

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52  
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2021**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.**

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

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Consideration to Approve MOU for Covid Leave for Certified Staff

Superintendent Klasna informed the board the district had an MOU for Covid leave last year that expired June 30, 2021. He recommended the board approve a new MOU for Covid leave through June 30, 2022. It would be retroactive and is the right thing to do for the staff. Kris Goss, MTSBA, has reviewed and approved the MOU. Stephanie Hess, MVEA President, said she has been working with Mr. Klasna for the last 2-3 weeks and the MOU is like the one approved last year. ESSER funds are an allowable expense for this and have been budgeted. Trustee Perry made a motion to approve the MOU as presented and make it retroactive. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Consideration to Approve Covid Leave for Classified Staff

Trustee Stone made a motion to approve Covid leave for classified staff. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Approve Quarantine Procedures

The Madison County Board of Health and Madison County Commissioners met and took input from stakeholders on quarantine procedures. They approved a recommendation that the board may or may not adopt. Emilie Saylor, CPHA Director, presented the information to the board. The county commissioners have eliminated close-contact quarantine, except those who are in the household. The MCBH strongly recommends schools require masks within the class when there is one positive exposure for two weeks from the last date of exposure. The mask recommendation is not a requirement, the school board must determine whether to follow this recommendation. Ms. Saylor

explained our district is doing an excellent job screening. We are identifying the most cases since we have the most aggressive approach. Discussion included, compromising on both sides, number of cases in county and hospitalizations, notification to parents on cases in the school, number of cases declining or holding steady, contact tracing behind at county level, monitoring symptoms, stay home if sick, time it takes to get results, additional staff training on screening for symptoms, etc.

Laura Blake, Brenda Funke, Kurt Cardosa, John Isly, Selena Daems, Chelsea Huyser, Trevor Lockhart, and Allen Vaughn were all in favor of eliminating the close contact tracing but were against masking close contacts for two weeks at school. They feel it is harmful physically and mentally to their children and masks should be parent and family choice.

Burleigh Leonard asked the board for numbers of students sent home, how many were permitted back to school, and were negative tests required to come back?

Lisa Roberts and Lindsey DeGroot asked the board to listen to the medical professionals, weed out the noise and listen to the evidence. They supported masks for the two-week period.

Robin Nichols congratulated our students on showing compassion and caring.

The Board thanked everyone for their input. Discussion included personal choice, kids not in the hospital, keep virus under control, listen to medical staff, get exemption from wearing masks, medical staff and bed shortage across country, putting the burden on the schools and students, continuing all other sanitizing measures, continuing same discussion on masks for three meetings, take care of each other, vulnerable students, what happens if no action is taken, hard to implement, etc. Whitney Marsh, school nurse, explained if nothing is approved, nothing changes. Household members of positive cases are still quarantined, and close contacts will attend class. Families who identify as close contacts can still stay home and get a letter from county health, so their student is excused due to covid. We continue to test students and take all the right measures. Trustee Henrich made a motion to approve the County Board of Health recommendation as presented. Chairperson Ketchu seconded the motion. Trustee Henrich and Chairperson Ketchu were in favor. Trustee Stone, Trustee Fanelli and Trustee Perry were opposed. Motion failed. Superintendent Klasna will present a plan to the board regarding the new recommendations. It will spell out option for families and address students that self-quarantine cannot show up at activities during the quarantine period.

#### Consideration to Approve Date for Bond Election

Superintendent Klasna asked the board to set a date for the election so the county elections administrator can set up her plan. The board still will have to approve the election resolution and can still change the date or decide not to run the election.

Consideration to Approve Date for Bond Work Session

Superintendent Klasna asked to board to set a date for a work session with DA Davidson and Dorsey Whitney regarding the bond election. The board asked him to reach out to both entities to see if October 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning would work.

As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the special meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

**ATTEST**

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Ginger Martello, District Clerk

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Karen Ketchu, Chairperson

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Date Approved

DRAFT