

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 9, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kendra Horn. Ridgley Elser, Kendra Horn, Cory Rowberry, and Kaylie Theis were present. Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee and Principal Rodney Stout were present. William T. C. Wood and Therese Sutton were absent.

Visitors: Sara Decker (Zoom), Kaiden Batzler, Pam Birkeland (Zoom), Laurie Bartoletti (Zoom), and Luke Cordingley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ridgley Elser led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pledge

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time. Public Comment

REPORTS: Reports

Student Council: Kaiden Batzler, student body president, reported on the following: fall sports are over; middle school football had a rough season, but middle school volleyball had some success; varsity volleyball had a disappointing District Tournament, but varsity football made it to the first round of playoffs, where they lost to Flint Creek, and finished 3rd in the conference; 25 FFA will be attending JDAE in Bozeman November 11-13; the FFA Alumni auction will be November 21; FCCLA had their district meeting on November 8 and voted in new officers; they will be making cookies for the blood drive and doing a Cat/Griz themed food drive; Shakespeare in the Schools performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on November 3, and students were able to participate in workshops with the actors.

Technology Committee: The technology committee discussed the following: the door lock system needs its software updated; the District has received a quote from Fox Alarm for approximately \$8,500, and they will be able to handle the system exclusively instead of using multiple vendors to manage the system; they are local, and have provided better service. The elementary building still has some connectivity issues, but Mrs. Howser is working with ISM to resolve this. Personal student laptops or Chromebooks create issues with filtering, access, programs and take up more of Mrs. Howser's time than school-issued Chromebooks; Mr. Wetherbee will start notifying students and parents that personal devices will not be allowed next year.

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

Sheridan School Board will maintain board policy in order to be current with state and federal laws with a focus on quality education. Board Goals

Superintendent Wetherbee explained that this is an ongoing process, and the District is part of MTSBA's policy maintenance program to facilitate meeting this goal.

MCEL-October 20-22 (Virtual): The trustees were advised to keep track of their attendance at training opportunities; the Board can receive the Golden Gavel Award from MTSBA if they receive enough credits for attending workshops and trainings.

MCEL

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY 1900 SERIES: There was no discussion on this item.

Policy Series
1900

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REQUIRED REVISIONS OF RECOMMENDED POLICIES: #5223-Personal Conduct: The policy was tabled at the October meeting due to concerns of how this policy would apply to Reflex Protect; after looking into the issue, Reflex Protect is covered by Policy 1710, and Superintendent Wetherbee recommended adopting the policy as presented. Ridgley Elser moved to adopt the revised policy as presented, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy #5223

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF OPTIONAL UPDATE TO RECOMMENDED POLICY: #1210-Qualifications, Terms, and Duties of Board Officers-Second Reading: Cory Rowberry moved to adopt the policy without the optional language, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy #1210

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED UPDATES TO POLICY: #4330F-School Facilities/Grounds Use and Liability Release Agreement and Removal of Policy #4330F1-Assumption of Risk Waiver Form: Superintendent Wetherbee recommended approving the revised policy as presented; the revision simplifies the language. Ridgley Elser moved to adopt the revised policy as presented and remove Policy 4330F1, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy #4330F

NEW BUSINESS:

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: Ridgley Elser moved to approve attendance agreements for the Brannon, High, Smail, Smith, and Wood families. Kaylie Theis seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Out of District
Attendance

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION: The Board reviewed the resignation letter from head cook LaTesa Schrank (enclosed). Ridgley Elser moved to accept the resignation, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resigna
tion

The Board reviewed the letter from paraprofessional Jen Dvorak requesting a leave of absence. There was no action as the letter is informational, and administration has approved the leave.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring the following employees:

- Isabel Anderson to fill the head cook position. Kaylie Theis moved to hire Isabel Anderson as head cook, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Amanda LaYacona as assistant varsity girls' basketball coach. Ridgley Elser moved to hire Amanda LaYacona as assistant varsity girls' basketball coach, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Jaeleen Munns as assistant middle school boys' basketball coach. Kaylie Theis moved to hire Jaeleen Munns as assistant middle school boys' basketball coach, and Cory Rowberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Rod Stout as head middle school girls' basketball coach. Cory Rowberry moved to hire Rod Stout as head middle school girls' basketball coach, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESIGNATION OF TRUSTEE AND DECLARATION OF TRUSTEE: The Board reviewed Therese Sutton's letter of resignation (enclosed), and Ridgley Elser moved to accept her resignation and declare a trustee vacancy. Kaylie Theis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee
Resignation/Va
cancy

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE: Cory Rowberry moved to appoint Luke Cordingley to fill Therese Sutton's vacant seat until the May 3, 2022 school election. Ridgley Elser seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Appointment
of Trustee

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MHSA CO-OP AGREEMENT WITH BEVERHEAD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR SOFTBALL AND WRESTLING: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the trustees that the District had a similar co-op in place for several years, but allowed it to lapse due to lack of student interest; currently, there are students who will take advantage of the agreement and participate in wrestling. Cory Rowberry moved to approve the three year cooperative agreement with Beaverhead County High School for wrestling and softball. Ridgley Elser seconded the motion and the motion carried.

