

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA
MARCH 9, 2022**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.

Meeting was held in person and via zoom

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

Vice-Chair Henrich called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting held February 15th were submitted for approval. Trustee Perry made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. All trustees present were in favor.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Jamie Diehl	Twyla Swanson	Sophie Rogers	John Scully
Lacy Hubner	Lindsey Graden	Jenny Brozovich	Laura Blake
Wendy McKittrick	Jessie Rice	Walker McKittrick	Ben Erickson
Mark Qualman	Dahlia Rolfe	Shelley Sturtz	Brenda Glines
Justing Edge	Lisa Robert	Bailey Croy	

John Scully was concerned with how the board was going to move forward after failure of the bond election and how it could affect voted levies in the future. He was concerned with the contents of the postcard and asked what the board's priorities were and the capital requirements for each item. Chairperson Ketchu explained public comment was one direction and could not be back-and-forth discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

None

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mellissa Newman

See Attachment

Brian Hilton

See Attachment

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Facility Discussion

Superintendent Klasna informed the board the post card responses regarding the bond election have a common theme. Cost is too high, and more focus needs to be on educational spaces and less on athletics. We need more education to the community as the proposed space was 80% for classrooms to accommodate growth. In two years, we will need a third Kindergarten classroom. Growth was based on live birth data and not the proposed new subdivisions under approval. A future bond could be broken down into two parts, educational and support spaces. We need to listen to the taxpayers, devise a new approach, stay ahead of growth and look at a general fund levy in May. Discussion included the need for more space, trustees need to meet individually with architects, see a breakdown of the surveys, more engagement from staff and board, how can we staff a larger space when we are already short custodians, increase class numbers to accommodate lack of space, not able to fund staffing on 50-acre site, best way to break up the bond, etc. This item will be discussed more in future meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration to Amend Policy 1903 – School District Events

This policy was adopted during covid and addresses virtual platforms. Trustee Fanelli recommended terminating zoom meetings, they are distracting and have run their course. Trustee Stone said they are a good tool for the public to listen, but he felt public comment should be in person. Trustee Henrich agreed with Trustee Stone and felt there needs to be a balance with chat and public comment. Zoom allows us the interact with the architect and owner's rep. Trustee Perry mirrored the comments from Trustee Stone and Henrich. Discussion included lack of participation with the bond election, involvement in tonight's meeting, develop guidelines for public comment, etc. Superintendent Klasna disagreed, he felt people need to meet in person, we have made it convenient for people to stay home. Lisa Roberts, Justin Gatewood and Scott Kelley felt it was important to continue zoom meetings. People are juggling tasks and it allows more participation and shows transparency. Trustee Stone made a motion to provide audio only meetings with comments in person or written prior to the meeting and shut the chat window off. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. Trustee Stone and Trustee Fanelli were in favor. Trustee Henrich, Trustee Perry and Chairperson Ketchu were opposed. The motion failed. The board felt a work session on this item should be held and addressed on the next agenda.

Consideration to Amend School Reopen Plan

Superintendent Klasna explained this plan is reviewed at a minimum, quarterly. There are a few changes to be addressed. The federal government lifted the mask mandate on school buses and there was a request to look at the structure of recess. Mr. Hilton met with his staff and felt there are some areas that could mix cohorts. Covid did help with supervision at recess, so this will be a blended model. Trustee Stone made a motion remove masking on all buses and remove cohorting of classes at recess to precovid guidelines. Mr. Hilton asked to allow flexibility in the classrooms for teachers who want to utilize pods again. Trustee Stone amended his motion to include removing social distancing in the classrooms. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Approve 2nd Reading Board Policies 2167m 4300P, 4300F

Policy 2167 is not needed in the district and the appropriate policies we need to look at are 4330P and 4330F. They address facility use and Superintendent Klasna would like to look this over in more detail. Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Hire JH Track Coaches

Mr. Hess recommended Anthony Gossack as the assistant JH track coach. He also recommended Casey Klasna pending appropriate numbers. Trustee Stone made a motion to hire Mr. Gossack and Mr. Klasna as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Approve Spring Adult Education Classes/Instructors

Kayla Burton presented the spring adult education classes and instructors for board approval. The session will run April 11th through May 21st with registration open on March 28th. The "Learning to Forage" workshop will be moved to classes. Trustee Perry made a motion to approve the adult education classes and instructors as presented pending favorable background checks. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Add Cecily Grant to the Substitute Staff List

