

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 52  
ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA  
AUGUST 8, 2022**

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

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the regular meeting held July 11<sup>th</sup> and special meeting held July 14<sup>th</sup> were submitted for approval. Trustee Henrich made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All trustees present were in favor.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jamie Diehl	Hannah Hutchinson
Steve Johnson	Dahlia Rolfe
Burleigh Leonard	Lacy Hubner
Lindsey Graden	Jerry Taylor
Wendy McKittrick	

Burleigh Leonard addressed the board. (See Attached)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Discussion on Housing Initiative #1 and #2

Superintendent Klasna reported housing initiative #1 will be completed in a week and he thanked the board for their support and help. Chairman Stone thanked Mr. and Mrs. Gossack for their patience during the construction. Housing initiative #2 is on hold as we

are waiting on the approval for use of ESSER funds. We have requested \$188,000 and met with Wendy, OPI Representative, to complete the scope document and hope to get a response by next Wednesday.

#### Update on TEDD

The proposed TEDD for Moonlight has not been approved yet. This would incorporate approximately 18,000 acres and would impact taxes. Moonlight held a work session with the county that was not well advertised to try to pass a motion on the TEDD. The district asked for a detailed process for establishing a TEDD and once this is received the board will need to meet with the school attorney. Discussion included understanding the affects to the school so a formal document can be presented to the commissioners, how it also affects the county, finding someone to help understand the financial implications, etc.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Consideration to Approve Building Project Bond Resolution Language

The board reviewed the bond resolution language. They took feedback from the surveys and cut back square footage, kept the education components, stripped away the athletic components, kept some existing structures, no roundabouts, and reduced the price by 14 million dollars. Discussion included holding a work session to go over all documents, strategy on how to sell the project, make sure all trustees are comfortable with the messaging, bond counsel reviewed the language, when to run the election, general election would still only need a majority vote, public needs to see all trustees in support of the bond, taxes are based on assessed value and not what a house sells for, the need for ADA compliance, taxable value increasing substantially next year, the board listened to the community, etc. Trustee Jenkins made a motion to approve the latest draft bond resolution language to be held with the November general election as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

##### Consideration of Possible Bus Route Closures

Superintendent Klasna informed the board we have two bus drivers and four routes. The pay was increased to \$25 per hour and the need was addressed in the newsletter and we still have no interest. There are a couple options. Cancel one route for the year or cancel a route each quarter. We have sub drivers that could cover one of the routes. The Virginia City route is the shortest route with the least number of riders and would be the recommended route to cancel. Discussion included the time it takes to get a driver certified, individual contracts would be issued for the cancelled route, the contracts pay over three miles from the school, not fair for one route to be closed, put pressure on all routes to step up and help, reimbursement rate, not reduce the hours of full-time drivers if they drive the VC route, still need sub drivers for activities, last year VC route was recommended to be cancelled, no one wants to cancel a route, VC route cancelled last due to their help last spring, VC route is the easiest route in the winter, board holding to their word with VC parents, etc. Trustee Henrich made a motion to rotate bus closures quarterly with VC route the last to be cancelled and all hours paid at 22 1/2 per week. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. Superintendent Klasna felt VC should be the first

cancelled as they have the least ridership. Chairman Stone called for the vote. All members present were in favor.

#### School Staffing Discussion

The district still has several positions available. Superintendent Klasna explained this is a statewide issue. We are fortunate as our staff is stepping up to help and he optimistic we will get our positions filled. We will interview a retired teacher to help with some of the open math classes and possibly have interest in the custodian position.

#### Consideration to Amend Digital Academy Policy

Trustee Henrich would like to allow under classmen the opportunity to take MTDA classes. Discussion included all schools handle online classes differently, the district doesn't offer a lot of honors classes, allow students to boost their curriculum, can't take digital course if the district offers the course, who pays for it, student maintains certain grade to take additional classes, limit number of classes per year, whether or not to allow taking the class outside of school day, hire a senior to monitor the class, our district offers a lot for our size, school proctor tests, how this affects students getting credits and want to graduate early, a lot to figure out for this semester, need time to get everything in place, look at making a change at semester, etc. Trustee Henrich will work with administration for policy to be reviewed for a possible change at semester.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Consideration to Approve Adult Education Classes/Instructors

Kayla Burton presented the proposed adult education classes, instructors and instructor handbook for approval. The courses will run from September 12<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup> with registration beginning on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Klasna said he appreciated Kayla's hard work on cleaning up the handbook and the wide variety of classes she is offering. Trustee Bills made a motion to approve the adult education courses, instructors and handbook as presented. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

#### Consideration to Hire Art Teacher – Cody Pearson

Superintendent Klasna recommended Cody Pearson for the Art position. He was a teacher then went into the private sector and is back teaching. Mr. Pearson was interviewed; references were checked, and his background check is complete. He will be put on a Class 5 license with OPI. Trustee Bills made a motion to hire Cody Pearson as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration Hire Science Teacher – Julie Eaton

Julie Eaton is recommended for hire for four periods of science. Ms. Eaton taught in Ennis 20 years ago and has offered to help the district until we hire a teacher. Her license has lapsed so she will be emergency authorized. Her contract will be .644. Trustee Bills made a motion to hire Julie Eaton on a .644 contract as presented. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. Superintendent Klasna informed the board that Ms. Newman has

stepped up to teach the chemistry class. Chairman Stone called for the vote. All members present were in favor.