MHSA Co-Op

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ACADIA (ALTACARE) CONTRACT: The Board reviewed the enclosed contract, which will supersede the previously executed contract, effective December 1 through the end of the school year; the contract requires renewal due to program changes at the state level to comply with federal guidelines; Superintendent Wetherbee has been in contact with Acadia's administration, and they seem to have a plan for AltaCare to move forward; he has the beginning of a contingency plan to provide mental health services to students if AltaCare is unable to provide them; the program has changed from unit based billing to another method to emphasize quality of service instead of quantity; when the state's bridge funding for the program is exhausted, the District will need to pay a 35% local match for the federal funds received through the program. Cory Rowberry moved to approve the contract, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Acadia
Contract

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ESSER III PROJECT PROPOSALS: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that representatives from Ameresco performed an energy audit on the whole campus; the company is familiar with ESSER funds and the allowable program expenses; they identified areas in the

ESSER III
Project
Proposal

facilities that need to be upgraded, and that will meet the program requirements of ESSER II and III; Superintendent Wetherbee would like to address some of these areas but stay within the District's allocations of ESSER II and III money, and possibly use building reserve money if necessary. He recommends prioritizing the high school building's heat exchange unit first, then the air controls in the elementary building, and thirdly, the heat in the CB Murray if funds allow for all three projects; there is not firm plan at this point, as the District is in the very early planning stages with Ameresco. Ridgley Elser moved to approve going forward as discussed, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. Any quotes will be brought to the Board when they are available; all pieces of the proposed upgrades are large projects, and will require the District to enter the bidding process. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REVISED POLICY: #1135- School Board Advocacy: The policy was recently revised to remove reference to the National School Board Association. The District doesn't currently have this policy but the Board may adopt it if they feel it is necessary. The policy does not affect any operation by the District, and there was no action on the item.

Policy #1135

READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) MINUTES:

Ridgley Elser moved to approve minutes from the, October 11, 2021 and October 12, 2021 committee meetings, and the October 12, 2021 regular meeting as presented, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes

REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS AND EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS:

Kaylie Theis moved to approve the November warrant list as presented, including warrants #109720 through #109752 totaling \$61,312.24, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Expenditures

Expenditure Proposals: None at this time.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Principal Stout reported on the following:
- October attendance for grades JS-6 = 92%, 7-8 = 95%, 9-12 = 94%, and JS-12 = 93%
- October students of the month;
- The Lego Robotics team has started meeting with Ms. Stender and Mrs. Grover heading up the group; the program is part of PALZ; there are currently 15 students participating; they are excited for the program this year, where the first round of competition will be virtual; they will team up with the film class to create their video for submission.
- Upcoming events were discussed. (See enclosed.)

Principal's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

- Parents will be receiving information through the Messenger system regarding a parenting webinar provided through the mental health program

Supt. Report

from the county; every month there is a virtual webinar; the content has been very good, but with little attendance; they are now offering a gift card to incentivize it.


- The Sheridan Federation of Teachers (SFT) has approached the Board regarding negotiations; the committees are already appointed, and the organizational meeting could be held before Christmas, with negotiations starting in January.
- LED lights have been installed in the elementary hallway with emergency lights included.
- Mr. Braaten has installed the railing on the new ramp at the high school entrance, and the District will add parking blocks and handicap parking spots.
- The superintendent report from November 2016 stated the K-12 enrollment was 188 students, and he had a RIF plan in place in case enrollment didn't start to increase. The District's current enrollment is 216; we don't lose students like we used to, and that is a credit to staff, parents, community and administration.
- Students are currently in between sports seasons, so teachers can take advantage and hit their curriculum a little harder. The eligibility list has remained pretty small.
- Discipline referrals so far this year are at 24; this number seems high, but he also asked teachers to be stricter about certain things. Middle school students have had 19 referrals, which is fewer issues than normal.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:07 p.m., Ridgley Elser moved to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were recorded and transcribed by Rebecca E. Larsen, District Clerk.


CLERK


CHAIRMAN