

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.**

**Meeting was held in person and via zoom**

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

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the regular meeting held June 6th were submitted for approval. Trustee Fanelli made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All trustees present were in favor.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jamie Diehl  
Twyla Swanson  
Kristee Sturgill  
Christopher Sturgill  
Jerry Taylor

Kristee Sturgill addressed the board regarding home school participation and communication. She was concerned that board policy contradicted current law. Although her son was allowed to participate in activities as a home school student, she felt communication with her family was lacking. She asked the board to have better communication with all taxpayers, so any home school student can participate in school activities.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

### Discussion on Housing Initiative #1 and #2

Superintendent Klasna reported the basement remodel is moving along. The drywall is being completed and the cabinets will be in next week. We are still waiting for a reply on the ESSER amendment for Initiative #2.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Discussion on JH/HS Expansion Project

The board held a productive work session with 45 Architecture on the JH/HS Expansion project. The board felt they addressed most of the concerns from the community. The board will need to decide when to run another bond election. Discussion included running the bond during the general election or as a special election, criteria for passage of a bond during a general election, comfort level of the board, having all five members supporting the bond, cost to bring the vo-tech to the new building, safety concerns with classes across the road, economic trend, TEDD proposal from Big Sky, costs not getting cheaper, educate the community, overall tax burden is minimal, supply chain coming back, etc. The board felt they should add this to the August agenda and reach out to 45 Architecture with any questions prior to the meeting.

### Discussion on School Staffing

The district is still in need of staff members. We are short a science teacher, an art teacher, two bus drivers and custodians. The board will need to decide on bus routes by August 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore we may need a special meeting. We have advertised in several papers and on social media, with no interest. We have four substitute drivers that could drive a week at a time to cover one route. The board could cancel the fourth route or rotate a route each quarter. Discussion included wage increase not bringing in more interest, the difficulty to get endorsed, time it takes to complete the process, cost of training, county schools working together to get a training site, custodial shortage, four-day week for custodians, custodians coming in an hour earlier, signing bonuses for staff, split shifts and not full-time maybe issues with drivers, hours needed for full-time benefits, etc. The board will continue this discussion at the next meeting or a possible special meeting.

### Discussion on Honors Classes, Weighted Grades and Course Offerings

Trustee Henrich presented information he gathered on course offerings and weighted GPA's. There were pros and cons and a lot to it regarding how it affects students going to college. These are some of the findings, colleges in the state convert weighted GPA back to a 4.0 grade scale and then look at classes for scholarships, many out of state colleges accept dual credit classes, number of students taking AP classes are much lower than dual credit classes, teachers take 12 hours of professional development every year for dual credit classes, kids don't have time for AP classes, teacher student ratio for AP classes extremely low, IB curriculum requires master's certification and is very costly, Montana Digital classes mainly used for credit recovery, ACT prep, colleges going away from ACT and SAT scores, do what is best for the students, etc. Trustee Henrich would

like to see more flexibility for taking Montana Digital Classes. Chairman Stone asked that Trustee Henrich put together policy language for the board to review at the next meeting.

#### Consideration to Increase Classified Step on Pay Scale

Superintendent Klasna informed the board he forgot to ask the board to increase the classified steps for experience from four to six, which is the same as the certified staff. Trustee Henrich asked why we did not allow ten years' experience. Superintendent Klasna explained the district used to allow a teacher to bring in all years of experience, but the MVEA unit negotiated to reduce it to six years. Trustee Bills made a motion to allow six years' experience for classified staff. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Summer School Pay

Superintendent Klasna explained this was not addressed at the last meeting as it was not on the agenda. Currently the district pays \$20 per hour for the head teacher and \$17 for the assistant. This year the course is 4 weeks at 4 days per week. The board discussed certified vs noncertified teachers. Superintendent Klasna recommended \$25 for certified lead teacher, \$20 for certified assistant teachers and \$17 for non-certified teachers. Trustee Jenkins made the motion as recommended. Trustee Bills seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Discontinue Remote Meetings