#### Consideration to Amend Contracts for Katie McCollom

Superintendent Klasna informed the board another band period was added to Ms. Zucker's schedule, so we needed Ms. McCollom to take the fourth-grade music class. This will increase her teaching contract and reduce her Title I hours. Trustee Bills made a motion to amend the contracts as presented. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Resignation of Nick Burgess

Superintendent Klasna accepted Nick Burgess's resignation and has advertised his position. Trustee Bills made a motion to accept Mr. Burgess's resignation. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

#### Consideration to Approve MOU for School Nurse

The district has not received the new MOU for school nurse yet. The position was moved from part-time to full-time and the district pays half the cost through a partnership with Madison Valley Medical Center. The district can utilize ESSER funds or school safety money to cover this cost. Trustee Bills made a motion to approve the MOU at the same rate as last year. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Discussion of School Calendar

Trustee Bills would like the district to look at a 4-day week for the last quarter of this school year. The students are gone anyway, and we would only need to adjust for 7 days. He felt it would be a good recruiting tool for teachers. Discussion included a 4-day week might make positions more enticing, how this affects classified staff, this will take some work, it won't save money, approved by the union if implemented this year, have to meet OPI requirements for hours, schedule competitions on Fridays, golf tournaments aren't held on weekends, parents will need daycare on Fridays, run a daycare at school, kids not getting meals on Fridays (school is the only meal some kids get), limit number of subs needed in spring, students miss a lot in the spring for activities, adopting a new reading program so need to know what the calendar will be in the future, etc. Chairman Stone asked Trustee Bills to work with administration and bring back to the board.

#### Discussion on Long Range Plan for District Owned Land

The district has land next to preschool for duplexes in housing initiative #2, has the lot next to the lower elementary playground and 50 acres at the bus barn. The board felt they should develop a long-range plan for district property. Discussion included bring in a consultant to help with possibilities, plan for athletic fields, power, water, septic, create a teacher community with housing, annex into the city, subdivide, partnership with other entities, sell part of land to pay for start up costs, passing the bond, make sure have room for school expansion at 50 acres, etc. The trustees felt a high-level picture with an idea how to split the land and still leave enough for a future high school would be beneficial. This will be on a future agendas or work sessions.

#### Consideration to Approve Student Handbooks

Student handbooks were presented for approval. First item discussed was dress code. Yoga pants would be allowed but a shirt must cover the waist when arms are raised. Bellies would not be shown. No holes in jeans higher than mid-thigh. Adding gestures to rude and inappropriate language and students return property when they leave school. The other item to be discussed was opening campus. The district closed campus K-12 when covid started. Ms. Newman explained when campus was closed tardiness declined, there wasn't issues with theft at the Town Pump and extra-curricular activities during lunch declined. The pros to open campus were it would get kids out of here and allow more spacing. Discussion included who campus opened to, student must pay for lunches this year, some kids can walk home for lunch, if violations happen at lunch-punish individual not student body, etc. The board agreed to open campus for grades 9-12. The board asked about the cell phone policy. Discussion included not allowing phones in classrooms, issues with social media, training parents, kids on buses, leaving in lockers, students don't have locks on lockers, some teachers use devices in class, when they go to bathroom they leave phone on desk, being able to enforce the rule, taking away would create more policing for staff, etc. Trustee Henrich made a motion to approve the 9-12 student handbook as presented and open campus for grades 9-12. Trustee Fanelli seconded the motion. All members present were in favor. K-6 handbook added smart watches to the language, lunch and breakfast prices and opening doors at 7:30 a.m. Trustee Jenkins made a motion to approve the K-6 student handbook as presented. Trustee Bills seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Staff Handbooks

Staff handbooks were presented for approval. The only changes were updating the names. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to approve the handbooks as presented. Trustee Henrich seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Out of District Attendance Agreements

The district has possibly six out of district students attending this school year. The district does review the students and honor suspensions from other districts. Trustee Henrich made a motion to approve the out of district attendance agreements as presented. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Trustees' Financial Summary Report

Ms. Martello reviewed the Trustees' Annual report with the board. This report is compiled by line item from purchases made from 2021-2022 school year. The only item she is waiting for is the OPEB Liability calculation. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to approve the TFS report as presented. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

#### Consideration to Approve Budget for FY23

Superintendent Klasna informed the board our taxable value is one of the largest in the state and increased from 177,662,410 to 191,381,366. This increase in value allowed us to reduce our mills from 15.95 to 15.67. The retirement fund was increased with the

possibility of offering retirement incentives this year. Superintendent Klasna would like to have a work session with the board on budgets. This year will be a legislative year and we expect to get at least the inflationary increase for 23-24 year. The district will follow the school legislation closely. Trustee Fanelli made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 budget as presented. Trustee Jenkins seconded the motion. All members present were in approval.

### **CLAIMS**

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. As there was no other business for the attention of the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

### **ATTEST**

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Ginger Martello, District Clerk

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Kyle Stone, Chairman

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Date Approved