

**Deer Park School District #2
2105 Middle Road
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
REGULAR MEETING**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – April 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Deer Park School District #2 was called to order by Chairwoman Cindy Barnes at the school at 6:33 p.m. for the purpose of considering business to come before the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Anderson, Cindy Barnes, Mickale Carter and Annelies Pedersen

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Superintendent Sheri Modderman and Clerk Peggy Martin

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Dector, Kathy DeMarco, Laurie Lapan and Rachel Younger

PUBLIC PRESENT: Kellie Lundie, Patrick Lundie, Melissa Myer and Michael Younger

PUBLIC COMMENT: At this time Rachel Younger introduced herself, and let those present know that she works as a para-educator for Deer Park School. She then shared concerns, as a parent, that she has for herself, her child, and the class as a whole, about an incident that occurred in one of her children's classes. She began to describe the incident. Chairwoman Barnes stopped her at that point and stated that due to student privacy rights there could be no discussion of disciplinary or behavioral actions with any child in the district. She then advised that complaints need to follow the process outlined in policy 1700 - Uniform Code of Complaint. Discussion continued with Melissa Myer stating that she also felt unsafe in the class. Trustee Mickale Carter asked if she was alleging that a weapon had been brought to school, to which Melissa Myer replied, "No." Discussion and questions followed with regard to the district's behavior/consequence menu and practices and processes regarding discipline. Michael Younger and Melissa Myer expressed concerns that the behavior/consequence menu was not being followed. Superintendent Modderman stated that no information would be shared regarding any corrective or disciplinary action for any student, except with their parent. As policy 1700 is on the agenda for consideration of revision, Chairwoman Barnes invited Rachel Younger and Melissa Myer to stay to participate in that discussion. At the end of public comment Rachel Younger and Melissa Myer left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairwoman Barnes shared information on upcoming MTSBA/MASBO free trainings.

MEETING MINUTES:

The following minutes were presented for review:

- March 14, 2013 – Regular Meeting

In the review of the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes, the year should have stated "2023" not "2013". And under Superintendent's Report – Information/Discussion, the Blue Ribbon School application was due on Friday – not "Firday". Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS:

DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT:

Action Items – Consideration of:

- April Claims

Gary Anderson made a motion to approve paying the April claims. Annelies Pedersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Information Items

- March Statement of Expenditure
- March Payroll Report

- Election Update.

The annual school election will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The election will be in person – in the gym - for those who are not signed up as an absentee voter. Voting will be to fill two (2) trustee positions, each for a three (3) year term.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Information/Discussion Items:

- Reader Board

Superintendent Modderman shared that with the proceeds from the very well supported Spring Fling, the Booster Club would be purchasing a reader board for the District. There was discussion on where to place the reader board and what would be required to get the board up and running.

- Evaluations

Evaluations for teachers are nearly finished and para-educator/classified staff evaluations will soon start.

- Blue Ribbon School Application

The application for the Blue Ribbon School Award has been submitted.

- Lunch Tables

The four new lunch tables have arrived and are working great and well received by the students.

Action Items – Consideration of:

- 2023-2024 Calendar

Superintendent Modderman presented a calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. After review, Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the calendar. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Cross-Country Coaches

Superintendent Modderman made the recommendation to hire Dan Block, Rob Hall and Rachel Younger as cross-country coaches for the 2023 spring season. Annelies Pedersen made the motion to approve the coaches as recommended. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Math Curriculum

After discussion, it was decided to table action on the math curriculum until the May meeting. More information is being gathered with regard to pricing, and add-ons. Samples of the top staff choices are on display in the office for parent/public input, and will be set up through the upcoming parent-teacher conferences.

