

## REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 9, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Keith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Elementary Board Conference Room. Trustees Present: Beth Graham, Krystal Zentner, Penny Young and Mark Giesick. Others Present: John Ballard, Betty Sweet Corinne Turnsplenty, Cynthia Tripp, Amy Kraft, Lela Hall, Allison Boeck, Diane George, Houston Finn, KC Hickok and Bart Heiken.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. MINUTES:**

Trustee Young made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 12th Board Reorganization and Regular Meeting and the May 20<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and Work Session as presented. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion. Members voted 5/0 in favor.

**4. CLAIMS & PAYROLL:**

Trustee Zentner made a motion to accept the following: payroll warrants 16148-16298, 6/3/09 direct deposit listing, expenditure recoding from 5/19 and claims 12580-12633. Trustee Young seconded the motion. Vote 5/0.

**5. ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY ACCOUNTING:**

Trustee Young made a motion to accept the activity accounting for May. Trustee Graham seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0. The class accounts and sports co-op account will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter was received from K.C. Hickok to be placed on tonight's agenda. Information on the June 11<sup>th</sup> workshop with Jeff Weldon was given out.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Corinne Turnsplenty, Cyndi Tripp, Amy Kraft, Allison Boeck and Lela Hall were on hand to discuss the Summer Enrichment Programs. The elementary staff will be using a pirate theme for the 8 days in June and studying Egypt for the 8 days in July. K-6 anticipated enrollment is 40 students. History, writing, exercise and cooking will be just a few of the areas covered. Snacks will be provided. The middle school/high school program has had less students enrolling due to summer jobs. Ms. Tripp told the students that they could come in around their work schedule.

**8. SPECIAL REPORTS:**

A. Activities Director Report: Houston Finn had no report at this time. There will be no elementary students' camp this summer.

B. Amy Kraft and Lela Hall gave a Power Point presentation on the Gifted/Talented Program.

**9. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Superintendent Contract: As the Board has went through the principal applications and have an idea of the caliber of person being interviewed, Superintendent Ballard wanted to continue

discussion of having him as a part-time superintendent after the 09-10 school year (25% of salary and benefits). The roles and responsibilities of the two administrative positions would be outlined with Mr. Ballard continuing on working on policy and the budget. He would mentor the principal for this next year and eventually the person could move into the superintendent position. Continuity would be a benefit especially with his experience with the budget. Without continued growth, the district will not be able to support 2 administrators. Trustee Young would like to see Mr. Ballard stay on as a part-time administrator after this year. Trustee Giesick would like Mr Ballard to leave at the end of this contract and doesn't want to hire a principal. Superintendent Ballard questioned Trustee Giesick as to why that was and Trustee Giesick answered that he didn't feel the district had the money to support 2 administrators and he didn't want to have to let someone go like the last principal. Mr. Ballard feels that enrollment has increased during his tenure and that, with that, the budget has increased. Chairman Keith said he could understand why Mr. Ballard would like to know now but he would like to wait to make a decision on the part-time contract until the normal renewal time to see how the new principal works out. Trustee Graham felt that we need to take personal issues out of the mix. Trustee Zentner would like to go with one more year but wants more effort at everyone getting along, that there are issues on both sides. Diane George wanted the trustees to know that at Christmas, when Mr. Ballard was thinking of resigning all but one staff member had come to a meeting to encourage him to stay and finish out at least this year. Allison Boeck noted all the new programs that Mr. Ballard has started and that we need him here to keep continuity. Trustee Graham made a motion to table this issue to a later meeting. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion and members voted 5/0. Superintendent Ballard would like the minutes to reflect that he apologizes to Trustee Giesick for his comment, that it was inappropriate.

B. Classified employees: Wage Matrix – A new matrix was handed out this evening which works off the wage schedule set in 2006 with subsequent raises included. Trustee Graham made a motion to table this item to a special meeting. Trustee Young seconded the motion. 5/0.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. KC Hickok-Calendar Questions & Policy Request: Mr. Hickok had e-mailed a request to be placed on this agenda to discuss the vote on the 2009-2010 calendar held at the May meeting and to request that the Board develop a District educational philosophy, vision, mission statement, objectives and goals. He would be referring to District policies 1610, 2000 and 2120. Another letter was received by e-mail on June 6<sup>th</sup> asking to discuss issues regarding the Superintendent but was sent too late to be placed on this agenda. Mr. Hickok thought he heard Mr. Ballard state that if the Board did not pass the calendar as he presented that he would file a grievance or that the teachers' might file a grievance. Mr. Hickok thought Superintendent Ballard was being disrespectful. Trustee Zentner said that she hadn't heard the comment at all. The matter was dropped. Mr. Hickok also wanted to talk about other issues but was informed that these items were not on the agenda and would not be heard at this time. He then stated that he would asked the board to make vision, mission statements and goals for 1, 3 & 5 years and set up a committee made up of board members, staff, students and the community. Chairman Keith told Mr. Hickok that some of the principal candidates we are interviewing have been in training for this subject. Superintendent Ballard has been asking the Board to make this very thing a priority but the Board has not moved forward.

B. Personnel-Hire Summer Help: Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Ballard, Trustee Young made a motion to hire David Gunn on a part to full-time basis for cleaning help for the summer and to offer Jill Myhre a contract as a Special Ed teacher. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion and members voted 5/0 in favor. Ms. Myhre will work with Tessa Beach on who will do what to cover the district from K-12 in Special Ed. Trustee Young made a motion to hire Michaela D. Witt as an Elementary teacher once she has completed her student teaching and to hire Jenny Ewing on a short-term contract (year 5 for 2 months) to oversee Ms. Witt's student teaching. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion and members voted 5/0.

