

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA
MAY 11, 2022**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.

Meeting was held in person and via zoom

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

Chairperson Ketchu called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting held April 13th and the special meeting held April 27th were submitted for approval. Trustee Fanelli made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Trustee Stone seconded the motion. All trustees present were in favor.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

John Scully	Michael Speck	Walker McKittrick	Chris Hess
Pam Birkeland	Wendy McKittrick	Kevin Germain	Lisa Roberts
Allen Rohrback	Jeff Weldon	Tammy Wham	Dahlia Rolfe
Brenda Glines			

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

The board received thank you cards from Stephanie Myers, Jenny Brozovich, Brenda Glines, and the resource room staff expressing their gratitude for the staff jackets and support the board has given this school year.

Superintendent Klasna recognized Chairperson Ketchu and Trustee Perry for their years of service to the district. They have helped guide the district and their leadership has been appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Housing Initiative #1 Progress

Superintendent Klasna informed the board the amendment to the ESSER fund applications has approved using funds to transform the basement into an apartment. Cabinets and appliances have been ordered. The district is trying to keep materials and contractors local. Trustee Stone and Superintendent Klasna will meet with some of the contractors tomorrow to schedule the project.

Consideration to Approve Housing Initiative #2

Trustee Stone provided information to the board on a possible plan to fund Housing Initiative #2. Discussion included use of flex fund, ESSER money better used for a long-term investment, location would be next to the preschool, one bed/one bath duplex, housing hits short and long term goals on strategic plan, helps solve the need to staff the school, bond feedback included being able to staff the school, hope to have duplex available for the 23-24 school year, stick built vs modular, advertise for contractors, not depleting the flex fund, recruit and retain staff, approximate cost of \$475,000, using year-end money or interlocal fund, set a minimum balance for the flex fund, etc. Trustee Stone made a motion to approve Housing Initiative #2 for approximately \$475,000 for a one bedroom/one bath duplex on lot eleven off Steffen Str to be funded at a minimum of \$200,000 from ESSER funds pending approval of the amendment to the ESSER application. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

School Bond Discussion and Progress Report

Ben Erickson, 45 Architect, informed the board, since February when the bond failed, the committee met to discuss dates to run another bond. They also received approximately four hundred responses from the survey with negative and positive remarks. The theme was the cost was too high, project was too large, economy is bad, more focus on education, housing, and increase teacher pay. If the board decides to try run another bond it can be approached differently and possibly break it into two bonds. They have been looking at making the design more economical. With new trustees on the board, he would like to meet and see what or if the board wants to proceed.

Consideration of 45 Architect Contract – Possible Action

Trustee Stone wanted to be clear how the contract with 45 Architects worked after failure of the bond. He spoke with Ben and felt the district is not at risk going forward. The contract has two segments, and we are in Segment #1 – pre-bond. Segment #2 would be post bond services. Ben Erickson explained the cost for segment #1 is fixed at \$95,000 with \$60,000 charged. The remaining \$35,000 is held if the bond does not pass and it rolls to the next bond with an additional \$15,000 fee. The only other costs that would be billed out are reimbursables. The board thanked Ben for the clarification and were comfortable looking at dates to discuss how to proceed. This process started in the thick of Covid, so the hope is to have more public gatherings to generate more feedback.

Remote Meeting Practices Update

Chairperson Ketchu reached out to Kris Goss on the best practices for remote meetings. The board can designate one email for correspondence at the meetings, written comment

is recommended to be available throughout the meeting, etc. Trustee Stone felt the new board should go forward with this agenda item, if wanted. Discussion included comments only during the agenda item, participation policy, chat being distracting, etc.

CLAIMS

April activity claims were presented, as well as April warrant listings and preliminary May claims by fund for board approval. Trustee Stone made a motion to approve the listings as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All trustees present were in approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Hire Coaches/Activity Positions for School Year 22-23

Chris Hess presented fall and winter coaching contracts for approval. Two recommendations are for new coaches to the district with experience, Sarah Frings and Nicole Edwards. The remaining contracts will be addressed on the June agenda. (See Attached) Trustee Stone made a motion to approve the coaching contracts as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Consideration to Approve Health Insurance Plans for School Year 22-23

The health insurance rates increased 9.9%. The district did bid other companies and their bids had increases of 19% and 23%. To decrease costs, the district presented the renewal plans and several other plans to the MVEA unit for approval. They chose three plans for the board to approve. The increase will range from 2.42% to 9.9% depending on the plan the employee chooses. Trustee Henrich made a motion to approve the plans MVEA approved. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Resignation of Tim O'Connell

Superintendent Klasna reluctantly accepted Tim O'Connell's resignation. He has advertised the position at \$20-\$25 per hour.

Consideration to Add Heather Brunner to Substitute List

Heather Brunner is recommended to be added to the substitute staff list for music only. She currently volunteers in that department. Trustee Stone made a motion to add Heather Brunner to the substitute staff list as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Certify School Election Results

Ms. Martello presented the election results for the board to canvass. The results were as follows: Paul Bills and Marilyn Jenkins were elected for three-year terms and the general fund levy passed. Trustee Stone made a motion to certify the election as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in favor. (See Attached)

RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Kyle Stone	Chairman
Andrew Henrich	Vice-Chair
Dino Fanelli	Trustee
Paul Bills	Trustee
Marilyn Jenkins	Trustee
Mellissa Newman	Principal
Brian Hilton	Principal
Casey Klasna	Superintendent
Ginger Martello	District Clerk

OATHS - ELECTED TRUSTEES

Pam Birkeland, Madison County Superintendent, administered the oath of office to the newly elected trustees, Paul Bills and Marilyn Jenkins.

