

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

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
Dino Fanelli	Trustee
Kyle Stone	Trustee
Melissa Newman	Principal
Brian Hilton	Principal – via zoom
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 January 12th and special meetings held January 3rd, January 5th and January 19th were submitted for approval. Trustee Fanelli made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All trustees present were in favor.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

John Lee	Bailey Croy
Laura Blake	Pam Birkeland
Jackie Lev	Brenda Glines
Megan Slevin	Dahlia Rolfe

Laura Blake asked the board to consider returning recess and lunch times back to pre-covid status and allow the students to intermingle outside their cohorts.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

The Ennis Booster Club provided an update regarding their activities over the past few months and future plans.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mellissa Newman

See Attachment

Brian Hilton

See Attachment

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Ennis Children's School Proposal

Megan Slevin and Jackie Lev, ECCS board members, addressed the board. They presented the lease that was approved in 2018 for signature. The second item was to ask the board to consider taking on the four-year-old age group to allow more space at the preschool for younger students. There is a shortage of childcare, and they have 42 students on a waiting list. Discussion included, ECCS not able to handle some behavior issues, currently have 12 four year old students, Superintendent is a proponent of program, lack of space at the school district for the program, ANB funding for Early Kindergarten, no funding for preschool, how early Kindergarten works, full-time vs part-time, renting a space for program outside the district, cost, hire additional early childhood teacher, needs to be discussion with MVEA, district able to provide better benefits than ECCS, this will take a lot of discussion, etc. Superintendent Klasna will reach out to the attorney and insurance carrier and start asking questions and report back to the board.

Consideration to Approve Retirement Package for John Lee

Superintendent Klasna explained the district has given out retirement packages in the past, mainly to certified staff. There have been three given out to classified staff ranging from health insurance coverage to annuity and health savings payments or a combination of the two. John Lee is asking the district to cover his health insurance for seven months, which will cost approximately \$4,000. Discussion included, salary wages don't get overtime compensation, average hours worked per day are 10 hours, giving him more than what was asked for, etc. The board felt they could only address what Mr. Lee asked for and not any additional compensation at this meeting. They could discuss additional compensation at a meeting in the future if it is noted as an agenda item. The board thanked Mr. Lee for all his hard work and dedication to the district. Trustee Henrich made a motion to approve Mr. Lee's request for seven months health insurance after his termination date. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Approve Compensation for District Bus Drivers

The bus drivers hired to cover the Virginia City route for the remainder of the year are compensated at \$25 per hour which is well above the rate for our current drivers. Superintendent Klasna recommended paying the current drivers a year-end stipend to equal the cost of the new drivers. This would include John Lee and our sub driver, Dan Reinoehl. Discussion included, recruiting and retaining current drivers, not changing hourly rate, John Lee time spent training drivers and driving a route, signing bonuses, reevaluating wages next year, incentivize to stay, ESSER money as a funding source,

etc. Trustee Perry made a motion to compensate John Lee, Jerry Taylor, Jon Paisano, and Dan Reinoehl at an additional \$8 per hour for the time worked driving a bus route beginning February 16th through June 3rd to be paid as a stipend at the end of the year. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Discussion on Attendance Policy

Lindsey DeGroot addressed the board on the attendance policy. After the email she sent out, she found there was miscommunication between parties. She asked that the time to bring notes to excuse absences from health care providers be extended longer than two days. Discussion included, district accepts notes from providers via fax or email, when the two-day rule became effective, allowing more time creates inaccurate attendance letters, attendance committee has flexibility in accepting notes later than two days, not changing policy midyear, handbooks will be reviewed again in mid-July or early August, etc.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Preliminary Budget Discussion

Superintendent Klasna informed the board preliminary budgets from OPI should be out the end of February. In 2016, 77% of the general fund was salaries and benefits, we have increased that by 10%. We will see an increase in the budget next year due to increased enrollment. The board will need to decide whether to run a general fund levy next month once the preliminary budgets are released. Discussion included what the general fund pays for, taking care of the staff, 80% is a good number for salaries and benefits, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration to Approve Second Reading Board Policies

The board reviewed policies for approval. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to approve second reading of board policies except for policy 2167, 4300P, and 4300F. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Add Cristine Fanelli to the Substitute Staff List

Cristine Fanelli is recommended to be added to the substitute staff list. She is related to Trustee Fanelli. Superintendent Klasna confirmed with Kris Goss, MTSBA, that a nepotism hearing was not required for a substitute position. Trustee Perry made a motion to hire Cristine Fanelli as presented. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. Trustee Fanelli abstained. All remaining members were in approval.

Resignation of Melinda Legg and Wendy McKittrick – HS Assistant Volleyball Coach

Superintendent Klasna accepted Melinda Legg's resignation and Wendy McKittrick's resignation for volleyball coach per board policy. Both positions have been advertised.

Discussion on Joint Committee with Lone Peak School District

Chairperson Ketchu received an email from Loren Bough, Chair for Lone Peak School District (Big Sky), about forming a joint committee. She asked the board's thoughts on this item. Discussion included, forming a committee that won't be sustained with changing board members, cross over between districts with tuition and transportation, meeting yearly to discuss common interests, not adding more meetings, have Kris Goss facilitate the meeting, etc. Chairperson Ketchu will reach out and present the idea of a yearly board meeting to exchange ideas on shared issues.

Certify Bond Election Results

The bond election failed 761 to 1123. There was approximately 53% voter turn-out. Trustee Fanelli was concerned the bond failed in part to the board not being fully engaged. Chairperson Ketchu said this should be addressed at the next board meeting. Trustee Stone made a motion to certify the election as presented. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Consideration to Approve School Election Resolution

Ms. Martello presented the election resolution for board approval. The purpose of the election is to elect two (2) trustees for three-year terms, or as otherwise designated. Approval of additional levies to operate and maintain the General fund for FY23 will also be considered. If it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required, the Board of Trustees authorizes District Clerk, Ginger Martello, election administrator, to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with [13-1-304](#) and [20-3-313](#), MCA. Trustee Stone made a motion to approve the election resolution as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present, were in favor. (See Attached)

Consideration to Approve TR5 and TR6 Reimbursements for First Semester

The first semester TR5 and TR6 contracts were presented for board approval. Trustee Henrich made a motion to approve the TR5 and TR6 contracts for first semester as presented. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present, were in favor.

Review Spring ANB Count

Spring ANB count is 406 with fall count at 411. The enrollment count is up from last year so the district will see an increase in general fund money. The district will move to class "B" in 2023-2024.

CLAIMS

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST

Ginger Martello, District Clerk

Karen Ketchu, Chairperson

Date Approved

DRAFT