- Renewal/Non-Renewal of Tenured Teachers 2023-2024

Superintendent Modderman shared that she has received – and accepted – a letter of resignation from teacher Melissa Howe-Rague. Superintendent Modderman then made the recommendation of contract renewal for all tenured staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Mickale Carter made the motion to approve the contract renewal of all tenured staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Annelies Pedersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Renewal/Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers 2023-2024

Superintendent Modderman then made the recommendation of contract renewal for all non-tenured staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Mickale Carter made the motion to approve the contract renewal of all non-tenured staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Gary Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Classified Staff Contracts 2023-2024

For the 2023-2024 school year, Superintendent Modderman made the recommendation of contract renewal for the following classified staff:

Carly Brown – Crash Zone Aide
Amanda Hellwig – Custodian
Diana Moyer – Crash Zone Aide
Samantha Olson – Para-Educator
Linda Toren - Custodian
Sally Torres – Crash Zone Director

Annelies Pedersen made the motion to approve contract renewal for Carly Brown, Amanda Hellwig, Diana Moyer, Samantha Olson, Linda Toren and Sally Torres for the 2023-2024 school year. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Summer Programs

Superintendent Modderman then made the recommendation to continue with the following summer programs- to be paid with ESSER funds, at the same hourly rate of pay as paid in the summer of 2022.

Tutoring
Gardening
Counseling

Mickale Carter made the motion to continue with the summer programs, as listed, for the summer of 2023, at the same rate of pay as the summer of 2022 – to be paid with ESSER funds. Gary Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

BOARD CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:

Action Items – Consideration of:

- Policies to be Terminated

As it has been determined that the policies in the 1900 Series are no longer needed, Mickale Carter made the motion to terminate policies 1900, 1901, 1905, 1905P, and 1906. Annelies Pedersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- First Reading – Revised Policy

- 1700 – p. 1 - add language – after paragraph ending on line 26 – regarding deadlines and mailing procedure
 - p. 2, line 4 – to read in part, “must be received by the Administrator within thirty (30) calendar days”...
 - p. 2, lines 25 – to read in part, ...”in writing to the Clerk of the Board”...
 - p. 2, line 26 – to read in part, ...”fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the administrator’s”...
 - p. 2, line 44 – keep #1 and add “within 30 calendar days”, delete #2, renumber #3 to #2 and add as the last sentence - “The Board Chair will also inform the full board of the reasons for rejecting the hearing of the complaint.”
 - p. 2, line 46 – delete “If the” through p. 3, line 5 “to the full Board.”
- Move to a new paragraph - p. 3, line 5 “The Board will report”...through the end of line 8, ending with “the period provided by law”.

Mickale Carter made a motion to accept the first reading of policy 1700, with changes. Gary Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Safe Return to Schools Plan Review

Changes made to the plan included:

Page 1 – Date Plan was Last Revised: April 11, 2023

Next Regularly Scheduled Month for Consideration: October 2023

Throughout the whole policy add April 11, 2023 as the revised date

Throughout the whole policy add language regarding the termination of 1900 policy series

Add references to policy 3417 in the “Universal and correct wearing of masks” section and in the “Handwashing and respiratory etiquette” section.

Add reference to policies 8303 and 8131 to the section on “Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation”

Page 13 – Add – “April 11, 2023 - The temporary 1900 series policies were removed during the open board meeting on April 11, 2023 due to the imminent of COVID-19 emergency at the federal level.”

Information/Discussion Items:

- Collective Bargaining Update

Nothing to report as there have been no meetings of the bargaining committees.

- Future Planning – District Clerk

As Clerk Martin shared that she is planning to retire – late fall of 2023 – the district will need to begin discussing and planning for her replacement.

- End-of-Year Spending Priorities

There were no new items to add to the list created in March.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Action Item – Consideration of:

- Fire Alarm System – Stellar Integration & Safety Solutions, Inc.

A bid has been received for the installation of a new fire alarm system from Stellar Integration & Safety Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$24,850.00. After discussion, Mickale Carter made a motion to accept the bid from Stellar Integration & Safety Solutions, Inc., and to move forward with the project. Annelies Pedersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Information/Discussion Item:

- Hillside Steps


A bid has been received from Copperforge Underground for the cement work/installation of the hillside steps. The bid was in the amount of \$7,720.56 with \$4,720.56 in labor in equipment costs discounted as a charitable contribution to the school. There will be a special board meeting set to approve the bid as it was not listed for consideration of approval on the agenda.

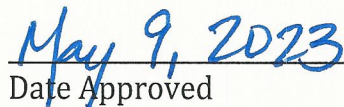
NEXT MEETING:

There will be a special meeting on April 14, 2023 at 7:15 a.m.

The reorganization/regular meeting will be on May 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Gary Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Annelies Pedersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.


Chairwoman


Date Approved


District Clerk