

**POWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – February 10, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Maureen Mannix called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ROLL:

Board Chair: Maureen Mannix

Board Members: Darryl Barton, Andy Dreesen, Jennifer Nicholson, Cindy Noland, and Mark Vetter.

Administration: Rick Duncan, Kerry Glisson, and Annette Galahan.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The January 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes were approved by consent.

5. VISITORS:

Martin Balukis, Amanda Bohrer, Aubrey Bohrer, Lewis Cozby, Carl Hamming, Tammie Heaney, Jim Magone, Kat Malcomb, Don McDermid, Ryan Noland, Dakota Norris, MaryAnn Olsen, Brian Robbins, Mike Rennfield, Patrick Saffel, Lillie Schroder, Michael Stafford, Clint Stevenson, and Rory Zarling.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Kerry Glisson received the following letter:

February 4, 2020

Dear Principal Glisson,

The Powell County High School Choir will be performing in the program, Celebrate America Across Montana: Tim Janis with State School Choirs, 2020, on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm during the LIVE pledge event on MontanaPBS.

Tune-in and enjoy the incredible artistic talent and hard work of your music student who participated in this event at the KUSM-MontanaPBS studio in Bozeman. Over 400 student from 15 schools around Montana participated in January 2020...

*Kind Regards,
Erika Matsuda
Membership and Events Manager
MontanaPBS*

Rick Duncan received the following resignation letter:

January 31, 2020

Dear Mr. Duncan,

Please accept this as my letter of resignation for the position of Assistant Track Coach here at Powell County High School.

I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to coach and work with the students of Powell County High, and I want to thank you for the chance to have done so.

*Sincerely,
David Scully*

7. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT:

Morgan Stevenson was present to discuss the following activities/clubs: NHS will host Miss Pam's Preschool next week and will also have an Induction Ceremony on February 12th at 7pm in the school library; Fandom Club meets 2-3 times per week and play games, do artwork, homework help, etc.; ProStart has a competition March 5th and 6th in Bozeman, and recently made appetizers for the Powell County Literacy Program's Chocolate Festival – Cindy Noland stated that \$500 will be donated to the program.

8. SCHOOL FARM: Proposed Fishing Access

Board Chair Maureen Mannix directed that the Board first review the school farm lease agreement, which includes a grazing lease and a commercial lease for the buildings, prior to commencing with the topic of the fishing access. The lease is the FFA/PCHS and the lessor is the State of Montana; 61 acres are grazing and 13 acres are considered unsuitable – the AUM rating for the lease is on the suitable ground. Brian Robbins from the DNRC was present and began discussion regarding a proposed fishing access on the north end of the school farm. The fishing access would utilize 3 acres of unsuitable ground, as well as 3 acres of suitable ground. The FWP and DNRC were trying to come to a mutual agreement with FFA/PCHS. The school farm is DNRC land that is held in school trust. They are asking for lessee Settlement Damage Statement from FFA/PCHS where FFA/PCHS would state what damages, if any, will occur, and a compensatory amount, that would be written into the lease.

Much discussion was held, and many questions were asked regarding details of fencing, parking, maintenance, safety and security, public access, enforcement by game wardens, etc. Public comment was made that there isn't a need for another fishing access as there is one at Beck Hill, and also voiced concern that people would be more likely to trespass on private property. County Planner Carl Hammond discussed the state land across the river from the farm, and stated that the farm had unintended human traffic due to the revamping of bridge decks and trailheads on the state land side. Rory Zarling, Patrick Saffel, and Martin Balukis from FWP helped to explain the process that would occur

should the plan move forward. FFA Advisor Bill Lombardi spoke vehemently against the fishing access. Board Chair Mannix stated that FFA/PCHS will work together with the DNRC and FWP to come to an agreement.

9. DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: Vocational Education – AG Ed & Industrial Arts

Clint Stevenson was present to discuss the Industrial Arts program. Mr. Stevenson discussed his classes which include Drafting and Advanced Drafting, Intro to Tech, Woods, Cabinetry, and Carpentry. He stated that the block schedule help a lot and is extremely helpful! Mr. Stevenson also discussed 3D printing.

Bill Lombardi was present to discuss the Agriculture Education program. Mr. Lombardi discussed his classes and stated that Ag is going very well. Mr. Lombardi discussed various competitions that the Ag students participate in such as Meats, Public Speaking, Livestock, etc. This is a busy time of year and students are preparing for the upcoming Envirothon competition in Lewistown; he asked the Board to consider an assistant advisor for FFA when he is unable to go to competitions. Mr. Lombardi also discussed his dual-credit welding classes that include beginning welding and certification, the MAAE Update Conference, which is the Ag State Teachers Convention on June 21-25th here in Deer Lodge.

Mr. Lombardi ended with the following open letter from the Deer Lodge FFA Alumni and Friends, and the PCHS Ag-Ed/FFA Advisory Council:

1-28-20

Dear members of the school board and community,

We are writing to you with our concerns over the school farm fishing access. We are troubled with the school giving away part of the school farm for a fishing access and not communicating this plan with the students or staff.