NOMINATIONS - BOARD CHAIR

Superintendent Klasna called for nominations for Board Chair. Trustee Fanelli nominated Trustee Stone for Board Chair, who accepted the nomination. All members present were in approval.

NOMINATIONS - VICE CHAIR

Chairman Stone called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Trustee Fanelli nominated Trustee Henrich for Vice-Chair, who accepted the nomination. All members present were in approval.

APPOINT CLERK

Trustee Bills made the motion to appoint Ginger Martello as the District Clerk for the upcoming school year. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mellissa Newman

See Attachment

Brian Hilton

See Attachment

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

School Board Training

The district has tentatively scheduled board training for Monday, May 16th with Debra Silk from MTSBA. The trustees agreed this date would work.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Request County Run School Election

Ms. Martello presented the request for the county to run the 22-23 school elections, for board approval. Trustee Bills was concerned about ballots being sent out by mail to voters that do not live in the district any longer. It makes it easy to vote and not live here. Ms. Martello explained the district is not equipped to run elections and with the number of absentee voter ballots it is more efficient for the county to run the elections. It is also getting hard to find election judges to hold a polling place. Unfortunately, it is the voter's responsibility to notify the county when they no longer reside in the district. Pam Birkeland, county superintendent, informed the board all district in the area has the county run the elections. With the changes in election laws, it is hard to keep up and it is more economical for the county to run the elections. Trustee Henrich made a motion to allow the county to run the school elections as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

Appoint Committee to Negotiate Contract for Business Manager/District Clerk

Trustee Henrich and Trustee Jenkins volunteered to negotiate a contract with Ginger Martello.

Consideration to Schedule Work Session for Classified Pay

Superintendent Klasna explained he would like to schedule a work session to look at classified pay. We need to be competitive with the community and remember we will negotiate with teachers next year. We can dive into the budgets, look at the allocation method and get a breakdown of costs. He would like to do this the same day as board training. The board felt a work session after board training would work best.

Appoint Trustee to Technology Committee

Karen Ketchu was the board member on the technology committee, so she will need to be replaced as she has left the board. The committee meets 2-3 time a year to discuss apps, devices, software and hardware. We have one more year on the technology levy, so this will be another factor to discuss. Trustee Henrich will fill the vacant technology committee position.

Consideration to Adjust Summer Board Meeting Schedule

Trustee Fanelli would like to move the board meetings for June, July and August to Monday to allow participation in men's golf league. Trustee Bills made a motion to move the board meetings for summer to Monday as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

The board recessed at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Kevin Germain – Presentation on Targeted Economic Development District – Informational

Kevin Germain presented information on a Targeted Economic Development District (TEDD). He also presented this to the county commissioners this week. This was first discussed in 2014-2017 and would have included Gallatin County. It is funded through

tax increment financing (TIF). This means taxes would be frozen at a specific point in time for a specific area of tax base. The last legislative session allowed to include infrastructure deficiencies and workforce housing for a TEDD. Big Sky is experiencing a need for workforce housing as growth has increased the median house price too high for the average person. With the tax base from Big Sky, Ennis School District and Madison County have close to the lowest mills in the state. They feel there is a huge inequity of tax collection and distribution and one of the tools to solve this issue is to create a TEDD that would sunset after fifteen years. The TEDD would incorporate 8,000 acres of Moonlight Basin and is approximately 10% of the tax base. Discussion included needing more time to research the affect on the district, June 30th deadline is too fast, workforce housing would be constructed inside the TEDD district, Gallatin taxes almost double Madison taxes, the document is not compete, better communication between districts, Ennis has same issues with workforce housing and housing prices, County Commissioners will make the decision, Big Sky is land locked, resort tax helps, how increased workforce housing will affect Ennis Schools, kids are important everywhere, Big Sky will build housing either way but this makes it better, transient staff, include Jack Creek road in improvements, will be able to pass levies in the future, etc. John Scully said the board needs to meet with district counsel and know how this affects the district. The process is different before and after June 30, 2022. A TEDD will most likely be longer that fifteen years as bonds are usually purchased for thirty years.

Discussion on Grading System

Trustee Henrich asked about a weighted grading system for high school students. He would also like to see Freshman and Sophomores allowed to take AP classes. Discussion included AP classes rely on one test for credit, Dual credit classes are currently offered, get more out of dual credit classes, still get college credit for dual classes, teacher required to have Master degree to teach AP classes, colleges look at each school's grade scale, Freshman not mature enough nor have time in schedule for AP classes, Sophomores could petition for higher level classes, district went away from weighted grading scale in the past, colleges look at ACT scores and you as a person, kids busy and don't have the time for AP classes, etc. Chairperson Stone asked Trustee Henrich to meet with Ms. Newman to discuss this item further and if needed add it to the agenda again.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST

Ginger Martello, District Clerk

Kyle Stone, Chairman

Date Approved