Trustee Fanelli said remote meetings started with the pandemic. We are not restricted to come to a meeting, and he is tired of the distractions and would like to stop remote meetings. Discussion included the meetings are not productive, if someone misses a meeting the superintendent will go through the meeting with any community member, this is a tool for the community and not about us, very distracting, better to have face to face interaction, as long as doors are open to the meeting we aren't violating open meeting laws, want to see people in person, etc. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to discontinue zoom meetings. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. Trustee Fanelli, Trustee Bills, Trustee Jenkins and Chairman Stone were in favor. Trustee Henrich was opposed. The motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Consideration of Activity Fees

The board discussed activity fees. Discussion included current rates, pay per activity, getting more money back to the general fund for teacher salaries, not charging students not in MHSA activities, possibly less participation with higher cost, students unable to pay, have students work for their fees, have a gate at softball games, promote more advertising on the fields, not charging too much, promoting cheering for games, how much money would be generated with different fees, fundraising vs not fundraising, Booster Club paying for more infrastructure, kids sneak into games, etc. The board asked to have a breakdown of costs and what different fees could generate for the special meeting.

#### Consideration of Lunch and Breakfast Prices

Superintendent Klasna informed the board food costs became extremely high this year and we anticipate them to continue to rise. We were able to provide free lunch and breakfast, but that program will no longer be available so we will need to charge for the 22-23 school year. Discussion included free lunch generated higher reimbursements from the state, haven't seen what the reimbursement rates will be next year, we don't see much homemade food, prepared food costs more, homemade lunch requires more time, provide grab -n- go breakfast so it doesn't allow enough time to cook, continue providing breakfast as this is the only place some kids get a meal, etc. The board felt it was best to keep lunch and breakfast prices the same as before free meals were offered and look at raising the prices in the future. Trustee Henrich made a motion to keep the meals prices the same as before free lunches were offered. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Hire Para-Professional

The para-professional position will fill the vacancy left by Bailey Croy who was hired as the fifth-grade teacher. Lori Jackson is recommended for the position. She has six years of experience in the resource room. Trustee Henrich made a motion to hire Lori Jackson pending favorable background check. Trustee Bills seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Hire Assistant Administrative Assistant

Caitlin Dutiel is recommended for the assistant administrative assistant position. She did a nice job in her interview. She will be coachable and easy to get along with. The position would be 32 hours per week. Trustee Jenkins made a motion to hire Caitlin Dutiel pending a favorable background check. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Activity Handbook

Superintendent Klasna informed the board homeschool students have never been denied participation and the district policy follows state laws. Discussion included dress code, looking professional and representing the district, have coaches address dress code, district only paying for meals during post season tournaments, increasing meal allowances to \$12 for breakfast and \$15 for lunch and dinner, cannot keep paying for meals on overnight trips, etc. Trustee Jenkins made a motion approve the activity handbook as presented and to increase meal allowances as presented and no longer pay for regular season meals only post-season meals, pending approval of activity fees at the special meeting. Trustee Bills seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Coaching Handbook

The coach's handbook was presented for approval. Superintendent Klasna informed the board language for homeschool students will be added. Discussion included biological roles, MHSAA addressing biological female plays female and biological male plays male, homeschool students were allowed participation and were communicated with, homeschool student grade checks, parents attest to homeschool grades, address

grooming, etc. Trustee Bills made a motion to approve the coach's handbook as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. Chairperson Stone felt the district should look at policy on participation as it is happening Nationally and will make its way here. Chairman Stone called for the vote. All members present were in favor.

Discussion on School Safety – Possible Closed Session

Chairman Stone declared this discussion related to a matter of privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure, therefore the meeting was closed at 8:40 p.m. The meeting was opened to the public at 9:49 p.m.

**CLAIMS**

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

**ATTEST**

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Ginger Martello, District Clerk

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Kyle Stone, Chairman

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Date Approved