

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 29, 2020

THE REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of Bigfork Elementary School and Bigfork High School, District No 38, Flathead and Lake Counties, was called to order by Chairperson Sandry on April 29, 2020, at 5:00 pm in the high school library and via Google Meet.

Trustees in attendance: Sandry, Anderson, Parish, Relyea, Whitney, Martinz & Elwell

Trustees Absent: none

Also in attendance were Superintendent Matt Jensen, Business Manager Lacey Porrovecchio, Principals Mark Hansen, Charlie Appleby and Brenda Clarke, Activities Director/Special Education Director Matt Porrovecchio, staff members and community members.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no comments on non-agenda items.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Relyea, and **approved** by unanimous vote of the elementary school and high school trustees.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Trustee Elwell, seconded by Trustee Parish, and **approved** by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

- Consideration of Regular Board Meeting Minutes for April 8 & April 13, 2020
- Consideration of All Bill Approval Lists
- Consideration of Student Activity Account for March, 2020
- Consideration of Personnel – *Any offer of employment is contingent upon receipt of satisfactory criminal history background check and for some positions receipt of satisfactory pre-employment screening.*
 1. Certified Personnel Recommended for Consideration
 - a. James Benn, Middle School Spanish & Computers
 - b. Tristan Clark, Middle School Health & P.E.
 - c. Crystal Dahiman, Kindergarten Teacher
 - d. Amanda Fausett, Elementary Teacher
 - e. Jo Waddell, Elementary Teacher
 - f. Marissa Meyer, 5th Grade Teacher
 - g. Logan Swenson, Elementary Teacher
 - h. James Meyer, Industrial Arts
 - i. Tina Rhoades, Elementary Teacher

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Jensen told trustees the focus lately has been virtual learning, but the administration is also working on scheduling, budgets, staffing, etc. He told them he will post a Finance Committee meeting soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Option to Return to In-Classroom Teaching

Board Chair Sandry asked for public comment first.

Parent, Ben Woods, asked trustees to resume in-classroom learning. He said the risk is manageable and he also voiced concern for the safety of some children at home.

Mr. Jensen recommended to continue online learning and bring some students back to school on a limited basis. He said 20 students at the most. He told trustees he consulted the county health department and the administrators including school nurse Jen Knopik. The consensus was we are unable to bring all students back with any consideration to the guidelines from the governor and the county. He has heard of one school in the state considering going back to school at this point. The students who may be able to receive instruction on campus are seniors in jeopardy of not graduating, high school students failing multiple courses, and students who need social and emotional counseling. He noted 97% attendance rate for online learning and Bigfork being the only school doing synchronous instruction.

Board discussion followed.

Nurse Knopik spoke to the trustees in support of Mr. Jensen's recommendation. She encouraged a slow and steady progression back to normal.

Trustee Martinz made a motion 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. The 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 specify that elected school boards and their districts that adopt their own declaration of emergency will continue to receive all state funding, including transportation funding. Trustee Relyea seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

Trustee Anderson made a motion that the board of trustees, approve continuing online remote learning, as described in our previously submitted Action Plan, for all students, with the possibility, on a very limited and targeted basis, the ability of our building administrators to work collaboratively with staff and determine if a student should be invited for a 1:1 check for academic and/or social/emotional support, consistent with Governor Bullock's April 22, 2020 Directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and guidance for the phased reopening of Montana. Trustee Relyea seconded the motion and it passed with affirmative votes from Trustees Parish, Martinz, Relyea, Whitney and Anderson. Trustees Elwell and Sandry opposed.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Hansen thanked the trustees for continuing distance learning. He told them the staff is doing a great job teaching virtually and continuing professional development. Mr. Bodenhamer and the cave club received the Presidential Environmental Youth Award and his GIS and earth science classes are doing bird watching. Trustee Elwell told trustees the wrestling team received the 19-20 Army National Guard Winter Academic All Team Award.

Mr. Appleby told trustees there were many applicants for the open middle school positions and he and his staff are working on helping kids who are struggling and increasing student morale. He said Mrs. Wood has reached out to every student and is doing a great job.

Trustee Relyea told Mr. Hansen some schools are doing something special to commemorate seniors since the year didn't turn out as planned due to COVID-19.

Board Chair Sandry took a moment to thank Trustee Whitney, whose term is up and she is not running again. He wished her the best in her next endeavor.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEULE

All School Board meetings are held at 5 pm in the high school library, unless otherwise noted.

- o Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- o Wednesday, June 3, 2020
- o Wednesday, June 24, 2020
- o Wednesday, July ?, 2020
- o Wednesday, August 19, 2020

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Martinz, seconded by Trustee Parish, and **approved** by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

Adjourned: 5:43 pm

District Clerk

Chairperson