



**Regular Meeting of the Trustees of School District #3  
Wednesday May 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blue Creek School District #3 was held Wednesday evening, May 11, 2022 at Blue Creek School. Chair Leslie Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Leslie Friedel, Rachel Meech and John Fordham. Phil Pimley and Kara Landry joined via zoom.

Administrator Cathi Rude and Clerk Joan Iverson were present for the entire meeting.

Guest present: Jennifer Wagner

Guests joined via Zoom: Heather Mehelich and Lacie Tucker

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**Correspondence**

Resignation letters-Joan Iverson (Clerk), Cassandra Wren & Rebekah Reger (Certified Teachers)

**REPORTS**

**1. Enrollment**

Administrator Cathi Rude reported the current enrollment at 182 students.

**2. Community Ed Report**

None at this time.

**3. Staff Report**

Jennifer Wagner coordinates the Extended Studies Program for the gifted and talented students. This year she also conducted a class for the parents of these students which covered topics such as the unique characteristics of a gifted child and provided parents the opportunity to share information and ideas. This year the students learned about the various components of architecture and ended the year with a field trip to the Western Heritage Center and Moss Mansion.

**4. Clerk Report Business Report**

Clerk Joan Iverson expressed appreciation to the Board for the help and support she has received over the past five years as District Clerk.

**5. Administration Report**

Administrator Rude reported to the Board the following:

1. Administrator Rude and Business Manager Roger Heimbigner continue to work on budget numbers for the 2022-2023 school year as well as contracts for certified and classified positions.

Administrator Rude discussed concerns over the turnover rate with the Special Education certified position. Jesi Lofstrom is a paraprofessional who has worked in the Learning Center for several years and is currently working on obtaining her Special Education certification. Administrator Rude discussed possible options for the District to assist Jesi in this endeavor similarly to what was done in the past to secure a certified Counselor and certified Librarian. Administrator Rude asked Trustees to consider this as a way to support and fulfill the needs of the school. This will be revisited as budget setting will be in August.

2. Spring Conferences went very well and were well attended despite the last minute switch to virtual meetings due to the weather.
3. Registrations are coming in for Summer Boost. We have 4 staff members interested and 20 students signed up for session 1; 17 for session 2.
4. Administrator Rude updated Trustees about a claim that has been filed with the Dept of Labor against several school districts, including Blue Creek, by the MFPE (Montana Federation of Public Employees). The MFPE is requesting personal contact information on all Certified Employees. The Attorney that represents the Blue Creek District has been contacted. MT code does not allow sharing of this information yet MFPE is making a claim in opposition to that. A response was due in April and MFPE has decided to pursue legal action. The next step is an Administrative Hearing in Helena.
5. Administrator Rude reviewed staff resignations that have been received and accepted from Cassandra Wren, Rebekah Reger, Kristine Peterson and Robin Thompson.
6. Current job postings are for Music 0.5 FTE, Special Education Teacher 1.0 FTE and 2 General Education Teachers 1.0 FTE each.
7. Summer Maintenance Projects include flooring, classroom heating/ventilation, potential removal of wallpaper and painting in some intermediate classrooms, lead fixture work, window coverings and LED lighting. Lorrie Combs is working on bids and coordinating projects.

## **6. & 7. Consent Agenda**

John Fordham moved, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022, and approval of bills and check listing #3030194 to #3030223. Motion passed unanimously.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## **8. Safe Return to Schools & Continuity of Services Plan**

This plan must be updated every 6 months and also be a standing Board agenda item. There have been no changes to the plan since the December 17, 2021 update and will be updated soon. A link was provided to the BCS website for additional information.

## **9. COVID 19 School Status update**

Administrator Rude updated the Board on the current status of Blue Creek School in regards to COVID-19. She reviewed information from the bi-weekly public health meetings. Administrator Rude reported from these weekly meetings the take-away is that conditions continue to be good and while this variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible, it is not as impactful as previous variants.