Cecily Grant is recommended to be added to the substitute staff list. Trustee Stone made a motion to add Ms. Grant to the sub list pending favorable background check. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Consideration to Hire Thomas Solomon as a Substitute Bus Driver

Thomas Solomon has completed all training, certifications, background check and is recommended for hire as a substitute bus driver. He was the last driver John Lee was able to train. In the future, drivers will have to pay \$3,000 to \$5,000 for their training. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to hire Mr. Solomon as presented. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Resignations from Mark Womacks, Casey Pollack and Cole Cavan

Superintendent Klasna accepted resignations from Mark Womacks, Casey Pollack and Cole Cavan (pending his official hire in his new position).

Discussion on Policy 7540-Staff Housing

Superintendent Klasna explained staff housing has become an issue for teachers. The district has five units. This is a recruitment tool, but the current policy only allows three years in the units for new staff. He would like to allow more years in staff housing and possibly remodel the schoolhouse to add a one-bedroom unit in the basement. In the future we also need housing for staff other than teachers. With the three-year cap, we could lose staff this year that can't find housing outside the district. In the future, the district could look at adding housing on district property by the preschool or possibly utilize a school bond. He would also like to add language for staff that are non-tenured. Discussion included, housing is a state-wide crisis, three year cap is prior to teachers being tenured, can't get a loan when making \$34,000 per year, extend to five years, take administration out, when construction can be done on school house, housing is part of the strategic plan, investing in our own, allowing staff outside of tenured staff into housing, unforeseen circumstances, housing stipend, see what other districts offer, sharing house with other staff, etc. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to increase the number of years in school housing to five and have a descending order of priority of staff for available housing. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present were in approval. The board will look at housing options for the future and Superintendent Klasna will reach out the Kris Goss, MTSBA about housing allowances or stipends and is they must be given to all staff.

Consideration to Approve 2022-2023 School Calendar

Mr. Hilton presented the two calendars that staff and parents voted on for the 2022-2023 school year. Both groups selected calendar 2. The only negative feedback is spring break falls the same time several clubs participate in their competitions. This does not usually fall at the same time. Trustee Perry made a motion to approve calendar 2 for the 2022-2023 school year. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. Trustee Fanelli, Trustee Stone, Trustee Perry, and Trustee Henrich were in favor. Chairperson Ketchu was opposed. The motion passed.

Consideration to Approve Permissive Levy Resolution

The permissive levy resolution for FY23 was presented for board approval. The board agreed to advertise using current taxable values versus projected taxable value. Trustee Stone made a motion to approve the permissive levy resolution using current taxable value as presented. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Approve General Fund Levy

Superintendent Klasna explained the general fund is what is used to operate the school. It pays salaries, benefits, supplies, utilities, etc. The district could levy \$43,903.67 based on the preliminary budget from OPI. The tax impact on a \$100,000 house would be \$.33 per year. With the increase in growth, we need to continue opportunities for the students

and keep our budget at max, Superintendent Klasna recommended running a general fund levy in May. Trustee Stone made a motion to approve the general fund levy as presented. Trustee Perry seconded the motion. All trustees present were in favor

Consideration to Approve District Clerk Evaluation Tool

Ms. Martello presented several evaluation tools for review. She recommended the board and superintendent have different forms as they evaluate her under two different roles. The board would use evaluation tool #2 and the superintendent would use #1. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to approve the evaluation tools as presented. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Principal Evaluations

Superintendent Klasna is working on principal evaluations, and they will be complete for the next meeting.

Consideration to Assign Negotiation Committee for Principals and Superintendent Contracts

Last year the board held group bargaining with administration. Trustee Henrich explained this would be a posted meeting and open to the public. He felt it is best to negotiate with a couple of board members and bring a proposal back to the full board for approval. The trustees felt this would be better if one of the committee members talked to the other board members prior to the meeting so they have time to review the proposal before they see it at the meeting. Trustee Stone and Trustee Perry volunteered to negotiate.

CLAIMS

February activity claims were presented, as well as February warrant listings and preliminary March 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 April 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST

Ginger Martello, District Clerk

Karen Ketchu, Chairperson

Date Approved