

DISCLAIMER: *This is a summary of the referenced meeting of the Hamilton School District Board of Trustees (“the Board”) and is based on the written notes and memory of individuals in attendance. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made during the meeting and they reflect a subjective work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. This summary is neither an official transcript, nor should it be relied upon for any official purpose. This summary is not intended to replace, or in any way affect, the official Minutes of the Board.*

**Regular Board Meeting
Notes on Agenda Items
December 8, 2020**

Board Members Present:

Heidi Apedaile
Drew Blankenbaker
Tim Campbell
Patrick Hanley
Jeni Seifert
Seth Gale Wyrick

Board Members Not Present:

Rebecca Stamp

District Business:

1. **Reports:** Reports were given by Superintendent Korst and District administrators in the following areas: Food Services, Technology, Finance, Communications, Maintenance/Grounds, Custodial & Transportation, HHS, HMS, Daly Elementary, Activities/Athletics, Legal/HR, Student Council, and Student Services.

Special Presentations were made on the following matters:

Robin Pruitt, City Council Representative:

Hamilton City Council member, Robin Pruitt, advised the Board that she would like to work with the District to develop a positive messaging program surrounding COVID-19 in the community. Board Chair Hanley stated that Superintendent Korst and the District principals would work with her to support positive messaging throughout the community.

Representative David Bedey, Legislative Update:

Representative David Bedey shared information concerning projected funding issues related to ANB, special education, and teacher salaries in Montana public schools. Representative Bedey also provided updates concerning state requirements for transformational learning and CTE programs. Board Chair

Hanley thanked Representative Bedey and extended an invitation to return to update the Board in the future.

2. Consent Agenda:

There was no public comment. The Board approved the Consent Agenda.

3. Old Business:

A. Consideration of Rentals at HSD#3 Facilities. (Information / Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended postponing facility rentals based on local health authority direction and the increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the community. Superintendent Korst suggested that proposals for facility rentals be considered at the next regular Board meeting. Mr. Jamie Tadvick indicated that he would put together a plan for the Board concerning his facility rental proposal. No Board action was taken.

B. Update of Bids for the Daly Elementary ARC Remodel Project – No Award at this Time Due to Being Substantially Over the Anticipated/Available Construction Budget (Information)

Superintendent Korst advised the Board that bids for the ARC remodeling project far exceeded the District's original cost estimates and, therefore, he recommended putting the project out for bid again in the summer when supply and labor costs may have decreased. Board Chair Hanley commented on the possibility of additional funding opportunities for the project. There was no public comment. No Board action was taken.

4. New Business:

A. Recommendation to Approve Proceeding with Winter Extracurricular Activities Following the Montana High School Association's Guidelines for both High School and Middle School Students. (Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended proceeding with winter extracurricular activities under the MHSA guidelines for both HHS and HMS. He stated that the District will strive for 50% bus ridership for team travel. In the event all other options are exhausted, a ridership limit of 75% occupancy will be observed, unless there is an unforeseen emergency. Board Chair Hanley noted that MHSA guidelines are available on their website. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

B. Review of Athletic/Activities COVID-19 Procedures – Safety of Participants and Spectators at Winter Events. (Information/Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended a winter sports spectator occupancy limit of approximately 360 people. This recommendation was based on an estimate of 6 tickets per uniformed player, cheerleader, and coach, along with 50 tickets made available for HHS students. Activities Director Blome stated that all games played in the HHS gym will be televised by the NFHS network. Board member Gale Wyrick noted that while the recommended spectator limits worked reasonably well for fall sports, winter athletics present additional challenges due to the increased community transmission rate and indoor venue. Board member Gale Wyrick expressed a preference for reducing the maximum number of spectators as well as enforcement of the District's mask policy during athletic events. Board Chair Hanley stated that concessions are a consideration because people will not be wearing masks when they are eating, making enforcement more difficult. Activities Director Blome, HHS Principal Wells, Superintendent Korst, Board Chair Hanley, and Board members Apedaile, Blankenbaker, Gale Wyrick, and Seifert discussed issues and alternatives surrounding spectator capacity, concessions, and mask enforcement. Public Comment was taken from community members including: Eli Johnson, Mary O'Connell, and Carrie Morris Hansen. Community member Deb Gabelhausen requested that the Board table discussion concerning concessions so that a proposal could be presented to the Board addressing available concession alternatives. The Board approved this Action Item.

C. Recommendation to Approve Increase in School Nurse Wages (Marissa Williams) Due to Increased Role with COVID-19. (Action)

Superintendent Korst advised the Board that the District currently has two categories for school nurses. One category applies to nurses with the RN certification and the other applies to nurses with the LPN certification. Superintendent Korst recommended consolidating the two categories. Taking this action would increase the pay of one District nurse who has taken on additional COVID-19 duties during the pandemic. Board Chair Hanley asked whether this change would remain in effect after COVID-19 resolves. Superintendent Korst stated that the change would remain in effect in order to improve the District's ability to acquire and retain qualified nursing staff. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

D. Recommendation to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Montana Digital Academy. (Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended approving the District's annual agreement with Montana Digital Academy. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

E. Board Committee Meeting Schedules, Goals and Duties. (Information)

Superintendent Korst advised the Board of the need to begin preparing for the next academic year in the areas of: Curriculum, Negotiations, Buildings and Grounds, Governance, and Multi-Year Budgeting. Board Chair Hanley agreed to begin assembling committees. The Curriculum Committee established a tentative meeting schedule. There was no public comment. No Board action was taken.

5. **District Policies:** The Board will hold Second Reading on the following Policy:
- a. Policy 2085 – High School Graduation

Superintendent Korst presented revised District Policy 2085 which allows students to graduate in 6 semesters without a financial penalty to the District. Board member Seifert asked whether students who graduate in 6 semesters would be allowed to continue to participate in District activities. Superintendent Korst stated that they would not be able to do so, but that alternatives such as dual-credit courses in the 7th and 8th semester could be an option for students who want to complete the traditional high school curriculum in 6 semesters, but also wish to participate in activities and athletics in the 7th and 8th semesters. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

Public Comment:

Community members including: Melodee Carter, Bob Aguskitha, Lorena Aguskitha, and Kevin Carter discussed their views concerning the District's mask policy.

Community member J. Burrows asked for clarification as to fall athletics spectator mask compliance.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on January 12, 2021.