## **10. Survey & Assessment of Parking Lot regarding Park Land**

Trustee Leslie Friedel updated about progress in regards to getting this process completed. The necessary paperwork is done and ready to be notarized. Leslie Fridel reported that there has been no

communication from Jeff Reineking. She will reach out to Jeff Martin at the County in hopes of getting the matter settled.

### **11. Policy Review**

Policy review is one of the important functions of a school board. The 6000, 7000 and 8000 series are being reviewed. The first and second readings for these three series have taken place. Review and changes were made and presented to the Board. Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to approve the 6000, 7000, and 8000 Series of Policy as presented. Phil Pimley moved, seconded by Kara Landry to approve the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **12. Transportation Contracts for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Administrator Cathi Rude presented a list of 30 plus individuals that would be eligible for an individual transportation contract for the 2022-2023 school year. Administrator Rude recommended these individuals be approved as well as any other requests that come in for individuals who meet the criteria. A motion was made by Rachel Meech, seconded by John Fordham to approve the contracts as submitted and any future contracts as needed. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **13. ACE Consortium**

Phil Pimley moved, seconded by John Fordham to approve the \$3,750 fee to continue to be a member of the ACE (Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement) Consortium for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion passed unanimously. Motion passed unanimously

#### **14. Business Services Contract 2022-2023**

Administrator Cathi Rude presented the business services contract of ITBRSolutions for the 2022-2023 school year. The District is in its thirteenth year with ITBR Solutions and is very pleased with the services and guidance offered and wish to continue this relationship. A motion was made by Rachel Meech, seconded by John Fordham to approve the contract to ITBRSolutions for business services for \$18,100 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **15. Meal Prices**

Lunch Prices have not increased since 2017-2018. At that time it was a ten cent increase. We need to consider the reimbursable state rate for free & reduced lunches as well as the costs & availability of items. Proposed increases are for a two-year adjustment for meals with breakfast increasing by \$0.35 per year and lunch increasing by \$0.65 per year.

2022 - 2023 Breakfast = \$1.95 Lunch = \$3.25

2023 - 2024 Breakfast = \$2.30 Lunch = \$3.90

Milk increases to \$0.45 for both years.

A motion was made by John Fordham, seconded by Phil Pimley to approve the price increases of milk to \$0.45 cents and meal prices for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **16. Nursing Services**

Administrator Cathi Rude stated the nursing contract for the 2022-2023 has no increases from the \$7,284 we paid for the 2021-2022 school year. Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to approve the

2022-2023 contract for the Riverstone Health Nursing Services as presented. Rachel Meech moved, seconded by John Fordham to approve the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**17. Classified Staff 2022-2023**

Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to approve pay raise increases for most classified staff positions for 2022-2023. A memorandum was provided. One addition to the memorandum was a \$1.00 increase in Joan Iverson’s pay rate from \$16.75 to \$17.75 per hour effective 5/12/2022 for the remainder of her time with us. A motion was made by John Fordham, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the classified employee pay raises as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**18. Renewal of Certified Teaching Contracts 2022-2023**

Administrator Rude recommended the renewal of the following teacher contracts for the 2022-2023 school year:

Non-Tenured: Erin Cozzens, Kari Laboulle, Bryan Luke, Tessa Miller and Richelle Zamyslicky,

Renewal Granting Tenure: Ketti Wiest (0.5 FTE),

Tenured: Amanda Bechtold, Savannah Buckner (0.5 FTE) , McKenzi Dundas, Lori Grusing, Kaylene Hall, Heather Mehelich, Lacie Tucker (0.5 FTE), Jennifer Wagner, and Kirstie Winthrope.

Kara Landry moved, seconded by John Fordham to approve the recommendation of Administrator Cathi Rude to approve the tenure and non-tenure contracts as listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

**19. Date and Time of Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

John Fordham moved, seconded by Rachel Meech to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Time of Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.

Board Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: Clerk \_\_\_\_\_