

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 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 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of considering business to come before the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cindy Barnes, Mickale Carter and Patrick Lundie

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Superintendent Sheri Modderman and District Clerk Peggy Martin

STAFF PRESENT: None noted

PUBLIC PRESENT: Mike Younger

PUBLIC COMMENT: None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None noted.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The following minutes were presented for consideration:

- June 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Language change in “Public Comment”, second paragraph changing “website agenda” to “agenda on the website” was suggested. The motion regarding “Third Reading – Revised Policy 1700” and “Second Reading – Revised Policy 3417”, should read, “Mickale Carter made the motion to approve policy 1700 as the third and final reading, with the noted changes, and to approve policy 3417 as the second and final reading.”

- June 27, 2023 – Special Meeting

It was noted that in the Board Chairwoman’s Report – “First Reading Revised Policies” should be followed with, “- replace all Principal or Superintendent with Administrator. And policy 1400 – line 33 should read “Badrock South (Edna Mae) Fire Hall.”

Mickale Carter made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the noted corrections. Patrick Lundie seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS:

DISTRICT CLERK’S REPORT:

Action Items – Consideration of:

- July Claims

Patrick Lundie made a motion to approve paying the June claims. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Information Items

- June Statement of Expenditure – Year End
- Final Encumbrances

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Action Items – Consideration of:

- Out-of-District Enrollment

Superintendent Modderman made the recommendation to approve the out-of-district enrollment request that was submitted for a 3rd grade student. After discussion on criteria for admitting out-of-district students, Patrick Lundie made the motion to approve the request pending that there had not been an expulsion of the student from a previous school. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- 2023-2024 Student Handbook-First Reading
- 2023-2024 Staff Handbook-First Reading

Superintendent Modderman presented the Student and Staff Handbooks for a first reading. Changes were noted with the handbooks to be presented in the August meeting for a second reading.

- Coaching Pay Comparison

In checking with other rural schools, Athletic Director Paul Bruce found that the average pay for a coach – per season/team – was \$1,200.00, with Deer Park paying \$1,000.00 per coach/per season for basketball, volleyball and cheerleading, and \$750.00 per coach – typically 3 coaches - for the cross-country season. This matter will be discussed further during the August board meeting.

- Crash Zone Planning for 2023-2024

Superintendent Modderman opened up discussion on the Crash Zone/Before & After School Program. She stated that it is a great program – when it can be fully staffed. Financial issues were discussed. The staff for the program are paid from the general fund with snacks and supplies funded by payments from families who pay for the service. For families who qualify for free and reduced lunch, the program is free. There was discussion on possibly restricting the program to working families as a way to keep number of students at a more manageable level, and the idea of using a sign-up system was discussed - also to be used as a tool for managing student numbers. This matter will also be discussed in a future meeting after meeting with the Crash Zone director and staff who work in the program.

- Hiring 4th Grade Teacher

Superintendent Modderman made the recommendation to hire Jennie Taylor – who was interviewed on July 6th - as a 4th grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Mickale Carter made the motion to approve the recommendation to hire Jennie Taylor - as a 4th grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Patrick Lundie seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Information/Discussion Items:

- Resignation-Tana Voeller

Superintendent Modderman let the board know that she accepted the resignation of Tana Voeller.

BOARD CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT:

Action Items – Consideration of:

- First Reading Revised Policies
 - 1110 – lines 19-21 - accept bold language
Add legal reference
 - 2140 – p. 2 – lines 4-12 – add bold language
Add legal reference
 - 2168 – line 7 – new title
accept bold language
remove ~~strikethrough~~ language
add cross reference
legal reference – remove ~~strikethrough~~ language
 - 2170 – accept bold language
remove ~~strikethrough~~ language
lines 14-15 – remove “and” through “high school”
add cross reference
add legal reference
 - 2170P –accept bold language
remove ~~strikethrough~~ language
 - 2332 – remove ~~strikethrough~~ language
accept bold language
Add legal references
 - 3120 – remove ~~strikethrough~~ language
accept bold language
add legal references
 - 3121 – accept bold language

- remove ~~striketrough~~ language
- 3121P –accept bold language
p. 2 – lines 39-46 – remove
add legal references
- 3150– new title to read “Enrollment” not “Attendance”
Accept bold language
Add cross reference
Add legal reference
Remove legal reference with ~~striketrough~~
- 3226 – change all “Principal” to “Administrator” with the exception of:
Page 2 – lines 33 & 48 – change to “District Administrator”
add legal references
- 3310 – accept bold language
Add legal reference
- 3413 – add bold, underlined language
Add legal reference

Patrick Lundie made the motion to accept the policies as the first and final reading. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Classified Staff Raises 2023-2024

After review and discussion of classified pay, Mickale Carter made a motion to approve a 5% raise for the classified/hourly staff. Patrick Lundie seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Information/Discussion Items:

- Collective Bargaining Update

There is no update to report at the time of this meeting.

- Preliminary Budget Discussion

A budget was presented showing the current – 2022-2023 budget – and a preliminary budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Known changes for the 2023-2024 budget were included, such as: 2023-2024 property and liability insurance rates, Worker’s Compensation rates, Steps and Lanes increases with the 2% increase currently in negotiation, moving salary from ESSER funds to the general fund, utility increases, as well as other areas of the budget that may need adjusted. The final budget meeting will be on August 8, 2023.

- Insurance Trust Update

Chairwoman Barnes gave an update on the law that was recently passed to create an insurance trust. This will become a matter of consideration to the school staff who are insured with MUST when the trust is created.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Actions Items – Consideration of:

- Electrical Work – Reader Board

Patrick Lundie shared that the reader board will be shipping soon.

- Keyless Entry

Superintendent Modderman let the board know that she met with Anytime Lock, Key & Safe. An estimate from them should be coming.

NEXT MEETING:

There will be a final budget/regular meeting on August 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Patrick Lundie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Mickale Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

