

Regular Meeting of the Trustees of School District #3

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blue Creek School District #3 was held Tuesday evening, May 12, 2020 in the Blue Creek School gym. This was the Board's regular meeting for May which was held on a different day than usual upon unanimous consent of the Board. Chair Megan Loveridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Phil Pimley, Aimee Rust, Leslie Friedel, Rachel Meech and Megan Loveridge. A quorum was present.

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

Guests: PJ Lybeck, Jesi Loftstrom, Sherry McDonald & Kaylene Hall. Heather Mehelich & MJ Dimich joined via Zoom.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

Letter from Trustee Aimee Rust as notice of her resignation from the Board to become effective once a replacement can be appointed.

1. & 2. Consent Agenda

Phil Pimley moved, seconded by Leslie Friedel to approve the minutes of April 7, 2020 and April 27, 2020 and approval of bills. Motion passed unanimously.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

3. Canvas Election

Phil Pimley and Rachel Meech were each elected to the three year seats by acclimation at the April meeting. Leslie Friedel moved, seconded by Aimee Rust to approve the canvassing of the election results. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Seat New Board Members

Clerk Joan Iverson had Phil Pimley and Rachel Meech repeat the oath of office for their trustee positions.

5. Organization of the Board

Elect Board Chair

Board Chair Megan Loveridge asked for nominations for Board Chair. After discussion, Phil Pimley moved, seconded by Rachel Meech to nominate Megan Loveridge as Board Chair. With no other nominations Megan Loveridge was appointed Board Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair

Board Chair Megan Loveridge asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. After discussion, Megan Loveridge moved, seconded by Aimee Rust to nominate Phil Pimley as Vice-Chair. With no other nominations Phil Pimley was appointed Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk

Megan Loveridge moved, seconded by Phil Pimley to appoint Joan Iverson as Clerk of the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

6. Enrollment

Administrator Cathi Rude reported the current enrollment at 183 students.

7. Community Ed Report

MJ Dimich emailed a report on upcoming fly fishing, dog obedience and bird watching classes. Zoom exercise and yoga classes are ongoing.

8. Staff Report

PJ Lybeck is assigned as the Special Education Teacher. She reported about the SRA reading program and the growth she has seen in her students utilizing the program this year. She also spoke about the unique challenges with Distance Learning. She has adapted her schedule so that she connects with students at a time that works for our kids and families, sometimes out of the normal school day schedule. She is finding there is much more paperwork required with Distance Learning and thus far there has not been a waiver of expectations for Special Education as we have seen for General Education.

Jesi Lofstrom is assigned as a paraprofessional and reported about the changes she has seen with Distance Learning. She is utilizing both Zoom sessions with students as well as recording lessons that can be viewed later. She is currently teaching daily live lessons with several students.

Sherry McDonald is retiring this year after having served Blue Creek School for the past 25 years, most recently as the Title 1 Teacher. Sherry reported about the Soudy System, a multisensory reading intervention program for students with Dyslexia. She stressed the importance of reading in all aspects of learning. She expressed that K-3rd grade students are learning to read; 4th-6th grade students are reading to learn.

Kaylene Hall is assigned as the school counselor and reported about the unique challenges students and staff are dealing with due to COVID-19. One area she touched on was the importance of letting our students know we are there for them. The staff parade in late March was organized by Kaylene allowing staff, students and families to connect. With distance learning, she holds office hours 3 days/week and connects with students by playing games or simply talking to them to work through feelings in these stressful times.

9. Clerk Report & Business Report

None at this time

10. Administration Report

Administrator Cathi Rude reported the following:

- 1) Looking at dates in July for Kindergarten Roundup which will take on a different format due to COVID-19. There are 26 students on the list.
- 2) Administrator Rude and Business Manager Heimbigner continue work on the 2020-2021 budget.
- 3) Summer building and maintenance projects are being scheduled. We will have additional time due to COVID-19.
- 4) Administrator Rude updated Trustees on Falcon Heights Park. A cease & desist letter was sent by the District halting ongoing work on the project. Administrator Rude is consulting with County Commissioners and the Billings Parks Department to resolve boundary and property lines issues.

BUSINESS ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

11. Heat Units

Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to approve Allied Control & Mechanical conduct unit ventilator upgrades to maintain the intermediate hallway at a cost of \$5,700.00. Phil Pimley moved, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the recommendation as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Community Education Director

Leslie Friedel moved, seconded by Aimee Rust to approve a \$700 per month stipend for 10 months for M.J. Dimich as the Community Education Director. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Clerk Position

A motion was made by Phil Pimley, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve a monthly stipend of \$125 per month for Joan Iverson for the clerk position. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Transportation Contracts for 2020-2021 School Year

Administrator Cathi Rude presented a list of 35 plus individuals that would be eligible for an individual transportation contract for the 2020-2021 school year. Cathi 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 Aimee Rust to approve the contracts as submitted and any future contracts as needed. Motion passed unanimously.

15. ACE Curriculum Consortium

Aimee Rust moved, seconded by Leslie Friedel to approve the \$3,750 fee to continue to be a member of the ACE (Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement) Consortium for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Canceled Warrants

A motion was made by Phil Pimley, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the following canceled warrants:

Check #	Date	Vendor	Amount
28248	8-8-18	Billings Gazette	\$740.00
28515	2-16-19	Betsy Wandler	\$283.36

Motion passed unanimously.

17. Nursing Services

Administrator Cathi Rude stated the nursing contract increased from \$7,098 to \$7,305 for the 2020-2021 school year. There is a COVID Credit of \$285 making the final cost for the 2020-2021 school year, \$7020.

Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to approve Riverstone Health for nursing services for the 2020-2021 as presented. A motion was made by Leslie Friedel, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

18. Personnel Hiring

Administrator Rude discussed the two open certified teaching positions. Job postings were put out for applications. We received a larger pool of candidates than in past years. A hiring committee went through applications, conducted interviews and spent time with each candidate. Reference checks were completed. Administrator Rude recommended to the Board to approve the hire of Bryan Luke and Erin Cozzens each for a 1.0 FTE teaching position. A motion was made by Aimee Rust, seconded by Leslie Friedel to approve the hiring as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

19. Business Services Contract

Administrator Cathi Rude presented the business services contract of ITBRSolutions for the 2020-2021 school year. We are in the eleventh year with ITBR Solutions and are very pleased with the services and guidance offered and wish to continue this relationship. A motion was made by Phil Pimley, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the contract to ITBRSolutions for business services in the amount of \$17,150. Motion passed unanimously.

20. Classified Staff 2020-2021

Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to approve a 25 cent raise for most classified staff positions. A memorandum was provided. A motion was made by Rachel Meech, seconded by Leslie Friedel to approve the classified employee pay raises as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

21. Date and Time of Meeting

Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Phil Pimley moved, seconded by Aimee Rust to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.
Time of Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

Board Chairman _____

Attest: Clerk _____