

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 September 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm in the high school library.

Trustees in attendance: Field, Woods, Elwell, Kreiman, Sandry, Relyea & Anderson

Trustees absent: none

Also in attendance were Superintendent Tom Stack, Business Manager Lacey Porrovecchio, Principals Brenda Clarke, Mark Hansen and Charlie Appleby, Special Education Director/Athletic 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 Woods, seconded by Trustee Field, and approved by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

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

- Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes for August 18 & August 31, 2022
- Consideration of All Bill Approval Lists
- Consideration of District Donations
 1. Music Department Donation, Jack Ganiere - \$3775 instrument donation value
 2. Music Department Donation, Harry & Meredith Endsley - \$2000
 3. Soccer Program Donation, Hargett Mountain Properties, LLC - \$1000
 4. Soccer Program Donation, LHC Incorporated - \$1000
- Consideration of Surplus Property Disposal
- 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. Substitute Personnel Recommended for Consideration
 - a. Lisa Campbell, Transportation
 - b. Gretchen Goodson, K-12 Substitute
 - c. Brenda Koch, Substitute Bus Monitor
 - d. Danielle Reilly, K-12 Substitute
 - e. Lance Nadeau, K-12 Substitute
 2. Classified Personnel Resignation for Consideration
 - a. Harold Sturdevant, Transportation
 3. Extra-Curricular Personnel Recommended for Consideration
 - a. Eric Heuchert, High School Choir Advisor
 - b. Randi Tunnel, High School Pep Band Advisor
 - c. Christian Paulus, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Transportation Route 21A – Mr. Stack told trustees the route is for an elementary student who attends half days. Once approved, it will go to the county for approval.

A motion to approve Transportation Route 21A was made by Trustee Woods, seconded by Trustee Relyea, and approved with unanimous votes of the elementary trustees.

- B. Consideration of Unfunded Athletics – Trustee Elwell

Board Chair Sandry addressed the audience. He explained the administration doesn't have an official recommendation. Trustee Elwell is the proponent. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person and then the trustees will deliberate and make a decision. He asked commentors to state their

name clearly for the board minutes.

Adam Baumann, president of Bigfork Soccer Club, assistant soccer coach and parent, spoke in support of fully funding unfunded athletics. He talked about the impact coaches have on student athletes and they shouldn't take time away from that to fundraise.

Wyatt Elwell, sophomore wrestler, spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. He spoke about working two jobs and fundraising on the side to keep the wrestling program. He told trustees wrestling has the best coach they've had and he may quit because of fundraising.

Suzanne Childers volunteered to work with people on Flathead Electric Cooperative Round Up For Safety grants for items for unfunded athletics.

Stephanie Tinney, parent, spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. She said the Piskalns couldn't attend the meeting but supported funding as well.

Vangie Peterson has sons in funded and unfunded athletics. She is in support of fully funding unfunded athletics and asked why the board wouldn't fund them.

Michelle Archbold spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. She said adults should advocate for every student in the school system and talked about the importance of extra-curricular activities.

Wayne Bennett, assistant wrestling coach, spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. He commended Coach Shawn Hall and said they are just asking for help.

Vicki Bagley, parent and assistant soccer coach, spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. She spearheaded soccer fundraising and spoke about the difficulties. Fundraising takes away from coaching time.

Sue Loeffler, track coach and retired teacher, spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. She pointed out the success of unfunded athletics.

Stephanie Tinney said she would like to see some of the left-over funds go to unfunded athletics.

Serena Zavala spoke in support of funding unfunded athletics. She was a student when soccer started in Bigfork.

Board Chair Sandry closed public comment.

Trustee Elwell told the board Bigfork has the highest number of unfunded athletics. He gave participation numbers for unfunded sports and their feeder programs. He said coaches are raising funds to support the bare minimums but have additional needs as well. He doesn't want to take any money from funded athletics. He said coaches should not have to be professional fundraisers, they just want to work with kids. He referenced high school year end money and said the district can afford to fund unfunded athletics. Public perception is that only traditional sports matter. He said since the district will be Class A next year, need to look at funding all athletics. He said he understands how the district got to this point but the situation is different with a growing enrollment.

