

**POWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING – January 9, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Jennifer Nicholson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL:**

Board Chair: Jennifer Nicholson.

Board Members: Amanda Bohrer, Baylee Brown, Will Graveley, Maureen Mannix, Robert Rabel, and Bart Smith.

Administration: Rick Duncan, Katie Crofutt, and Annette Galahan.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

Ashton Bledsoe, Ted Devol, Jacy Haynes, Izzy Hunter, Greg Larkins, Pat Lienes, Skyla Pierson, Natalie Seitzinger, McKayla Simkins, Bob Schalk, Tyrell Smith, and Luke Ulatowski.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Action: Will Graveley moved to approve the December 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Maureen Mannix.

FOR: Will Graveley, Maureen Mannix, Robert Rabel, and Bart Smith.

ABSTAIN: Amanda Bohrer.

(Baylee Brown not yet in attendance)

The motion passed.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Rick Duncan received the following letter:

*January 6, 2022*

*Powell County High School*

*Attn: Board of Trustees*

*Dear Board Chair Nicholson,*

*The Planning Committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Magic on Missouri” Holiday Home Tour would like to recognize and thank Powell County High School Music Director Ms. Herrin for her and her student’s participation in our event on December 18<sup>th</sup> here in Deer Lodge.*

*Oftentimes as we have navigated down Missouri Avenue, we see all of the beautiful, historic homes lining the street, and have often wondered how beautiful these houses must be when they are all decorated up for the holidays, and wouldn’t it be wonderful to*

*tour these historic homes in all of their holiday beauty. Upon seeing that there wasn't any type of organized holiday home tour in Deer Lodge, we organized a committee made up of Missouri Avenue residents to begin to plan for such an event. This first year we wanted to test the community's appetite for such an event, so we invited two houses to participate and kept the invite list to a group of approximately 50 per household. If this year's event was successful, our organizing committee would plan future years to include many more houses and advertise it to the entire Deer Lodge community to participate.*

*I must say that there was a lot of enthusiasm & interest for an event such as this from our invitees! Both houses were overjoyed to host a large group of visitors to tour our festively decorated homes throughout the evening, and Ms. Herrin's choir students performing beautiful Christmas carols provided our guests with a wonderful holiday atmosphere during the event.*

*Based on the success of this past December's event, the Planning Committee is already busy organizing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Magic on Missouri" Holiday Home Tour, as we plan to include many more homes and features to this December's event. Based on the popularity and atmosphere provided by the Choir students, we hope to have Ms. Herrin and her Choir students join us again for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Magic on Missouri" Holiday Home Tour this December.*

*We will be in contact with Ms. Herrin later this fall regarding this year's event when we have a date scheduled and other details to share, so that she can coordinate her team's participation.*

*Again, we wanted to thank Ms. Herrin for organizing her wonderful choir student's participation in our event this past December, and we look forward to having them join us again this December.*

*Best Wishes,  
Greg Larkins  
Missouri Avenue*

Greg Larkins addressed the Board after his letter was read, and once again thanked Mr. Duncan, and said he attended the meeting in order to put a face to name on the letter. Mr. Larkins said the choir students were magnificent! He once again thanked Mr. Duncan and the Board.

## **7. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT:**

None.

## **8. DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: Science**

Pat Lienes and Jace Haynes were present to discuss the Science Department. The teachers reviewed classes they teach, assignments, classroom processes, books, etc. Mrs. Lienes stated that forensics kicks off next week, and Mr. Haynes was happy to say that Field

Ecology has been resurrected this year. Both teachers brought students to present class projects; they all did a wonderful job!

Mrs. Lienes brought 3 freshman researchers that presented their air quality projects, which utilized air quality trackers that connect to smartphones. Izzy Hunter and McKayla Simkins presented “Candles and Air Quality,” and Natalie Seitzinger presented “Cigarette Smoke In A Household.” The students all presented their hypotheses, procedures, results, and errors with charts and graphics.

Mr. Haynes brought 3 upperclassmen, and together they presented on Field Ecology and the school park, which was part of the class final. Ashton Bledsoe, Skyla Pierson, and Tyrell Smith presented the main problems of the park, and stated it is lacking in biodiversity. They would like to see the park used as an educational center, and a source to teach high school and grade school students. Mr. Haynes added that they envision it as a park, and slowly over time have each class work on it. Rick Duncan added that several years ago it was part of the city’s walking trail. Amanda Bohrer asked if it was the same place that was to be used for a Folf Course.

## **9. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Bob Schalk was present to discuss activities and stated that we are halfway through winter sports, and discussed upcoming games/meets. Mr. Schalk also discussed the MHSA Annual Meeting on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> where only 4 proposals will be heard. Mr. Schalk will attend.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

**Employee Contract - Custodian**  
Postponed.

### **Policy 3122: Attendance Policy**

Action: Robert Rabel moved to change line 24 to read “attend in the afternoon,” seconded by Amanda Bohrer.

Discussion: Katie Crofutt said that the shortened schedule is not 2 periods, and Baylee Brown said that creates a loophole for the students to not show up.

Action: Robert Rabel moved to strike the original motion, and change line 24 to read “last half of the day” and strike “four periods” and “or in the afternoon,” seconded by Baylee Brown.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **11. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Katie Crofutt reported a January 9, 2023 enrollment of 185 students, and consists of the following: 53 freshman, 61 sophomores, 39 juniors, and 32 seniors. Included in the count are 0 Job Corp students, and 0 Youth Challenge students. Mrs. Crofutt discussed student engagement, which included an assembly with an ICAC speaker on January 26<sup>th</sup>

(regarding sexting), Advisement Day, scheduling with Infinite Campus, the ASVAB text on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the ACT exam on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Crofutt also discussed staff engagement and stated that all Cognia work is done, and curriculum alignment work with the elementary district is beginning. Mrs. Crofutt also discussed drug testing and provided drug-testing data. Numerous questions were asked about the drug testing process, including how much time does it take to test all the kids, how long for 1 student, if we can test a number of students instead of a percentage, etc. This topic was requested to be on next month's agenda.

#### **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Rick Duncan gave a Covid update and stated that there have been no changes to protocol/activities; he also stated that we had lots of influenza cases in December. Mr. Duncan then moved to a legislative update. He said the 2nd legislative week has mostly consisted of rulemaking and committees, and that so far there are 4,425 draft bills, of which 362 have been introduced, and of which there are 274 related to education. Mr. Duncan then discussed several bills and stated that he will be giving testimony on them. Mr. Duncan also provided a Joint Board Committee update and said that there have been 6 meetings so far, and there have been 2 Joint Board meetings so far. The next Joint Board Meeting is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the CPC, which will consist of approval of minutes from the previous meetings, and his superintendent evaluation. Some discussion was held regarding Debra Silk's response to unification questions, and when that information will be received. Baylee Brown and Robert Rabel both are interested in how things are going with a shared superintendent.

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#### **13. BUSINESS MANAGER**

Annette Galahan provided an updated revenues/expenditures spreadsheet through November, 2022.

Action: Robert Rabel moved to approve the January bills, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Drug testing.
- STAR results.
- Debra Silk's responses to unification questions.

#### **15. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pat Lienes stated that she likes that the departments present as a group (which is the case when there is an untenured teacher), and that group presentations grow the department. Ted Devol introduced himself and said he moved to Gold Creek from King County, Washington; he said he is impressed with this school board. Katie Crofutt noted that it is School Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. by unanimous consent.  
The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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s/Annette Galahan, District Business Manager/Clerk

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s/Jennifer Nicholson, Board Chair