

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.

Meeting was held in person and via zoom

Karen Ketchu	Chairperson
Andrew Henrich	Vice-Chair
Halley Perry	Trustee – via zoom
Dino Fanelli	Trustee
Kyle Stone	Trustee
Mellissa Newman	Principal – via zoom
Brian Hilton	Principal
Casey Klasna	Superintendent
Ginger Martello	District Clerk

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting held August 9th and special meetings held August 19th, August 23rd and August 30th were submitted for approval. Trustee Stone made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All trustees present were in approval.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

John Moore	Nicole Fredson	Burleigh Leonard	Justin Blake
Laura Blake	Lisa Roberts	Kate Roberts	Maura Davenport
Jenny Rohrback	Allen Rohrback	Julie Bartos	Allison Treloar
Kristi Ranson	Jamie Diehl	Jenny Brozovich	Shelley Sturtz
Ginger Nelson	Stephanie Myers	Sally Lee	Nick BurgessMark
Womacks	J Fanelli	Justin Edge	Emily Doyle
Chris Hess	Tim O'Connell	Chelsea Huyser	Jon Swanson
Sophie Rogers	Angie Clark	Jenna Roose	Whitney Marsh
Abby Thomas	Janell Mulholland	Shelby Zucker	Katie McCollom
Sarah Racine	Jamie Pederson	Lacy Hubner	Twyla Swanson
Brenda Glines	Dahlia Voss Rolfe	Kiley Dickerson	Amanda Harris
Wendy McKittrick	Jan Stohl	Lori Henrich	Darcy Wheeler
Jon Pasiano	Lindsey DeGroot	Tammy Wham	

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration to Revise Safe Return to School Plan

Currently the district has 413-416 students in school. Superintendent Klasna has no recommendations to change the reopen plan currently. Facial coverings would still be recommended and optional, we will continue to disinfect, hand sanitize, and social distance as much as space is available. School lunches and recesses will continue to follow cohort guidelines. We will continue to stress if sick, stay home. Junior high games will be move to the high school game to help maintain social distancing. Students will still be required to wear masks on school buses as this is a federal mandate.

Dr. Maura Davenport addressed the board about her concerns with the mask mandate. The hospitals are at capacity, and she can't find beds for regular trauma cases. Montana tends to lag behind the national trend for cases so she believes we will continue to increase in cases for the next 3-4 weeks. She wants to see our students at school every day. If they aren't in school there are mental health issues, access to meals and no supervision at home. We need to work together and be creative to keep the kids in school. She would like to see masks mandated when numbers are high and take them off when the trend slows down. Discussion included, symptoms, more testing taking place, school transmission, family unit transmission, more consistency with quarantine guidelines, CDC guidelines always changing, not policing masks, kids not wearing masks appropriately, low child hospitalizations, differences in vaccinated or had covid antibodies, vaccination readily available, burden on school to protect outside the district, students mingling outside the school, stress on staff for remote learning, no wrong answers, emotional time, etc.

Allen and Jenny Rohrback felt there is concern with hospital bed availability and not getting the care needed to survive for all trauma cases, not just covid. The school and community need to be tolerant on both sides. We need to lean on Dr. Davenport and her advise on the mask policy.

Burleigh Leonard informed the board they knew where he stood and it aligned with the last few speakers. The school plays a role in the community and needs to do its part to preserve a bed for the needy. (SEE ATTACHED)

Justin and Laura Blake said this is no denying Covid is here and something we must live with and not live in fear. They don't want to see masks required. We need to respect each other and their choice to mask or don't mask. They respect Dr. Davenport, but we can't control outside environment. It should be a family and personal choice.

Lisa Roberts said our healthcare workers are the heroes. We need to support the hospital and the mask mandate worked reasonably well last year. Some kids are not eligible for vaccination.

Kristi Turck felt the district should take Dr. Davenport's recommendation

Angie Clark and Chelsea Huyser were against masks.

Jamie Diehl said this does not just affect the kids there is staff involved too. She tested positive and has not done anything outside of the school.

Board discussion included, can't control outside environment only inside the district, kids are low risk but still transmit, disrupt education, not have enough staff may have to shut down, maybe mask 2nd grade and up, remote learners have to be certified by a doctor, kids need to see lips and facial expressions, learn to live with risk, appreciate what everyone does, hospitals are a nationwide issue, not enough health care workers, etc.

The board recessed at 7:24 p.m. and reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

Discussion continued, masks not being worn properly, building immune system, local control, number of positive cases, don't know where infection begins, hard to police masks, goal is to educate the kids, lessen chance of spread, not jumping in and out of remote learning, vaccinated people are still quarantined, etc. Trustee Henrich made a motion to mandate masks for grades 2-12 for one month. Chairperson Ketchu seconded the motion. Discussion included frustration with using vaccinations as determining factors, quarantining healthy students, etc. Chairperson Ketchu called for the vote. Trustee Henrich and Chairperson Ketchu were in favor, Trustee Perry, Trustee Fanelli and Trustee Stone were opposed. Motion failed. The board felt a work session with the county health department and county commissioners should be held before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Approve MOU for School Resource Officer

Superintendent Klasna presented the MOU with the Town of Ennis for a School Resource Officer. This was first put in place January 2020. There has been a request to pay the city for a portion of his salary. Typically, the officer is here everyday during the school year. He helps greet the students in the morning, and he has lunch on his own time at the school. The district would pay a \$5,000 stipend for this service. The school attorney and city have looked over and approved the agreement. Discussion included, the payment being made to the city, how many hours per month will be required, what kind of trainings they provide to the district, district cost for training, state funding for training for five years, evaluation, cancellation clause, length of MOU (1 vs 3 years), keeping liability with the city, description of duties, district using permission building reserve or ESSER funds for cost, benefit of having SRO onsite, etc. Trustee Stone made a motion to approve the MOU as presented and add a requirement of 20 hours minimum at the district. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. Chairperson Ketchu was concerned that requiring hours would take away from his other duties. Officer Moore said it was a minimum and they weren't dictating when the hours needed to be during any given day. Chairperson Ketchu called the vote. Trustee Stone, Trustee Henrich and Trustee Fanelli were in favor. Trustee Perry and Chairperson Ketchu were opposed. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration to Approve Building Project Design Plan D

Superintendent Klasna explained this has been a long process approving a design concept with a few roadblocks. The new Concept D meets goals for growth, is on one-site, and addresses issues with Charles St. Once the concept is approved the district will schedule a work session with the bond committee. Kristi Ranson, city council member, presented our plan to the city’s engineer from Cushing Terrell, and they are on-board with the turnarounds. They feel they are critical to the project. Discussion included meeting with DA Davidson on bonds and how they work, city permits, county planning board, cost, architect fees, etc. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to approve Design Concept D as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

The board received thank you notes from the staff and Jennifer Rohrback. The board also received the engagement letter from the auditor, Newland and Co

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mellissa Newman

See Attached

Brian Hilton

See Attached

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

School Staffing Discussion

Superintendent Klasna explained the district is still looking for bus drivers, custodian and paraprofessional. With the shortage of bus drivers, we have had to cancel bus routes to be able to transport for activities. With staff quarantines and shortage of subs our employees have been helping cover. We fortunate to have a great staff.

CLAIMS

August activity claims were presented, as well as August warrant listings and preliminary September claims by fund for board approval. Trustee Perry made a motion to approve the listings as presented. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. All trustees present were in approval.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

ATTEST

Ginger Martello, District Clerk

Karen Ketchu, Chairperson

Date Approved