The farm pastures have been held intact for the benefit of student since its inception over 60 years ago. The lease is in the name of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Deer Lodge Chapter. We have paid this lease faithfully over the years including the lease renewal fees. The current lease is \$839 per year for the grazing and \$250 for the barn. The FFA chapter pays this bill. The students of the FFA chapter have paid \$8,615 during the past 10 years of the lease. The student in agriculture education use the farm daily to learn from hands on experience about the diverse agriculture industry, which is and will continue to be Montana's leading industry.

The Enabling Act of 1889 set aside state trust land to benefit common school K-12 education. The lands are managed by the DNRC mainly for the benefit of K-12 schools.

We feel the addition of a fishing access and boat launch on the school farm property will not benefit the school and may in fact bring harm and unforeseen problems.

One concern is that with the added use there will be the possibility for more dogs in the area. We are concerned for the sheep and lambs as well as other farm animals.

One main concern is that this move could be used as an initial stage or foot in the door to possibly reducing the Ag-Ed program to fit what the administration feels is a current trend.

We as the FFA Alumni and Friends and the Ag-Ed/FFA Advisory Board meet to go over Ag-Ed curriculum and make recommendations on the direction of the Agriculture Education program at PCHS. We are made up of ranchers, business owners, bankers, mechanics, and parents and others that want the program to succeed. The program is designed to ad spark to the student's interest in the vast industry of agriculture thorough work based learning.

The FFA program makes a positive difference in the lives of student by developing leadership skills, encouraging personal Student and school safety also weighs on our minds, as we ad potential users crossing the FFA school farm it becomes a concern for our students. We currently have large numbers of people (some out of state) (often carrying firearms) crossing the farms because the county and fish wildlife and parks will not address the public access to the land behind the school farm. A fishing access right off the frontage road will only add to this problem.

Please join us in asking question as to why the school farm should be given as a fishing access, when access has always been given through cooperation with the public for 60 years. We ask the question is there a different site that would be better? What is the benefit to the school for this proposal? Why is this being done without consulting the students, advisor or program stake holders?

Thank you for listening.

*Deer Lodge FFA Alumni and Friends
PCHS Ag-Ed/FFA Advisory Council*

Mr. Lombardi then discussed the importance of the farm to the students and stated that they feel vested. He sees himself as a steward of the farm for the students.

10. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Dakota Norris was present to discuss winter sports. He stated the 4 wrestlers made it to state in Billings, and also gave a shout-out to Clint Stevenson for the great work he does; he also stated that this is Clint's last year as head coach. Thank you Clint! Mr. Norris went on to discuss the upcoming district basketball tournaments, and the results of the MHSAs proposals.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Election Resolution

Rick Duncan read aloud the following resolution:

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of Powell County High School District, of Powell County, Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, which date is not less than seventy (70) days after passage of this resolution, for the purpose of electing three trustees for three-year terms; one three-year term in the Deer Lodge High School District, one three-year term in the Helmville/Ovando District, and one three-year term in the Avon/Elliston High School District. The election will be conducted by mail ballot, and all judges, if available, will be the same as the last mail ballot election. Polls will open at 12:00 noon and close at 8:00 p.m. for ballots to be dropped off in person. Be it further resolved that the Trustees of Powell County High School District declare the trustee election by acclamation contingent upon the number of candidates not exceeding the number of available positions.

Approval of additional levies to operate and maintain Powell County High School District for the 2020-2021 school year may also be requested.

Action: Mark Vetter moved to approve the Election Resolution, seconded by Andy Dreesen.

The motion passed unanimously.

Employment Contracts

Action: Jennifer Nicholson moved to hire Lillie Schroder as Head Softball Coach for spring 2020, seconded by Darryl Barton.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Andy Dreesen moved to hire Clint Stevenson as Assistant Softball Coach for spring 2020, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Jennifer Nicholson moved to hire Don McDermid as Head Track Coach for spring 2020, no second.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Assistant track positions postponed until March.

Student Attendance Agreement

Postponed.

MTSBA Annual Membership

Action: Cindy Noland moved to renew membership with the MTSBA for 2020-21, seconded by Mark Vetter.

The motion passed unanimously.

12. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Kerry Glisson reported that February 1, 2020 enrollment was 179 students (a decrease of 1 from last month). Attendance consists of the following: 44 freshman, 43 sophomores, 38 juniors, and 54 seniors. Included in the count are 0 Job Corp students, and 0 Youth Challenge students. Mrs. Glisson discussed Celebrate America on PBS, Parent/Teacher conferences on February 25th, Tri-County Tobacco Prevention is bringing a pop-up bedroom for PIR and for Parent/Teacher conferences. She also discussed the upcoming ASVAB test for juniors, and an upcoming visit from a group of guidance counselors.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Included in meeting.

14. BUSINESS MANAGER:

Action: Cindy Noland moved to approve the February bills as presented by Annette Galahan, seconded by Mark Vetter.

The motion passed unanimously.

15 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Preliminary Budget/Levy
- FWP/school farm river access.
- Audit

16. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

s/Annette Galahan, District Business Manager/Clerk

s/Maureen McMahan Mannix, Chairperson