Trustee Elwell made a motion to fund coach salaries and driver wages and fuel, which is approximately \$42,000.

Board Chair Sandry said if the issue was kids, getting them healthy and not having coaches fundraise, it would be an easy decision. There was a crowd larger than tonight's asking for these sports to be added, knowing they wouldn't be funded. He said ESSER funds will be gone and the district will go through the budget process and need to make cuts, including teaching staff and programs. He told the board there are taxpayers that don't know this discussion is happening. They recently supported levies and bonds.

He cautioned against using Interlocal Agreement funds.

Trustee Kreiman said she looked at enrollment, understands why cuts were made, and can't predict what the Legislature will do. She is a fan of compromise and would vote to cover coach salaries and MHSA fees. She thanked all the coaches in the room.

Trustee Anderson acknowledged the coaches and volunteers in the room. He recognized how important athletics are. He said he was on the board in 2013 when swim and wrestling were added as unfunded athletics. He said he can't support something that was never intended to be funded by the taxpayers. He suggested a high school general fund levy to support unfunded athletics and let the taxpayers decide. As a taxpayer he would vote yes. He also pointed out unfunded athletics are supported by the district with use of the facilities, buses and athletic director.

Trustee Woods agreed with Trustee Anderson. He reiterated the unfunded athletics were proposed and were never intended to be funded by the school. He said he can't support funding them but empathizes with the coaches.

Trustee Relyea told the board things have changed since 2010. She said enrollment was low and difficult decisions were made by the board at that time. She addressed high school year end money and that it may be inflated due to ESSER funds. She knows funding comes from the high school general fund, the same pot as staff increases, and commended the board for the Interlocal Agreement Fund balance. She said she would support paying coach salaries and MHSA fees and would like to find money for some of the other needs as well.

Trustee Field said she is new to the board and doesn't have the background like other trustees but recognized the importance of athletics. Enrollment is up and she would like to see unfunded athletics fully funded but would agree to compromise.

Board discussion followed.

Trustee Elwell retracted his first motion.

A motion to fund coach salaries and MHSA fees was made by Trustee Elwell, seconded by Trustee Kreiman, and approved with affirmative votes from Trustees Field, Elwell, Kreiman and Relyea.

Trustees Anderson, Woods and Sandry opposed.

Trustee Field asked if she could make a motion to run a high school levy to support unfunded athletics. Board Chair Sandry told her it would need to go on a future agenda.

There were no Committee Reports.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Mr. Appleby talked about the new decals setting the middle school apart, middle school dance planning, progress monitoring and middle school sports.

Mr. Hansen talked about WIN time, students working on Build a Better Bigfork, the upcoming job fair, open substitute jobs and the Pre-ACT.

Mrs. Clarke updated the board on high school mentors, the Fastbridge assessment platform, the Watch DOG program for dads and elementary assemblies.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Stack told trustees it's nice to have staff and students back. He talked to them about hail damage to the roofs from a storm in July. He is working with an insurance adjuster and the district will likely need to go out to bid. He said it may be a half million to a million dollar claim and will affect the district insurance

rates in the future. He said the Interlocal Agreement Fund was discussed earlier. The district has set aside funds for large projects like elevators, roofs and boilers. The elementary elevator needs to be replaced and will be over \$100,000. Having these funds available makes it so the district doesn't have to go to the taxpayers every time there is a need. He said general fund end of year monies are used for maintenance projects like lighting, carpet replacement, paint, resealing parking lots, etc. Lastly, he told trustees he sat in on the Legislative Education Committee meeting. The state cap on the inflationary increase is 3% and the district will be negotiating with both unions this year.

Trustee Elwell asked about the roof damage. Mr. Stack said it hasn't been determined yet. Trustee Anderson suggested having a roof contractor on hand when the adjustor looks at the damage.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- o Wednesday, October 12, 2022
- o Wednesday, November 9, 2022
- o Wednesday, December 14, 2022
- o Wednesday, January 11, 2023
- o Wednesday, February 8, 2023
- o Wednesday, March 8, 2023
- o Wednesday, April 12, 2023
- o Wednesday, May 10, 2023

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

Adjourned: 6:12 pm

District Clerk

Chairperson