Classified Staff: Trustee Zentner made a motion to offer contracts to the following classified staff – Administrative Assistants-Judy Zent and Diane George, Maintenance/Custodians-Harvey Nott, Dolly Donges and Deborah Owens, Kitchen Staff-Lynn White, Dot Asbury and Dolly Donges, Drivers-Mary Tamblyn, Chet Murray and Vickie Cooke, Paraprofessionals-Vicki Damjanovich, Elaine Harmoning, Deb Imlay, Kim Peterson and Drew Harper. Trustee Graham seconded the motion and members voted unanimously in favor. Trustee Graham then made a motion to extend the contract for Diane George to full-time 12-month and the transportation coordinator duties transferred to the Principal when that person comes on board. Trustee Young seconded the motion and the vote again counted 5/0.

C. Activity Accounting Manual: Trustee Zentner made a motion to table approval of the manual to the July meeting and to ask Judy Zent to come and give comments. Trustee Young seconded the motion and the members voted 5/0.

D. Budget Amendment Proclamation – Retirement Fund: Trustee Zentner made a motion to proclaim the Boards' Resolution to adopt a budget amendment of \$10,000 in the Retirement Fund for end of the year payroll. Trustee Young seconded the motion and members voted unanimously in favor.

E. Budget Amendment Resolution: Trustee Young made a motion to adopt Boards' Resolution for an additional budget amendment of \$60,000 for replacing the Elementary Building Boiler and other improvements of grounds and facilities that have been deferred due to funding constraints with the anticipated source of funding to be the greater than anticipated oil, gas and bentonite revenues in the general fund. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion and members voted unanimously in favor.

F. Fund Transfer Proclamation: Trustee Giesick made a motion to adopt the Resolution to transfer \$27,500 from the Transportation Fund to the Flexibility fund in accordance with Section 20-9-208 MCA. Trustee Zentner seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0.

G. Transportation Forms: Trustee Graham seconded the motion made by Trustee Young to accept the transportation claim forms TR-5 (Individual Contract Reimbursement) and TR-6 (Bus Route Reimbursement) for the second semester of 2009. Vote 5/0.

H. Hire Auditor: Trustee Graham made a motion to hire Olness and Assoc. for the FY09 Audit and Trustees Financial Report. Trustee Zentner seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0.

I. Policy Revisions – 1111-Elections, 1400- Regular Meetings, 1512-Conflict of Interest, 3121- Enrollment and Attendance Records, 5500-Payment of Wages Upon Termination, 5328 and 5328P-Family Medical Leave: Trustee Young made a motion to table policy 5238 and 5328P to the Old Business agenda of the July meeting. Trustee Zentner seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Trustee Zentner made a motion to accept the revisions to policies 111, 1400, 1512, 3121 and 5500 as recommended by MTSBA. Trustee Young seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0.

J. MTSBA Membership: Trustee Zentner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Graham to continue the districts' membership with MTSBA. 5/0

K. Maintenance-Elem./HS Bus Barn: Trustee Young made a motion to grant Superintendent Ballard permission to accept bids for redoing the front of the bus barn to replace the 4 doors with three 12' doors. Trustee Zentner seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

L. End of Year Purchases: Trustee Young made a motion to allow Superintendent Ballard to gather quotes on a district van or pickup and a tractor. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion and members voted 5/0 in favor. After the discussion in item 9A, Superintendent Ballard offered the Board an option of giving him a retirement incentive of \$45,000 plus insurance through the year 2016 since there has been so much dissension. Further dialogue revealed other issues which have been simmering under the surface. Trustee Graham let the members know that she is tendering her resignation from the Board effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The bids for the elementary boiler and water heating work will be opened at 1:00 p.m. on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Windows for the voag shop/art room have been budgeted for. Other items to consider are: sidewalk repair, seating and storage on the football field, abatement and carpeting in the High School and staff and student furniture.

**11. CLERK'S REPORT:** Betty Sweet will be gone Tuesday through Friday of next week for the MASBO conference and TRS workshop. Her office will be emptied and cleaned while she's gone and upon return she will be working with Superintendent Ballard on end of the year funds, closing out the books, payroll and prep work for the audit.

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Randy Novakovich had notified Superintendent Ballard that the outside walls are moving into positionn(about 3/8") and also the center of the floor (3") as a result of the jacks under the sub-structure of the elementary building. The floor needs to go up another 2 3/4" more and the concrete floor in the boiler room will need to be replaced. A date will be set to review applications for the principal position and all board members can come in and review the applications. Roberts, Joliet, Belfry and Fromberg are all on board for the grant to build a modular type house; Single Tree, Kapor Lumber and Beartooth RC & D will partner with the districts.

**13. FUTURE ISSUES:**

Elementary Roof, hiring staff, updates and additions to district policies, building appraisals, Extracurricular Activities: accounting policies/procedures, emergency planning, transportation issues and negotiations.

**14. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next Board meeting will be held July 14<sup>th</sup>. A special meeting/work session will be held Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> to accept the boiler bids and before the meeting, the principal candidates will be invited to a meet and greet with staff and the community. Another special meeting will be held on June 23 to hire the principal, vote on the classified matrix and to tie up end of the year funds. Trustee Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Trustee Zentner seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

ATTEST:

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Board Chairman

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Clerk of the Board