 p.m.

Stefanie Bell moved to accept the recommendation of the administration to expel the student named in Docket File 2020-2021-03 through May 28, 2021 for behavior causing disruption to the educational environment, violation of Policy JIC – Student Conduct, and violation of district policies JKD/JKE, and that the expulsion extends to all Park 6 property. Cathy Roes seconded. Motion carried.

Chair Nelson called for a brief break.

Chynna Singer and Dawn Solberg entered the meeting.

The meeting resumed and on motion by Cathy Roes, seconded by Karen Schipfmann and carried, the meeting moved into executive session at 6:03 p.m. for W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) personnel and W.S.16-4-405(a)(ix) to consider or receive any information considered confidential by law.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Stefanie Bell and carried, the Board moved back into regular session at 7:45 p.m. and took a brief break.

The meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

Trustees received an update from the board budget committee and Superintendent Monteith. Chair Nelson shared that members of the board budget committee along with administrators, human resources and the business manager had met multiple times over the past several weeks. Based on the estimated foundation guarantee for FY 2021/2022, revenue reductions were shared based on the

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current funding model of -2.3%, HB 173 at -5.5%, SF 143 at -9.7% and the Governor's recommendation at -12.3%. Funding loss is anticipated due to reduced student enrollment as well as no external cost adjustments after FY2021, along with the final determination that will be made by the legislature. Discussion about the possibility of grade level schools had been shared with elementary principals that included possible benefits as well as challenges, but continued research would be done well in advance of any decisions. Elementary principals had agreed they would like to work toward common district goals and equitable education across grade levels for all buildings. Mrs. Monteith shared that there would certainly be advantages based on equity. Chair Nelson stressed that community input would be critical before the district would move forward with any changes. She shared that staffing reductions to-date have occurred due to retirements, incentives, elimination of positions based on state mandates and attrition. Positions that will be eliminated include two elementary art positions, three instructional facilitator positions and one elementary teaching position resulting in a 15.5 FTE reduction or approximately \$1,383,404.00. Mrs. Bell added that class sizes will still remain low. Trustee Roes thanked the board budget committee, administration and Superintendent Monteith for their hard work. Trustee Bell stressed that the committee doesn't make decisions, but examines the best way to serve student needs with the assistance of the district's administrative team, superintendent, human resources, business manager and activities director. Mrs. Monteith shared that by statute, certified contract renewals must be determined by April 15th and every avenue is being examined. Karen Schipfmann stressed that staff and community members should reach out to the local legislators regarding potential budget cuts, as the Board is not taking this lightly.

In addition to these reductions, the activities funding for 2021/2022 was shared. Expenditures based on the percentage of funding reflect a deficit of \$208,970.65. Activities director, Tony Hult, shared budget reduction scenarios as follows:

- 5% = \$54,000
- 10% = \$108,000
- 15% = \$162,000
- 20% = \$216,000
- 25% = \$270,000

He stated that the district would apply for grant funds from Shoshone Recreation District for rental fees for the swimming pool (City of Cody recreation center), golf (Olive Glenn Country Club) and softball (City of Cody) in all scenarios. If deeper cuts are warranted, they would also make application to fund the purchase of football equipment.

Trustee Bell shared that the district offers all WHSAA sanctioned sports but the unfunded amount certainly jumps out. Trustees asked how the recommended sports for elimination were selected. Mr. Hult stated it was nothing scientific but he had contacted districts of similar size.

Chair Nelson stated that many other districts around the state seek grant funds from their recreation districts. Trustee Bell noted that activity/athletic cuts do not have to be made in the next two weeks like staffing. Chair Nelson encouraged people to contact their legislators. Trustee Case asked for community input; what creative ideas they may have. Trustees agreed that ideas and community input could be shared via email to Chair Nelson.

On motion by Tom Keegan, seconded by Sheri Schutzman and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Chairman of the Board

Date

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Clerk _____

Date _____