

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
April 13, 2021**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Rebekah Stamp

District Business:

1. Reports:

Reports were given by Superintendent Korst in the following areas: Food Service, Technology, Finance, Maintenance, Washington Early Learning Center, Daly Elementary, Hamilton Middle School, Hamilton High School, Activities/Athletics Transformational Learning, Superintendent.

Reports were given on the following Board Committees: Communications and Buildings & Grounds.

2. Consent Agenda:

Superintendent Korst and Board Chair Hanley presented the Consent Agenda. There was no public comment. The Board approved the Consent Agenda.

3. Old Business:

None at this time.

4. New Business:

A. Recommendation to Renew Memorandum of Understanding Between the Hamilton School District and Montana Job Corps (Action)

Superintendent Korst advised the Board that this Memorandum of Understanding formalizes the District's relationship with Job Corps ensuring that students who reside in Hamilton, but attend Job Corps, will receive credit toward their Hamilton High School diploma and that the District will receive ANB. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

B. Recommendation to Modify District Covid Safety Plan to Recommend Rather Than Require Face Masks for Outdoor School Sponsored Activities (Action)

Superintendent Korst stated that it is becoming impractical to enforce an outdoor mask requirement because: 1) Governor Gianforte has rescinded the state-wide mask mandate; 2) there has been an increased opportunity to vaccinate; and 3) there is a low infection rate in the county. For these reasons, Superintendent Korst suggested that the Board approve a policy that recommends rather than requires masks for spectators at outdoor District athletics events and activities. The Superintendent stated that the District will continue to follow MHSA guidelines for student athletes. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

C. Recommendation to Allow Up to Eight Guests for 2021 Graduation Ceremonies (Action)

Superintendent Korst proposed that the Board approve eight guests per student graduate for the District's 2021 Graduation ceremonies. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

Hamilton Middle School Principal Lewis asked whether this policy would include 8th grade Promotion. On Board member Seifert's amended motion, the Board approved this Action Item to include HHS Graduation and HMS Promotion.

D. Recommendation to Seek District Employee Childcare Request for Proposal (Action)

Superintendent Korst advised the Board that District teachers have communicated a need for childcare options and requested that the Board approve issuing an RFP for Childcare to be provided at the Washington Early Learning Center facility. In response to Board member Seifert's question, Superintendent Korst stated that the RFP process will determine what age children will be served by the childcare center. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

E. Recommendation to Purchase Equipment for an Employee Fitness Center at Washington (Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended approving the purchase of fitness equipment to establish a fitness center at Washington Early Learning Center for all District staff. Funds for this purchase will come from the District's pre-existing employee wellness fund. Board Chair Hanley noted that the fitness center was an idea raised during teacher negotiations to benefit all staff. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

F. Recommendation to Add a Part-Time Teacher to Reduce Typically Large Required Civics Classes in the Middle School (Action)

Superintendent Korst informed the Board that due to the success of Hamilton Middle School's modified schedule this year, HMS would like to structure its academic schedule in five period trimesters during the 2021-2022 academic year. In order to maintain class sizes within this new structure, a part time 7th/8th grade civics teacher position must be added. In response to Board member Gayle Wyrick's question, Superintendent Korst stated that he believes it may be possible to fund this position through the use of ESSER funds. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

G. Recommendation to Approve Hamilton School District Central Office/Exempt Employee Handbook (Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended that the Board approve the District Central Office / Exempt Employee Handbook which memorializes existing District Office practice and procedures. Superintendent Korst highlighted the addition of a severance provision for staff who have worked for the District for ten years or more. In response to Board Chair Hanley's question, Superintendent Korst stated that District Office staff were consulted regarding the contents of the Handbook. Board member Blankenbaker asked whether there was a mechanism to revisit the Handbook and Superintendent Korst confirmed that material changes would be brought before the Board for approval. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

H. Recommendation to Approve Revised Job Description for Maintenance, Custodial, and Transportation Director in Anticipation of Current Staff's Verbal Commitment to Retire this Summer or Fall (Action)

Superintendent Korst advised the Board that Custodial Supervisor Hake and Maintenance & Grounds Supervisor Davies have communicated their intent to retire within the next 4-5 months. Superintendent Korst recommended that these two positions be recombined into one Director's position to oversee the District's maintenance, custodial, grounds, and transportation needs. Board member Campbell advised that the next Buildings and

Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2021. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

I. Recommendation to Appoint JayMe Depee to Maintenance/Supervisory Role in Anticipation of Current Staff's Verbal Commitment to Retire this Summer or Fall (Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended appointing current District employee, JayMe Depee to a maintenance/supervisory role to support the District's transition with regard to Grounds Supervisor Davies' upcoming retirement. Superintendent Korst also stated that Transportation Supervisor Pitzinger will serve a critical role during the transition period. Board member Campbell requested that Mr. Depee be invited to the next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

J. Recommendation to Approve Contract with Spiker Communications (Action)

Superintendent Korst presented the Board with Spiker Communications' proposal to provide strategic planning services. Board member Blankenbaker and Communications Specialist Stewart expressed their support for the contract. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

K. Request to Negotiate Contract with Paradigm Architects and Hulteng Construction Management to Examine Options for Remodeling/Relocating the Middle School and the Possibility of Relocating Tennis Courts from Westview Property to the New Athletic Complex (Action)

Superintendent Korst expressed the District's need for architectural renderings and cost estimates to begin planning for future building improvements and construction. Board member Campbell shared his support for this step, particularly in light of Bitterroot College's development. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

L. Recommendation to Provide Transportation for HHS Seniors To and From the Privately Hosted, Non-District Affiliated, Senior Graduation Celebration at Sleeping Child Hot Springs (Action)

In response to the request of senior class parents, Superintendent Korst recommended that the District provide safe transportation for senior students to and from the privately hosted, non-District affiliated, senior graduation celebration at Sleeping Child Hot Springs. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

M. Recommendation to Add an Assistant High School Golf Coach (Action)

Superintendent Korst requested that the Board approve an assistant golf coach position due to the large number of HHS students participating in the sport. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action Item.

5. Policies and Procedures:

None at this time.

Public Comment:

There was no additional public comment.

The Board will consider meeting in person at the District's Board Room located at Washington Early Learning Center for its next regular Board meeting.

Board Chair Hanley reminded constituents that Board of Trustee election ballots will be arriving soon.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 11, 2021.