

WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING USING GOOGLE MEET
APRIL 28, 2020 5:00PM

Stephanie Nadasi called the meeting to order at 5:00PM with Jane Wheeler, Cory Hill, Tad Lisowski, and Marilyn Hedstrom attending electronically. Cal Ketchum, Superintendent and Cindy Foley, District Clerk were also attending electronically.

Others in attendance remotely were: Tara Measure, Tina Blair, Hilary Matheson, Marycaye Dover, Paula Nielsen, Gena Wilson, Richard Gross, Sarah Matdies, Victoria Price, Tonya Jewett, Crystal Thurman, Michele Bauer, Melanie Ruonavaara, Renell Wilson, Erin Schmidling, Liah Allison, Sara Dankers, Chelsea Belanger, Melissa Smith, Kristi Streitmatter, Molly Zier-McLaughlin, Jordan Harlen, Aryn Kientz, and Brooke Ells.

Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chair, asked if there was any public comment on non-agenda items. There was no public comment.

Information Items:

1. Review the Governor's order to reopen schools on May 7.

Mr. Ketchum reviewed the Governor's order regarding criteria that schools would be under should they choose to re-open schools.

2. Review COVID policies 1900 series

MTSBA recommended policy series 1900 was shared with the Board. Mr. Ketchum is not recommending the adoption at this time as he doesn't feel they are needed with the continuation of online learning. Cory Hill asked about outside gatherings and limits should we open school, along with playground usage as addressed in Policy 1905. Superintendent Ketchum will get signs put up to keep the playground cleared.

Action Items:

3. Declaration of Emergency

Your administration recommends, therefore be it resolved, that the board of trustees declare an unforeseen emergency within the meaning of that term as set forth in Title 20, Chapter 9, Part 8, to become immediately effective and to continue through June 30, 2020. This motion is based on COVID-19 risks; in recognition that the Governor's waiver of student instruction time will expire on May 7; and in recognition that the Governor's April 22, 2020 Directive implicating Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 specifies that elected school boards and their districts that adopt their own declaration of emergency will continue to receive all state funding, including transportation funding.

Cory moved to approve the declaration of emergency as stated. Marilyn Hedstrom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Remote Learning Plan Continued

Your administration recommends, therefore, that the board of trustees continue with our District's previously approved remote learning plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers and support staff will continue to communicate with families and students to meet individual needs including: offsite learning instruction and structure; school meals, provided by the Kalispell School District; services for students with disability; and other services customarily provided to students.

Further, the last day of school for students will remain Wednesday, June 10. However, as we normally would toward the end of the school year, teachers will conclude traditional instruction with students on Friday, May 22. The remaining instructional days will be used for continuing to serve students through: meeting individual student instructional needs as determined necessary by teachers; student completion of missing assignments for 4th quarter; discussions regarding student performance and needs; determining students' proficiencies and how to address student needs in the future; teacher collaboration to meet student needs; cleaning out lockers/cubbies/desks; student/parent pick-up of student items; and return of textbooks, library books, Chromebooks, and other items.

Superintendent Ketchum shared comments from NWMASS and Hilary Hanson, Flathead County Health Department Director. Most, if not all of the area districts are recommending to continue with online learning. The local health department, the public employees union for the State of Montana, and the OPI has recommended staying with online learning, the nurses association also recommends continuing with online learning. Mr. Ketchum highly recommends staying with the online learning for the remainder of the school year. He also noted that most all of our parents have expressed to stay with the online learning. Superintendent Ketchum again commended the board, administrative team, office staff, and teachers on their dedication to the online learning. He also commended parents and students for their hard work during this difficult time.

Tad Lisowski commended the staff and noted Tina Blair and Richard Gross are doing well with making things standardized. He congratulated Gena Wilson on doing a great job with her lesson plans and videos. He further recommended a committee to make long range planning with the online learning.

Cal Ketchum sent a list to administrators to review for the possibility that we are under restrictions in the fall and may have to come back with a staggered start. The County Health Department recommended having a plan.

Stephanie Nadasi mentioned the stage 1 restrictions and even in stage 2 only groups with a max of 50 are allowed. She stated it makes the best sense to remain online and not bring kids back.

Tad Lisowski moved to approve the online learning for the rest of the school year. Jane Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Insurance Plan Revision – Drop insurance plan HDHP3000 and add HDHP6050, effective July 1, 2020. No change in carrier (NW MT Schools Health Consortium)

Cindy Foley, District Clerk, noted that the WVTEA had voted to drop the HDHP3000 plan and add the HDHP6050 plan. Per the negotiated agreement, the Board also has to approve a

change of the health plan. With the HDHP6050 plan the premium would be less than the district portion of the premium and the difference could go into an employee's HSA.

Cory Hill moved to approve the insurance plan revision as stated. Jane Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Ketchum thanked the board for the support and noted this was a tough decision to make, but the right one. We will keep doing the best for kids.

Stephanie Nadasi thanked the staff and administration for their hard work and that this isn't easy, but we are all in this together.

Jane Wheeler thanked the admin team for the uplifting video they put out.

Cory Hill asked about any other options for bringing kids in maybe in the summer. Melanie Ruonavaara suggested students being able to meet with their teacher from this year when we return in the fall to have some closure. Mr. Ketchum mentioned possibilities of bringing small percentages of students in at time and maybe a staggered start in the fall.

Cory Hill moved to adjourn at 5:27 PM. Tad Lisowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.


Stephanie Nadasi, Board Chair


Cindy Foley, District Clerk